



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY

Sacred Heart University
DigitalCommons@SHU

American Irish Newsletter

The Irish American Community Collections

7-1992

American Irish Newsletter - July 1992

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews



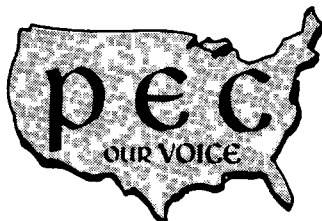
Part of the [European Languages and Societies Commons](#), [Other American Studies Commons](#), and the [Political Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - July 1992" (1992). *American Irish Newsletter*. 115.

https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews/115

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.



AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 17, Number 7

July 1992

Pennsylvania Adopts MacBride

Pennsylvania State Director, John Hatch, advises that on May 28, 1992 Governor Robert Casey signed the MacBride Principles into law. Pennsylvania is the 13th state to support fair employment in northern Ireland.

This success puts the MacBride state-wide campaign back on track.

According to John Hatch, this important success is due to the unity among the concerned organizations.

We commend John Hatch for his outstanding work. He spent many a day in the State Capitol lobbying the legislators. We also wish to acknowledge his efforts to unite the organizations involved.

We are looking forward to another major success in New York State with the new contract compliance MacBride bill. We are advised that the PEC's New York letter-writing campaign to the State Legislators has been very effective. Time will tell!

When are you going to commence a MacBride Principles campaign in your state, city, town or village?

Newsbits

by Kathy Regan, NYS Director

On March 9, 1992, Conor Maguire told the Andersonstown News that he had spent two days at Castlereagh Center where he claimed the RUC made threats to give his security details to a loyalist murder gang. He said, "They gave me a straight choice: I could start supplying them with information ... or I would be set up for a loyalist assassination squad. Over the past two years I have been arrested a number of times and ... never been charged with any offense, but on each occasion the Special Branch has come into the room and put pressure

PEC 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 Manhattan and the Bronx -- call (212) 364-3935.

Entertainment includes 4 bands, ceilidancing, bagpipe band, special classroom presentations, a magic show, and more. Admission \$6 adults, senior citizens \$4, children under 12 accompanied by a parent free.

For Festival information call (914) 947-2726 or write AIPEC.

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

on me to work for them ... At the minute, I'm moving from house to house, but they know where I work." On May 1, he was assassinated at work by a loyalist hit squad. (Andersonstown News, 5/2/92)...After more than 18 years in prison, the case against Judith Ward was thrown out. (Irish Post, 5/16/92)...Twenty-six year old Philomena Hanna was murdered by a loyalist hit gang as she worked in a pharmacy. The gunman singled out the young mother and fired a least five shots, killing Mrs. Hanna instantly. (Andersonstown News, 5/2/92). Where were the headlines?

In an unprecedented use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), Channel 4 [in England] faces being hit with a heavy fine for refusing to disclose the name of a northern Ireland informant used in a television documentary which alleged collusion between northern Ireland's "security forces" and Loyalist paramilitaries and

Form A PEC Support Group

Members/Student members are urged to form PEC Support Groups in their community/school.

A PEC Support Group is two or more people meeting one or more times a month for the purpose of letter writing as suggested by the *Telephone Hotline* (914) 429-7849. Support Groups should also distribute Newsletter *Reproduce & Distribute* articles to the media and political communities, and the general public; and help raise funds to support the national PEC. (See June 1992 newsletter for ways to raise funds.)

The Support Group is an integral part of the PEC organization.

For information on forming a Support Group, contact the PEC by mail or call (914) 947-2726.

Important

If you are already involved in a PEC Support Group activity, such as letter writing group or a telephone network, please let us know.

others. Channel 4's director of programs said she believes the court case is not merely about journalistic rights. "The issue at stake is the public interest in informing people about events in northern Ireland, one of the major political stories of our generation." (Irish Post, 5/9/92)...A British government Fair Employment Commission report has revealed that Catholics represent only 24.3% of the public sector workforce in jobs that pay over 16,000 pounds per annum. FEC Chairman, Bob Cooper, has stated that the employment pattern "may be changing" (Andersonstown News, 5/23/92). Must Catholics wait another 70 years?

In an "Index of Human Suffering" table compiled by the Washington-

Continued bottom page five

From The Editor

The PEC's new Public Affairs/Media Representation Office will put American proponents of a democratic united Ireland in a unique and effective position.

Through this office we will be positioned to meet members of the media on a daily basis. Further, because of our expanded sources of information in northern Ireland, and the availability of fax machines, we will at last be in the unique position to promptly communicate to the media accurate factual accounts of events in northern Ireland. We will be presenting the news to the media at the same time as the British government.

No longer will the British government be in the sole position to shape US public opinion. No longer will we be responding ineffectively, after the fact, to inaccurate British government information.

We will also be in the position to arrange press conferences for travelers from northern Ireland, including Protestants who support a united Ireland.

A supportive media will help us considerably in our work to influence our political leaders.

This operation is a most significant undertaking, and will require the financial support and sacrifice of all of us who believe in a united democratic Ireland.

Send A Donation Today! Help Support The Work Of The PEC

Make checks payable to: AIPEC, and mail to:
AIPEC, 18 Route 9W, Fairgrounds Plaza, New
York, NY 10993.

Is FRANCIS GILDERNEW Another JOE DOHERTY?

Francis Gildernew was arrested by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in April 1992 and faces deportation to northern Ireland.

He was arrested because he did not disclose his prison record in northern Ireland. Gildernew, who owns a bar and restaurant in upstate New York, served 8 years in prison in connection with a weapons case. He maintains that he was innocent of the charges and that a confession was drawn out of him under duress. He was sentenced by the infamous one-judge, no-jury *Diplock Court* system.

He believes he is being harassed because he is a political activist and a promoter of the MacBride Principles.

The government had attempted to cause him to lose his liquor license. But the New York State Liquor Authority allowed it to be transferred to his wife who is an American citizen. Gildernew faces an expensive court battle. When will the Bush Administration end its harassment of legitimate opponents of English colonialism in Ireland?

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

EditorJohn J. Finucane

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

National Headquarters: Fairgrounds Plaza
West Haverstraw, NY 10993 - (914) 947-2726 - Fax# (914) 947-2599

Western States Executive Director: Susan Catt, 2292 North Ironwood
#110, Apache Junction, ARIZONA 85220 - (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) 251-7551; 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) 234-1962.

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

Save Money On Your Long Distance Bills While You Support The PEC

If you have a telephone, we can save you money on your long distance telephone bills while another five percent of your monthly long distance bill will go to the PEC.

Affinity Fund is the nation's leading affinity long distance service program. Affinity promises savings of 5% to 35% over most readily available AT&T, MCI and US Sprint programs. Affinity will also save money for most small businesses. Affinity is just like AT&T. You dial 1 and then the number.

You can enjoy saving on your long distance bills with the satisfaction of knowing you're also supporting the PEC. For information call (914) 947-2726 or write AIPEC.

From The North

by Rev. Des Wilson in Belfast
Director Springhill Community Center

There has been trouble in Coalisland, County Tyrone for a long time. British soldiers have been harassing and beating residents, especially young men. Recently, without cause, soldiers shot three people. They also made news when they mistakenly wrecked two pubs belonging to members of the Social Democratic Labor Party (SDLP). If they had wrecked the property of republicans (Sein Feiners), the media would have ignored it just as they ignored similar assaults of the past months. The level of insult and goading of citizens is almost unbelievable. A magistrate giving judgement in court told a defendant to go home and tell a member of the Sinn Fein party, who he named, "to carry his own gun in the future". That is, he accused a citizen of committing a crime, who had never been brought to court, and found him guilty.

Nothing can be done about the judge, because of British laws, but something was done about the person the judge named, accused and found guilty. He was run down by a car and later physically attacked.

When British paratroopers attacked the Coalisland residents once too often it drew public attention, not only about these attacks but also on similar attacks in Derry and Belfast. It also revealed the tension between citizens and military and between military and police, each of whom is struggling for control of the streets in the north.

Another struggle is going on between the military and their government. On Bloody Sunday, the military successfully imposed their will on the British government, as they did many years ago in the "Curragh Mutiny". They did so again in 1974 when they helped bring down the "power sharing executive". This time however, it is British government policy that the military not assert itself, as it did against members of the SDLP in Coalisland, and to make British unionists and democrats (nationalists) talk to each other. The SDLP is involved in

The Nelson Trial: Justice or Conspiracy?

(Reprinted from Just News, 2/92, published by the Committee on the Administration of Justice in Belfast)

The recent happenings at Belfast Crown court sounded like the stuff of spy novels with all the talk of "undercover agents," "handlers" and "Colonel J." In reality another episode of the 'dirty war' in northern Ireland against the paramilitaries was being inadvertently revealed to the public.

One bemused spectator to events at the trial of Brian Nelson, the former UDA senior intelligence officer jailed for 10 years, was John Stevens. Mr Stevens, now chief constable of Northumbria, sat through the four sittings of the trial. Nelson had pleaded guilty to twenty charges, including five of conspiracy to murder, committed while he spied on the UDA for British military intelligence. The trial saw the biggest turn-out of local and national media for some years.

Yet the real questions were left unanswered both by this trial and the Stevens Inquiry which preceded it.

.Who were the sources of the information "from all sectors of the security forces" which Nelson had in his UDA files, and which military

intelligence had copied?

.Why was John Stevens unable or unwilling to trace sources of information within the security forces given the "assistance" of military intelligence, and what they had learned from Nelson?

.Why was Nelson never asked to give evidence, as was revealed in court, against any member of the paramilitaries involved in the murder of three "targets"?

.Why was Nelson never asked to identify the sources of information from within the security forces?

.What does Nelson know of other UDA/UFF activities such as the assassination of solicitor Pat Finucane, and of those involved?

.What was the real level of collusion between members of the security forces and loyalist paramilitaries, at the very least in the passing of information?

.Was Brian Nelson and the military intelligence angle merely a "red herring" to draw attention away from the whole collusion issue?

Among all of these questions there is one relative certainty. Another "mainland" policeman has returned home with a better understanding of the quagmire that is northern Ireland and with, no doubt, an equally strong instinct never to return.

the talks. It was a military error and the CO of the paratroopers was transferred.

For democrats a question mark hangs over the affair. Should the SDLP have walked out on the present talks while its members were being attacked by the paratroopers? Why should the government worry if the SDLP does not worry about its own members?

Probably the answer lies with Prime Minister Major. He is portrayed by British media and satirists as a weak, colorless leader. But in fact he seems to have imposed his will on the British unionists in Ireland in a remarkably effective way. Now, after these latest military attacks on civilians in Coalisland, he seems to have imposed his will on the paratroopers as well -- by removing their CO -- and on Secre-

tary Mates who publicly approved what the paratroopers had done. Almost unnoticed by British and Irish media, John Major is putting his own stamp on events, forcing British unionists in Ireland to talk, transferring the paratroopers' commander, and creating a series of not very subtle initiatives to create the impression of political movement, as if to prepare the British public for political change.

What it all means is not certain except that, as always, Ireland is in the middle of a struggle for dominance between Britain's strongest power holders: the army, the cabinet, and the secret service.

Intense international pressure is needed now to ensure that the Irish do not come off worst in that sordid struggle. And that their representatives at the British talking table are not intimidated into betraying them once again.

American and Irish

by Dr. Roger McGrath, *California*

I first began following events in Northern Ireland in the late 1960s. Before that I only vaguely understood that the British still occupied a portion of the Old Sod, for I was an Irish American. My people had come to America from the west of Ireland during the 19th century, and a generation before I was born those areas had won their freedom. I grew up hearing about counties Mayo, Tipperary, and Galway, not Antrim, Armagh, and Down. British rule was something of the past, something for historians to study. Then, however, the latest (the last?) phase of the Irish struggle for freedom erupted on the streets of Belfast and Derry.

I can remember the first discussion I had on the issue. The old gang was getting together for a reunion at a friend's house. Most of us had recently completed tours of duty with the Marines or Navy, a few with the Army or Air Force. It hadn't been that long since we had seen each other, 2 or 3 years for some, and 4 or 5 for others. But at that age, it seemed like a lifetime.

Chris, the friend whose house we gathered at, had graduated from an Ivy League college, and was pursuing graduate studies en route to becoming a Methodist minister. I hadn't seen him in 4 or 5 years and was surprised at just how Ivy League he had become. We had all grown up together in a California beach community and were anything but Ivy League.

Chris's mother was also just back in town. She had gone to live in Ireland and had taken Chris's younger brother and sister with her. She was determined that the younger boy not be swept into the Vietnam War, and thought Ireland, the land of her birth, would be the safe, quiet haven she sought. Ironically, her home was in County Armagh. Two years after she returned to Ireland the Six Counties exploded. This became a hot topic of discussion at the reunion. I had always thought of Chris's mom as Irish and nothing more. She certainly looked the part: very blue eyes, very fair skin, and very dark hair. Moreover, her

name was Patricia! I remember her telling us stories about growing potatoes on the family farm back in Ireland. Irish, she was, through and through. Now, for the first time in my life, I learned that she had an allegiance to Britain. My education on the modern state of affairs in Ireland had begun.

By the late 1970s I had become actively involved with a number of Irish organizations and learned something else that surprised me even more: the Irish in Ireland and the Irish in America can be very different. Growing up, I thought, as did every other Irish American kid I knew, that we were the luckiest kids to ever have lived: we were both Irish and American. I had no idea that there were Irish who thought of themselves as inferior to anyone, let alone to the English. Yet, I learned that there were Irish who had a sense of inferiority. They were clearly in the minority, but the fact that there were any Irish with such an attitude came as a shock to me. I suppose it shouldn't have. Given hundreds of years of occupation by a foreign power and suppression of all things Irish, an attitude of inferiority is not an unlikely consequence. Upon reflection, what is even more surprising is the resiliency of the Irish - for the Irish spirit remains, more often than not, undaunted and undiminished.

In America that Irish spirit has soared. I remember an uncle teaching me how to write our surname and thinking how lucky I was to have a "Mac" in front of my name. "This means you're Irish," he said. There was no doubt about him: he was all freckles and red hair, and had a jaw and chin on him that said he could be nothing else. I practiced writing the family name until he beamed. Years later I learned that the English removed the Mac (and the O') from most Irish names in an attempt to Anglicize them. I learned also that some Irish did so themselves. Here in America, though, that Mac was a source of pride and joy.

It was easy for a kid in America to be proud of being Irish. Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, James T. Farrell, John O'Hara, Margaret

Mitchell, Edwin O'Connor, Maureen O'Sullivan, Barry Fitzgerald, Tyrone Power, Spencer Tracy, James Cagney, Dorothy McGuire, Irene Dunne, Maureen O'Hara, Errol Flynn, Thomas Mitchel, John Ford, Bing Crosby, Pat O'Brien, Grace Kelly, Jackie Gleason, George M. Cohan, John McCormick, Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, Mickey Walker, Jimmy McLarnin, Billy Conn, Jimmy Foxx, Connie Mack, John McGraw, and dozens of others were household names to anyone growing up in the 1930s, 40s, or 50s. So, too, were the names of America's war heroes.

While every one of America's wars has had a disproportionate number of heroes with Irish names, W.W.II surpasses all. Even a brief look at only the most famous boggles the mind.

The first hero of W.W.II was Colin Kelly. The first ace was Butch O'Hare. The Marine commander responsible for the heroic defense of Wake Island was James Devereaux. The pilot who discovered the Japanese fleet at Midway was Wade McClusky. The pilot who scored the first hit on a Japanese carrier at Midway was Earl Gallaher. The leading Navy ace of the war (and third overall) and the only man to shoot down 9 enemy planes on one flight was David McCampbell. The second leading Army Air Corps ace (and second overall) was Tom McGuire. The top submarine commander was Richard O'Kane. The only chaplain to win the Medal of Honor was Joseph Timothy O'Callahan. The first pilot to drop a bomb on Japan in a land-based raid was Emmett O'Donnell. The last pilot to drop a bomb in Japan, the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, was Charles Sweeney. The five brothers who died in the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal were Frank, George, Matt, Al, and Joe Sullivan. The hero of Salerno was Charles "Commando" Kelly. The first to receive all four of America's highest decorations was Wild Bill Donovan. The commander of the 101st Airborne Division at the Battle of the Bulge who replied "Nuts" to the German demand for surrender and miraculously thwarted the enemy's advance was Anthony McAuliffe. The most deco-

Continued next page

Enter British Troops - Part 1

by Stephanie Finucane

Although British troops have always occupied northern Ireland, they did not go on active duty until August 1969.

July and August 1969 saw much chaos among loyalists and nationalists due to friction between Orangemen and civil rights activists. The Orange day parades went ahead as scheduled, even though many people and authorities warned of the violence they would inspire. Sure enough, during the August 12th Apprentice Boys parade the sporadic violence already occurring culminated in severe riots. On that day, as the parade passed a barricade at the nationalist Bogside, petrol bombs were thrown and the RUC doused nationalists with CS gas. The Siege of the Bogside continued until the 14th at which time the British Home Secretary, "Big Jim" Callaghan, sent in troops to "restore peace" (K. Boland, *My Great Shame*). After 5pm on the 14th, British troops officially entered the conflict when 400 British soldiers were deployed in the center of Derry. The original role of the troops was to prevent loyalist attacks on ghetto areas until "law and order" was restored, at which time they would withdraw (Boland).

That night, the worst rioting yet broke out in Belfast in which a loyalist mob ravaged nationalist streets, "supported by gun-firing police" protected with Shoreland armored cars equipped with Browning machine guns (J. Kelly, *The Genesis of Revolution*). Within 24 hours, 10 civilians were dead, 145 injured, and 200 houses, mainly nationalist, burned out (T. Downing, *The Troubles: The Background to the Question of Northern Ireland*). The next day, British troops arrived in Belfast to separate the communities.

At first the troops were perceived as a liberating army and welcomed by the nationalists. To them, the army was a sign of the defeat of the RUC and Stormont Government, which together actively denied the nationalist community civil rights which the loyalists daily enjoyed.

By August 17, 3,000 troops were stationed in the north; by the 22nd, 6,500. On the 19th, a meeting in London between the British and Stormont governments resulted in the disappointing Downing Street Declaration which

was supposed to appease nationalists. But the Declaration did not call for the prosecutions of those responsible for raids into Catholic areas and indiscriminate shootings. Instead, the Declaration concentrated on security matters, and gave the British Officer in Command (GOC) full control over deployment of the RUC (except for normal police functions) and the Ulster Special Constabulary (USC), thus taking authority out of the hands of Stormont and making "a legal nonsense of the polite British fiction that the British soldiers in Northern Ireland were simply acting in aid of the civil power" (E. O'Ballance *Terror in Ireland: The Heritage of Hate*).

On August 20, the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) demanded the immediate abolition of the B-Specials, alleging that they were a sectarian armed wing of the ruling Unionist Party. In Stormont that day Prime Minister Chichester-Clark ignored that demand, inviting the B-Specials to be part of the new security plan. Since August 14, 4000 B-Specials were armed and operating full-time. Oddly enough, the Hunt Report (October 1969) recommended not only that the RUC be disbanded and the USC phased out, but also that the B-Specials be terminated. The British government then disbanded the B-Specials, replacing them with a new local auxiliary force called the Ulster Defense Regiment (UDR) which operated under the control of the British Army. The RUC was then trained in the newest British riot control tactics.

Until mid 1970 British Army operations in northern Ireland were "low intensity civil operations" consisting of mixing with the communities and betraying their trust by simultaneously gathering intelligence. This is known as the "honeymoon period."

The information gathered during the "honeymoon" was later used for Operation Demetrius: The internment swoop on August 9, 1970 when the Army, with "shocking brutality," arrested and interned without trial 342 members of the nationalist community, as well as killed 12 people and burned out 150 houses (Boland).

With that in mind, it is understandable that only a year before, the nationalist community feared that the military program of the troops to restore "law

Reproduce & Distribute

and order" would only lead to the return of the traditional repression by the Unionist government. Unionist law and order was, for nationalists, "represented by the RUC batoning of the peaceful Civil Rights marches and their stewarding of the deadly Orange mob attacks on the ghetto areas, and by the mobilization of the notorious B-Specials in response to the subversive demand for Civil Rights" (Boland). Therefore, nationalists strove to provide a defense program, formed the Citizen Defense Committees (CDC) and courted the 26 County government parties in order to gain support. (At this time the IRA were still virtually unarmed and defunct). They were well received - so much so that the Dublin government formally adopted a contingency plan for the provision of arms to the CDC in the event of an all-out attack on the nationalist community. Surplus rifles were made available for the contingency plan, and training was provided by the Irish Army in defense tactics (Boland).

However, on May 5, 1970 the tables turned. The Dublin government betrayed the trust of nationalists and declared that they were a bunch of "gun-running subversives" who were the real source of danger. The imminent danger lay "in the outrageous demands for Civil Rights for the community, which aspired to reunification with the rest of their nation, and in the IRA, but not in the dreaded, well-armed and trained, sectarian Special Constabulary" (Boland).

Now that the Dublin Government had washed its hands of northern Ireland, Britain had no fear of intervention. So, it was time to end the first British initiative of "peacekeeping," which resulted from public outrage over the terrorization of the nationalists. The Stormont regime that denied Civil Rights to the nationalist would be upheld. Enter the second initiative: "repression - swift, ruthless and brutal," which continues today (Boland).

For further information, contact the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC), at 800 777-6807 or Fairgrounds Plaza, 18 Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993.

Ireland's Legitimate Claim To All Ireland Under Threat

*(Reprinted from Democracy published March 1992
by the Campaign For Democracy in Belfast., Northern Ireland)*

On October 7, 1991 a small group of Northern Irish Protestants held a press conference in Dublin. They were in Dublin to promote a Declaration, signed by nearly one hundred prominent individuals, North and South, and supporting the retention of Articles 2 and 3 of the South's Constitution [Ireland's constitutional claim to the northern six counties]. Their aim was to launch a campaign to protect those Articles under continuing attack for the past few years by reactionary and pro-British elements, North and South.

Had this been a delegation from the North complaining about Articles 2 and 3, the media coverage would almost certainly have been widespread. As it was, this delegation, from the cross community organization, the Campaign for Democracy, was arguing for a campaign not to remove Articles 2 and 3 but rather to remove Britain's counter claims to sovereignty over the North as contained in the Government of Ireland Act (1920). The result was that, with a few honorable exceptions, the press conference and launch went unreported. The atmosphere of censorship in the South at present appears to have gotten so great that even quite liberal demands are excluded from the agenda of debate.

Despite this (and certainly because of it) the Campaign for Democracy is continuing with its work along with other bodies North and South to try to introduce liberal, democratic and progressive demands onto the political agenda. In relation to Articles 2 and 3 for example, it is quite clear that demands to have them removed from the South's Constitution are neither liberal nor progressive. Rather they are reactionary and anti-democratic. The vast majority of the Irish people (and even the British people) support the sentiments contained in Articles 2 and 3. The opponents of Articles 2 and 3 are not only ignoring those wishes, but, by their

disingenuous attempts to align supporters of these Articles with support for violence in the North, they are attempting to distort and marginalize the legitimately held and felt beliefs of the vast majority of Irish society.

The claim by opponents of Articles 2 and 3, in the South, that Irish people would be offering the hand of friendship to Northern unionists if they removed them from the Constitution, is also disingenuous. It is quite clear that such people are attempting to hide behind a liberal veneer to promote politics based on the exclusion of a large section of the Irish people from nationhood simply because they are viewed as too much bother. These attitudes are clearly reactionary and anti-progressive and clearly have much in common with British National Front attitudes to Black minorities in Britain.

The liberal and progressive demand should, on the contrary, be for the retention of Articles 2 and 3 and the removal of the British counter-claim to sovereignty over the North. This would show to the Northern people, (particularly if accompanied by an acceptance of the need to change to accommodate the differing needs and expectations of those people), that they are welcome in the Irish nation and that they are regarded as part of that nation.

Since the Campaign for Democracy press conference in October, a response to that initiative has come from residents in the South and, despite the lack of media interest, the campaign to preserve Articles 2 and 3 is being stepped up there.

Meanwhile in Derry, a non-party political group of progressive thinkers has got together under the banner 'Forum Two and Three' in the hope of raising public awareness about the dangers of the campaign against Articles 2 and 3.

Reproduce & Distribute

Towards that end, a highly successful public debate was organized by the group in Derry on Saturday 11th January 1992, which was chaired by David Dunseith (of Radio Ulster's 'Talkback' program).

Then on Friday 17th January CFD, Forum Two and Three, and a new group from the South, the Declaration for Peace Committee, held a joint press conference in the Europa hotel, Belfast to launch a 32 county-wide campaign. The CFD believes that it is vital that a 32 county-wide campaign be organized as soon as possible.

The Southern Government is in danger of being pressurized into conceding the British claim to sovereignty over the North in return for a consultative role in a new patched-up and temporary internal settlement in the North. Irish people's national rights are in danger of being traded for small and limited political gains for the current political establishment in the South.

The Campaign for Democracy believes 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. The politics of exclusion and division are not the way forward. They have failed up to now. Now is the time for a new way forward -- the politics of inclusion and a united people.

Support The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC)

We welcome people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds to join with us in our work to end English colonial rule in northern Ireland.

For information write AIPEC, 18 Route 9W, Fairgrounds Plaza, West Haverstraw, NY 10993 or call 800 777-6807.

*Published July 1992 by the American
Irish PEC*

English Influence in America

by James Lavelle, *Texas*

(Reprinted from the *American Irish Newsletter*, June 1981)

There is a certain monument in a churchyard in a big city of a great country that memorializes several thousand people who were starved to death in a prison

governed by an occupying army in that country.

This stone does not commemorate the victims of Nazi aggression or the countless victims of communist pogroms or the hapless innocents who stood in the path of the oriental invaders. It is located in downtown New York City.

This monument is in the Trinity Church

Cemetery located on lower Broadway. Among the hundreds of graves located within the cemetery are those of American heroes Robert Fulton and Alexander Hamilton. The memorial is dedicated to the several thousand Continental soldiers who were starved to death by the British in a New York prison known as the Sugarhouse during the American Revolutionary War.

Several Americans have been working for years to have a postage stamp issued to commemorate those brave men plus the thousands who died as prisoners-of-war during this period in other rat-infested jails and British prison ships. Their efforts have been successfully blocked by the British government through the British Embassy in Washington. The credit for this blockage must go to the British Information Services, the propaganda arm of the embassy which works out of the British Consulate in the city of New York.

These brave Continental soldiers, many of them Irish immigrants, were the guerrillas, the freedom fighters of their day. They died a horrible death for their young country, much worse than a death incurred in battle. Today in Ireland, the freedom fighters are called terrorists and are jailed by this same British government for attempting to expel the British trespasser and occupier from Ireland.

There is little mention of the atrocity today in our history books. Our British cousins have successfully seen to that. I suspect that some day soon, the memorial stone in Trinity Church Cemetery will also be gone.

American And Irish

Continued from page four

rated soldier of the war (and of any American war) was Audie Murphy.

Kelly, O'Hare, McClusky, Gallaher, McCampbell, McGuire, O'Kane, O'Callahan, O'Donnell, Sweeney, Sullivan, Donovan, McAuliffe, Murphy. These were the names of America's heroes. They were heroes not just to Irish American kids, but to all Americans. They were America's greatest heroes.

I think it is safe to say that most Irish American kids who grew up during W.W.II or in its immediate aftermath had a very positive image of their people. My brother, sister, and I certainly did. So, too, did our friends. The number of celebrated writers, actors, entertainers, musicians, and war heroes of Irish descent was large.

As I grew older I also learned of such figures as William MacNevin, "The Father of American Chemistry;" Nellie Cashman, "The Frontier Angel;" Tom Fitzpatrick, the greatest of the Mountain Men; Belinda Mulroney, "the Queen of the Klondike;" Marcus Daly and William Clark, "the Copper Kings;" James Flood, William O'Brien, James Fair, and John Mackay, "the Silver Kings;" Peter O'Riley and Patrick McLaughlin, the discoverers of the Comstock Lode; Margaret Gaffney Haughery, "the Saint of New Orleans;" Thomas Reilly, the physician who saved St. Louis from a cholera epidemic; William Mulholland, the engineer who brought water to Los Angeles; Edward Doheny, the first to drill a producing oil well in California; John Holland, the inventor of the submarine; James Hoban, the architect who designed the White House; John Barry, "the Father of the American Navy;" Mary Harris, popularly known as "Mother Jones;"

indefatigable and courageous labor leader; and dozens of other Irish Americans who were famous as scientists, frontiersmen, philanthropists, miners, entrepreneurs, physicians, engineers, and inventors.

With this array of extraordinary characters in mind it is easy to understand why I, as an American of Irish descent, was shocked to encounter Irish who had been conditioned to believe that they were in some way inferior to the English. Moreover, I learned that there were those English who had a kind of supercilious sense of superiority over Americans. I remember thinking at the time that it was Americans, and a disproportionate number of them Irish Americans, who saved the English from becoming German speakers, not once but twice! I suppose there are some English who simply cannot accept that their erstwhile rebel colony passed them by years ago.

It also struck me that some of the greatest figures in English history have been Irish. There are endless examples in literature, politics, and war. Their most decorated soldier, incidentally, is Richard O'Connor, a hero of both World Wars.

The English have certainly done a good job at delivering their own version of history, including Irish history, because many Irish and most English seem to know little of the accomplishments of the Irish, either at home or abroad. The astounding achievements of Irish Americans, especially, are mostly unknown.

How different it was, I learned, to have grown up Irish in America instead of Irish in Ireland (or England). I guess we Irish Americans were some of the luckiest kids in the world. We were both Irish and American.

Reproduce & Distribute

Newsbits Cont'd from page 1

based Population Crisis Committee, Britain's human rights record in northern Ireland puts it at the bottom of the Western European section with a rating of 22 out of 141 countries surveyed. The analysis is based on ten indicators of human well-being, including life expectancy, inflation, political freedom, civil rights, infant immunization, income per head and calorie and clean water supply. Britain is rapped on four counts, two for failure to protect the population from "political terror", one for inequality under the law and one for inequality of opportunity. (*Irish Post*, 5/23/92).

Action Requests

Is There No Room For FREE SPEECH At *Paramount Productions* And *Daily Variety*?

Action Request #1

Paramount Productions, producer of *Patriot Games*, has halted all advertising in *Daily Variety* because of a review by staff critic and reporter Joseph McBride. According to an anonymous *Daily Variety* official, McBride's situation as a critic is being reviewed.

In his review, Mr. McBride, according to the *New York Times*, 6/10/92, said that the adventure film, based on a novel by Tom Clancy, takes "the side of the British occupying forces and their C.I.A. allies" on the role of the Irish Republican Army in Britain and Northern Ireland. He described the novel as "a right-wing cartoon of the current British-Irish political situation," called the direction "laughable" and said that even the score was "full of discordant and insulting riffs on Irish folk music." Write to: Mr. Martin Davis, Chairman & Chief Executive, Paramount Communications Inc., 15 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10023.

Dear Mr. Davis:

As an American I am shocked by your halting of all advertising in *Daily Variety* because of a review of *Patriot Games* by Mr. Joseph McBride. If the movie misleads the American public, certainly they should be made aware. My family and I will make a special effort to boycott all Paramount productions until this injustice is cleared up.

Sincerely,

NOTE: Write the letters in your own words or as is. Include your return address and date. If you have access to a copy machine, include a copy of the June newsletter's *R&D PEC Meets With Northern Ireland Protestants*.

Action Request # 2

Again we ask you to write to the President of the European Community concerning the illegal partition of Ireland. Certainly all of Ireland's citizens are entitled to freedom and democracy.

Write to: Monsieur Jacques Delors, President of the Commission of the European Communities, Rue deLa Loi 200, B-1049, Brussels, Belgium. Use overseas air mail stamp.

Dear Mr. Delors:

Please use your good office to influence the English government to reunite Ireland which is the democratic wish of the majority of Ireland's population (north and south). Many northern Protestants have no objection to reunification as long as their rights would be protected. I look forward to your response on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

USE THE PEC TELEPHONE HOTLINE (914) 429-7849

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 ☐.

Name _____

Address _____

Town/State/Zip _____

Phone number () _____

Make checks payable to American Irish PEC and mail to American Irish PEC, Fairgrounds Plaza, West Haverstraw, NY 10993 -- Phone number (914) 947-2726.

AMERICAN IRISH PEC

Fairgrounds Plaza

West Haverstraw, NY 10993

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING
9207 - July, 1992

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