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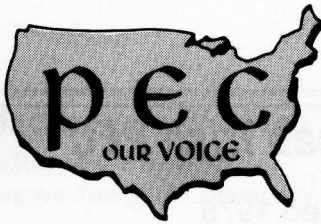


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American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - November 1992" (1992).
American Irish Newsletter. 117.
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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 17, Number 5

November 1992

New York Becomes First Contract Compliance State

On October 6, 1992 Governor Mario Cuomo of New York signed into law the first state-wide MacBride Principles contract compliance bill. It is sure to have a very positive effect upon the MacBride Principles Campaign.

PEC members in New York were singled out for praise by the bill's author Assemblyman John Dearie because of their outstanding work in letter writing and lobbying, much of which was coordinated by Kathy Regan, PEC NYS director.

The bill's prime sponsors were Assemblyman John Dearie and Senator Joe Holland. In attendance at the signing were many prominent labor leaders representing the Irish American Labor Coalition which helped organize the campaign. Many politicians as well as leaders of the American Irish community were also present including, New York City Comptroller, Elizabeth Holtzman, President of the New York State AFL-CIO, Edward Cleary, New York City Council member Sal Albanese, and Assemblyman Sam Colman. John Finucane, President, and Al Doyle, Vice President represented the PEC.

Congratulations to the New York State Legislature for another job well done.

Newsbits

by Kathy Regan, *New York State Director*

Detectives questioning suspects under the Prevention of Terrorism Act will no longer use loose-leaf notebooks to record interviews. Instead they are being issued with booklets which will be electronically stamped at the beginning and the end of each interview . . . Martin O'Brien, of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, has said that while any new measure which might help prevent falsification of evidence was to be

Membership In The Tara Circle: An Offer The PEC Cannot Refuse

The success of THE TARA CIRCLE is not only important to the American Irish community, but also to the PEC. Not only will it elevate dramatically the unity, pride and awareness of the American Irish, but it will also make available to the PEC a beautiful site with facilities for conducting conferences, seminars, etc.

The Tara Circle will also have available overnight accommodations for people attending PEC activities.

THE PEC MUST BE A PART OF IT!!! ONLY YOU CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

In just a few short months over \$1,000,000 has been raised by The Tara Circle for the purpose of purchasing the 57 acre Kings College in Briarcliff Manor, New York. The total cost will be \$14,000,000. The organizers (board of directors), who for the most part are from the business and academic communities, predict no problem with meeting this financial obligation. The closing on this purchase, which requires \$700,000, is expected to take place by December 31, 1992 (this year). It can begin operations as early as May 1993. The Tara Circle, a non-profit organization, will be run as a professional business.

The PEC must become a charter, voting member of The Tara Circle. A

welcomed, the new proposals would not deal with the problems of ill-treatment of detainees at Castlereagh and other interrogation centers . . . John Wadham, legal officer of Liberty, stated that measures introduced in Britain to time and record interviews under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act were already proving to be ineffective. "We are finding that more and more informal inter-

(continued on page 3)

IF EVERY MEMBER SENT A MINIMUM DONATION OF ONLY \$5.00, WE WOULD EASILY RAISE THE \$5,000 NECESSARY FOR MEMBERSHIP.

membership cost \$5,000, which will be invested in a 6% interest-bearing bond in the name of the PEC to be returned in 15 years. The maximum number of votes that can be purchased by an organization is 5. The PEC needs to purchase at least one vote -- \$5000. More than 200 organizations are expected to join.

The monies normally raised by the PEC cannot be used for the purpose of joining The Tara Circle. We raise funds only for promoting our issues, such as Ireland's reunification, combatting negative stereotyping, etc.

We need our members and supporters to send a **one time only special donation** for the purpose of the PEC purchasing a membership. If more than \$5000 is raised, the surplus will be used to fund regular PEC projects.

Facilities that will be available once The Tara Circle is in full operation will include: a theater, library, museum, banquet facilities (up to 1000 people), dining facilities, 1200 seat auditorium, private meeting rooms, conference rooms, overnight accommodations, indoor swimming pool, and more.

SO PLEASE SEND YOUR MINIMAL DONATION OF \$5 TODAY AND MAKE THE PEC A PART OF THE TARA CIRCLE!!!

Send checks payable to AIPEC, 18 Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993 -- phone# (914) 947-2726. Attn: Tara

From The Editor

We have finally reached the level of public relations activity at which we should be in our quest to effectively educate the American public about British injustice in Northern Ireland and influence our Government's leaders to finally speak out against this injustice.

This we have done through the PEC Public Affairs Office (PAO), which is not yet a physical reality but which is currently operating as a committee. PAO has brought our issues to the forefront, like never before, by placing advertisements in the *New York Times* and the *Houston Post*. A second Op-Ed page ad was placed in the *New York Times* on November 1, subsequent to this writing.

From these ads we have learned much. We have learned that this kind of advertising is the best way to reach the most people. According to the *Times*, the Sunday issue is read by almost 6 million people. We learned also that the ad was reproduced by many people and circulated in schools, at work, and God knows where. Circulated by people, we are advised, who never heard of the PEC.

We have finally touched on the best way, within our financial limitations, to reach the most people possible. Isn't this what the PEC is all about -- reaching out to the people of America?

Bear in mind also that this is the first time most readers of the ad ever heard of the PEC. Naturally there is a credibility question. What is the PEC? Who runs the PEC? What is their purpose? As we place more ads in the *New York Times* we will develop that credibility. More and more people will take seriously our issues and work. More and more people will come on board to help. More and more of our political people and media personalities will be under pressure to address the issues.

It should be noted that the outcome of our advertising campaign will effect the final makeup and location of the Public Affairs Office. We will do what ever is best to promote our cause.

Media Incompetence

reprinted from the *Columbia Journalism Review* - Sept/Oct 92

Laurel to *The Reader*, a free Chicago weekly, and free-lance writer John Conroy [PEC member], for "The Irish Connection," an instructive lesson in the anatomy of a murder story. Investigating the investigation into the sensational "Winnetka murders" -- the brutal slaying for no discernible reason of a pregnant young woman and her husband in their North Shore home in the spring of 1990 -- Conroy showed how, contrary to all evidence and to all apparent logic, the focus of attention came to be centered on the dead woman's sister, Jeanne Bishop, a human rights lawyer with an active interest in abuses in Northern Ireland. Conroy's 12,000-word critique (April 10) retraced the missteps: the naive local police force, yielding its authority to an FBI hellbent on proving a link to the IRA; FBI zealots, fixed on the idea that

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

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

Supported in part by the Emerald Society,
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the IRA had murdered the couple in a mistaken attempt to get Bishop (and raising suspicions about Bishop herself when she refused to divulge the names of her Northern Ireland contacts); the gullible news media, broadcast and print, dutifully following the FBI lead, digging into details of Bishop's personal life and pillorying her in the press. Only when a witness finally came forward and the killer -- a psychopathic teenage neighbor -- was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment without parole was the grieving Bishop released from the spotlight and left in relative peace. Responding to Conroy's analysis in his May 15 column in the *Chicago Tribune*, public editor Douglas Kneeland concluded, "I don't have the space ... to demonstrate how unfair much of [the coverage of the case] looks from the perspective of 1992.... What most journalists did in covering the investigation was well within the standards of the business. I just want to say regretfully that I think those standards are not good enough.... We need to do better."

MacBride Is Working

by Rev Des Wilson
Director Springhill Community, Belfast

Senior civil servants at the Northern Ireland Office drew up a memo for the minister in charge of development, Robert Atkins.

They then leaked it to the press.

The document admitted to the Minister confidentially that the MacBride Principles campaign for fair employment was working. And hurting. That even the Belfast shipyard was coming under such international pressure that it might have to adopt the Principles. Most jobs in the shipyard have been traditionally reserved for unionists. The confidential document also told the Minister that there might possibly be an international boycott of Timex watches because Timex is owned by Fred Olsen of Norway who also owns most of the shipyard.

And, the civil servants said, the British government's Fair Employment Legislation is **not working** -- Catholics will be no better off in ten years time. Perhaps Mr. Atkins, the Minister, knew all this already. Practically every other concerned person knew most of it. The British Fair Employment laws did not work

because they were drawn up by these very same civil servants who meant them not to work. What came as a surprise was that the civil servants admitted the depth and extent of the success of the MacBride Principles campaign in the United State and elsewhere. It was succeeding beyond the organizers' wildest dreams.

The civil servants saw that pressure on Fred Olsen, owner of most of Belfast shipyard, and on Bombardier of Quebec, Canada who owns Shorts, is paying off. A worldwide campaign is in full swing spreading from Norway to the US and Canada, and now is in force in Australia.

Each country has a special focus. In the US the focus is on American companies doing business in the north. In Canada, Bombardier. In Norway, Fred Olsen. In Australia, the National Australia Bank which owns the Northern Bank, the biggest and most discriminatory financial institution in the north. The success of this campaign and of the international network which created it has upset the institutions and the government. **The MacBride campaign is eminently worthwhile and dramatically successful.**

The economic pressure is exceptionally effective especially because it is in-

ternational. Even Queen's University in Belfast, which has an appalling record of anti-nationalist discrimination, has had to bow to international pressure. It is facing massive loss of reputation among the world's other universities.

One can see why the civil servants drew up the document to warn their Minister about all this. But why did they then leak it to the press?

The answer lies in the remedies the civil servants suggest to the Minister.

They do not call for full employment and fair employment. They do not say the failed Fair Employment laws should be scrapped and, after international consultation, replaced with laws that are effective. It does not say that capital, of which nationalists have been starved by government policy for decades, should now be poured into real enterprise in those areas.

No. The civil servants conclude their revelations by demanding more money for their own departments in order to create yet more one-year Ace Scheme part-time, dead end jobs which will keep nationalist temporarily off the unemployed list and yet produce no substantial improvement in their economy. Or in the economy of the area as a whole.

Newsbits continued from page 1

views are being conducted in cells and in corridors away from the recorders . . the whole system needs to be changed. Detainees should have the right to remain silent and be given immediate access to legal advice. Uncorroborated confession evidence should be inadmissible in court." (Irish Post, 9/19/92) **Last week, the BBC . . .** significantly extended media censorship by removing the voice of Bernadette McAliskey from a program, Nation, discussing political violence in Northern Ireland . . . In the program, the MC warned viewers that 'under a government order, broadcasters are required to remove sound when something is said which could be taken as supporting certain organizations involved in the Northern Ireland conflict.' He indicated that subtitles would be used if it was felt necessary to comply with that order . . . When asked if she

supported political violence, Ms. McAliskey replied, "I have to set the violence in context . . ." At that point, the soundtrack went silent and her remaining words were subtitled. She said she could not justify the IRA violence. She said, "I can understand violence and explain it. I can also offer what I believe is a rational way out of it through discussion and negotiation. No sane human being supports violence but people are often cornered into it by powerlessness, by lack of democracy and by lack of willingness of people to listen to their problems. The powerless don't choose political violence, the powerful force it upon them." [In response to her censorship,] Ms. McAliskey said, "I was invited as an observer to give a rational explanation of political violence. That I now find myself treated as a supporter of violence is unacceptable. I would have preferred my comments not to be used." (Irish Post, 9/12/92)

Tory MP Peter Bottomley has written to the BBC protesting the manner in which Bernadette McAliskey was treated. In his letter, he said that she was not a member of any violent organization and treating her as such "puts her reputation and her physical security at risk . . . There is no question that this was both defamatory and dangerous for Bernadette." (Irish Post, 9/12/92)

John Dillon, Professor of Classics at Trinity College Dublin, . . . is entirely opposed to the idea of giving immigrants the vote "because there are too many of them." . . . What really worries him is this: "Strong influxes of votes from Boston or Birmingham might ensure the return of half-a-dozen Sinn Fein candidates in border of even Dublin constituencies who might in turn hold the balance of power in a very fragmented government." (Irish Post, 9/5/92)

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Northern Ireland: It's Not About Religion

by Stephanie Finucane

Robert Heatley, a founding member of the Campaign for Justice, a primarily Protestant organization, gave a talk recently on the support of Northern Ireland Protestants for reunification of Ireland at John Jay College in New York City, a PEC-sponsored event. Heatley emphasized the strong presence of the Protestant radical tradition in the history of Ireland, a tradition which has been calling for reunification since the time of the United Irishmen and the United Irishwomen, both primarily Protestant, in the late 1700s. Protestants, such as Theobald Wolfe Tone, Mary Anne McCracken, John Mitchell, Roger Casement and so on called for one united Ireland and one Irish nationhood. These Protestants represent a section of Northern Ireland society Britain has tried to deny in order to keep the present system in tact. As Heatley asserts in his pamphlet *Breaking the Deadlock: A Way out of the Northern Impasse*, Northern Ireland is an undemocratic entity in which the majority of citizens agree that they are not being governed democratically. Such an undemocratic set up has required "the most draconian emergency legislation." Thus, Britain has set up an unequal, divided society kept at odds via discrimination, human and civil rights abuses, repressive legislation - all made possible by the strength of foreign troops and foreign government.

Neither community wanted Ireland divided. The leader of Ulster at the time of Partition in 1921, Sir Edward Carson, did not agree to the partition, but accepted it reluctantly. (Likewise, the I.R.A. ...) The Government of England, headed by Lloyd George, single-handedly created the state of Northern Ireland out of solely Westminster negotiations. **In other words, Northern Ireland came into being without the consent nor input of those people who would live within its borders.**

To maintain the artificial alliances and hatred resulting from the undemocratic basis of the state, Britain has also had to misrepresent the people of Northern Ireland to themselves. She has created a new identity for those privileged Protestants: she has denied them their Irishness and turned them into Brits. To this

day most Protestants think their "nationality" is British. But, as Heatley writes, "British is not a nationality. The political make-up of Great Britain and Northern Ireland comprises four major nationalities: English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish, minor ones being Manx and Cornish. It is clear into which category the northern Irish fit. It seems ridiculous even to have to affirm this, but so ...insidious has been the propaganda emanating from England, and so self-deluding the theology of Unionism, that anyone bent on demystification is forced to proclaim the obvious."

Northern Ireland Protestants are just as Irish as their Catholic counterparts. This induced identity crisis has prevented the Unionists from seeing themselves as a natural part of all of Ireland and, instead, makes them think they belong to the UK. On top of this, some Unionists are unable to "distinguish the nation from the state. Opposed to what they regard as the Catholic ethos of the 26 county Republican state they assert their Britishness, not as a repudiation of their Irishness, but as a political rejection of that state. . .," Subsequently, once the Protestants of Northern Ireland have been transformed into Brits before our eyes, then the second stage of the British plan can come into effect: the onslaught of "neo-unionism." Neo-Unionism will replace the British machine in Northern Ireland because society will have swallowed and digested this new set of terms and identity. As Heatley writes, this will involve a new formation of the "Northern Ireland 'national' parties, the less sectarian of the Unionists, the Alliance party, the SDLP and the Workers Party." This would produce "a neo-Unionist alliance ... through which the British would appear to withdraw from Ireland without actually withdrawing. An arrangement between the neo-Unionist grouping in the North and the pro-E.C. anti-republican establishment in the South might then be negotiated by the British. The British ruling establishment would then parade before the world this achievement as a democratic solution, devised by the patient British for the Irish who otherwise would not have been able to come together." In this way, Britain will be able to wash her hands of the disgrace and appear to be withdrawing, all the while having

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infected every institution in Northern Ireland with her controlling presence - **and still maintain control without appearing to do so.**

Heatley stresses the need for the Irish government to eliminate the chances of neo-unionism taking a foothold in the north. They can do so by campaigning worldwide for British disengagement from Northern Ireland. He claims that withdrawal will not entail a bloodbath if it is prepared for properly and the population is educated on the situation. If fighting does break out, Heatley assures that it will be "short and confined," due to the peacekeeping presence of Irish, English, UN, and E.E.C. forces. Also, Britain's withdrawal would not occur overnight and would involve compensation on her part for all the destruction she has caused over the last 800 years. She would be held responsible for helping Ireland get back on its feet.

In the past, both communities have been educated in hatred, each side misrepresented as belligerent. If the communities were offered another perspective and a new way of understanding the situation, they will most likely opt for whatever procedures will bring about harmony. It would become obvious to all that the present form of Direct Rule is purely for British interests only. (The people are tired of all the hatred and killing as it is. The people of Northern Ireland are human just like everyone else on this planet.) At this point, the Northern Ireland community would be one, sharing the identity of the Irish nation. Democracy would prevail and reunification would be possible.

Indeed, it is hard not to agree with Heatley and the Campaign for Justice. This just might be the solution to the problems of the North, especially since the option of reunification is the one that Britain keeps avoiding.

To order a copy of Robert Heatley's *Breaking The Deadlock: A Way Out Of The Northern Impasse*, send a check for \$6 (which includes P&H) payable to American Irish Awareness Committee, 18 Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993. Phone# 800 777-6807

Northern Ireland: Where Innocent People Are Imprisoned?

by Sandy Carlson

The British government announced that it will introduce new equipment in interrogation centers to prevent police (Royal Ulster Constabulary, RUC) officers from rewriting interview notes. Electronically date-and time-stamped bound booklets will replace the loose-leaf interview sheets. This change comes on the heels of widespread allegations of police misconduct during interviews.

These claims are supported by London-based Liberty, the National Association of Probation Officers (NAPO), and Conviction, who, in July, presented a dossier to the British Home Office of 111 cases "where there appears to be a lurking doubt about the prosecution and proceedings at the original trial."

"In March, NAPO estimated that there could be up to 550 dubious convictions amongst the long term prison population alone. The dossier is indicative of the large number of people in prison who may have been wrongly convicted and of the urgent need for an independent review body to investigate such cases," according to these groups. They say, "In all cases the trials were complex and involved 100s of pages of documentation and the sentences tended to range from 5 years to life."

Gerard Magee's case is included in the dossier. Magee, from northern Ireland, was arrested in December 1988 in connection with an attack on British soldiers. He was interrogated for 58 hours, during which he was denied access to his lawyer. Magee's experiences in Castlereagh are similar to those of other Irish nationalists who claim they have been abused during detention.

This British tactic of torturing detainees into confessing is not a new one. It is now coming to the light of day since the British government's admission that it wrongfully convicted the Guildford 4, the Birmingham 6, the Maguire 7, and Judith Ward. Some of these innocent people spent up to 15 years in prison.

Gerard Magee says, "that he was subjected to the good guys-bad guys treatment during his detention: he was alternately interrogated by 2 detectives who did not beat him and 2 who did. The abusive detectives began with a barrage

of abusive language, pulled the chair away from me, and ordered me to stand in an awkward position. When I refused, Detective 'D' slapped the back of my head with firm blows; jabbed my stomach below the rib cage with outstretched fingers; lit a cigarette and held the lit end directly below my chin while I was pinned against a wall; choked me by pushing my head against a wall, putting his hand over my mouth and nose, and holding for 10 or 15 seconds. He then exhaled tobacco smoke straight down my throat as I gasped for air; twisted my left arm up my back and held it in a tight position, and twisted further by pressing on the fingers..."

Magee says that he reported the RUC detectives' ill-treatment to the doctor and that an RUC sergeant took note of the complaint, but this did no good, because detective 'D' of the "bad guys" team "responded to my complaint [by] threatening that I would get something to complain about ...: he thumped my stomach with his fist, harder than any blow I received the previous day ..."

Under the pressure of continued harassment, Magee says he began to answer questions, although he had not yet received legal advice. Indeed, not until Magee signed the interview containing the admission did he see his solicitor.

A *voir dire* was held before Magee's trial, during which an expert witness, Dr. Spence, presented ESDA (electro-static date analysis) report to the court which showed several points of re-writing of interview notes and missing pages. The court dismissed this evidence, and Magee was subsequently sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment.

Magee says that the RUC's ill-treatment methods are designed to "achieve maximum effect without leaving marks"; however, Patrick Nash's case proves that the RUC's methods are not foolproof. RUC detectives beat Nash about the back of the head during detention. As a result, he suffered a chronically running nose for 5 to 6 weeks, when he collapsed in jail and became critically ill. Nash says, "I was given the Last Rites of the Catholic Church by the prison chaplain and rushed ... to the Royal Victoria Hospital ... A brain scan found that the leaking fluid had been cerebro-spinal fluid, the water-like fluid that surrounds and protects the brain. It was dripping from a tear or hole in the

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lining of my brain in the area behind my left eye ..." Nash underwent a 9-hour operation to repair the damage.

But the RUC don't limit themselves to torturing detainees in Castlereagh and Gough barracks only. Seamus Kearney, who was arrested in 1982, says "I was driven to Magherafelt RUC barracks. Prior to arriving at the station the car in which I was being held responded to signals being made by the occupants of two Ford Granadas to pull over. The RUC man in our car informed me that this was the end of the road for me as far as they were concerned, that the occupants of the Ford Cranadas were members of the British SAS who ruled the roost in matters of this nature. The RUC men further told me that 'these boys get what they want, and they want you.' I was highly agitated at this point as I thought they were going to take me out and shoot me at the side of the road. As it turned out I was only detained at the side of the road for a matter of minutes while a series of death threats were issued by the people who were alleged to be the SAS..."

Thus, Britain's criminalization of Irish nationalists has not changed since the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, and Judith Ward were imprisoned in the mid-1970s -- except that police techniques are more subtle. Stories such as these largely stay out of the press, so most people are not aware of the number of individuals imprisoned simply because it suits the British government. At the same time the British government works to demonize the nationalist goal of an independent united Ireland. The effect is that, if news of large scale torture and imprisonment reaches the press, the public will dismiss the victims as cranks who probably had it coming anyway. **Simply put, the British government are simultaneously violating the fundamentals of democracy and creating the environment in which this is acceptable to the majority of people.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
contact American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC), 18 Route 9W, Fairgrounds Plaza, West Hasverstraw, NY 10993 -- phone# 800 777-6807.

Published November 1992 by American Irish PEC

Francis Gildernew: Yet Another Round in the Extradition Ring

by Stephanie Finucane

In 1984 County Tyrone native Francis Gildernew came to the U.S. on a legal visitors visa in search of the simple pleasures of personal freedom and justice rare in his own land. He settled in Poughkeepsie, NY and immediately applied for a green card and received one that same year. In April 1985 he married an American citizen, Sharon Ann Tierney. Gildernew bought a bar three years ago and is a respected businessman.

However, on April 16, 1992 FBI and INS (Immigration Naturalization Services) agents entered his home at gun point, arrested Gildernew, and held him for six days. Bail was set at \$10,000 and was quickly posted by friends. Federal

officials claim Gildernew misrepresented himself when applying for his green card: they claim his arrest in Northern Ireland in 1976 disqualifies him. True, Gildernew, like thousands of other people in Northern Ireland was arrested, interrogated, and charged and convicted on an already-prepared confession to a crime he claims he did not commit - not to mention the trial took place in the infamous non-jury, one-judge Diplock court. Gildernew was tried as a special category prisoner and was granted political status while subsequently imprisoned in Long Kesh. Therefore, when Gildernew applied for a green card, he had no criminal record.

Now, after living freely in New York

for eight years, Gildernew is wanted by federal officials for deportation, which, if allowed, will place Gildernew's life in grave jeopardy. As the late Congressman Ted Weiss stated in support of Gildernew, "There is strong evidence to suggest that if forced to return to Northern Ireland, Mr. Gildernew would face persecution or threats of death."

On July 28, 1992 Gildernew filed for political asylum, as well as applied for suspension of deportation and for permanent residence. The next step in Gildernew's case is the Tuesday, November 17 hearing at 26 Federal Plaza in New York City. (For more information, call Siobhan Stirling (914) 473-4217 or Joseph Reilly (914) 677-3377.)

Status Quo's Sickening

Legacy by Ned A. Delaney

(reprinted from the *Journal and Courier Sunday*, September 20, 1992)

In reference to the Sept. 8 article about Irish peace, it is not untimely that three former hostages held in Lebanon called for a peace initiative in Northern Ireland. This plea came just prior to the resumption of talks among factions at Stormont (Northern Ireland Parliament). Not surprisingly, however, the Bush Administration remains mute regarding the British occupation of Northeast Ireland (Northern Ireland).

Politically, there are reasons for movement on the Northern Ireland question. One concerns the re-election of George Bush. Notwithstanding his administration's lackluster performance on human rights, it is no surprise that Northern Ireland should take a visible posture at this time.

The mutual interests of Conservatives in both the United Kingdom and United States are no secret. There has been a warm relationship ever since the beginning of the Reagan Administration. Unlike the subtle pressure applied the U.K. by the Carter Administration over human rights concerns in Northern Ireland, the

Reagan and the Bush administrations have been totally supportive of British strong-arm tactics in the six counties of Northern Ireland.

This began with the total disregard of issues affecting the hunger strikes of the early 1980s and ... ended with the deportation of Irish Nationalist Joseph Doherty to Britain after eight years of imprisonment in the U.S.

Scandals affecting U.S. funds to Northern Ireland also stand in stark contrast to those issues addressing the improper use of the public trust here in America. Money that was to be used to assist in the redevelopment of deprived areas in Northern Ireland has been diverted to help ensure continued division within the community. American tax dollars have been used to build golf courses and hotels to promote tourism and to bring the Ulster Orchestra to Dublin; and to support opposing political parties.

To control the distribution of funds, the U.K. government practices "vetting." Through this process, organizations and businesses are allocated funds based on their political posture. As long as prescribed government guidelines are followed, funds are made available.

Should these institutions become critical of government posture, funds are cut. Most frequently targeted for

vetting are institutions the British government deems associated with Sinn Fein, which represents 40 percent of the Nationalist community in Northern Ireland.

During the Reagan-Bush-Thatcher years, human rights organizations have compiled mountains of documentation addressing concerns in Northern Ireland, only to be received by deaf ears. Sources include Helsinki Committee (Norway); Helsinki Watch (U.S.); Amnesty International (U.K.); the International Federation on Human Rights (France); the National Council on Civil Liberties (U.K.), and the Northern Ireland Civil Liberties Council.

Unfortunately, an administration that holds American civil liberties in such contempt can hardly be expected to support international civil liberties and human rights. The plight of our Native Americans is a case in point.

Whether you are of Irish ancestry or not, the Northern Ireland state exists as a sickening legacy to those who support the status quo.

There are some 40 million Americans of Irish ancestry. Does it not cause the slightest curiosity that so little is seen and heard about Northern Ireland when so much is provided about other politically expedient areas of the world?

Action Requests

As we mentioned in this issue's *From The Editor*, we have placed another ad in the *New York Times* on Sunday, November 1. We must make the most of this ad regarding the impact it had on the Presidential election.

Both of this issue's Action Requests are directed at the media.

All members are asked to write the letter below in your own words or as is. Have family, friends, relatives, organizations do the same. Those of you with easy access to a copy machine are asked to include a copy of the *New York Times* ad we published in the October newsletter, "*Why England Must Leave Ireland*". If you have a copy of the November 1 ad, include that to. Also include a copy "*PEC Meets With Northern Ireland Protestants*" from the June 1992 newsletter.

Write to: Larry King Live, CNN, 820 1st Street, Washington, DC 20002, and Ted Koppel, Nightline, 1717 DeSales Street NW, Washington, DC 20036

Dear _____:

Many Americans opposed to British injustice in Northern Ireland made an impact on the recent Presidential election. Many were influenced by large ads placed in newspapers such as the New York Times and Houston Post by the American Irish Political Education Committee (914 947-2726).

You can bring attention to this issue by interviewing Members of Congress who oppose British policies in Northern Ireland such as: Hamilton Fish, Joseph Kennedy, Eliot Engel and Gary Ackerman.

Sincerely yours,
signature

A Great Boost For MacBride Activists

Governor Bill Clinton stated that as President of the United States he would support the MacBride Principles. Recently Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds declared his support for the Principles. These endorsements plus the recent report from the Northern Ireland Office acknowledging failure of Britain's new fair employment legislation give great credibility to the campaign.

If We Had 100,000 Members?

If the PEC had 100,000 members, we would raise a minimum of 1.7 million dollars a year. This would enable the PEC to advertise regularly in many of America's most influential publications, open the Public Affairs Office, and more. The issue of British government colonialism and injustice in Northern Ireland would be in the forefront in American politics.

So Please! Renew your memberships on time and do your best to recruit new members to the PEC.

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.

- Regular Membership / Membership Renewal \$20
- Senior Citizen, \$15 Student, \$15
- 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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