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## American Irish Newsletter - May 1992

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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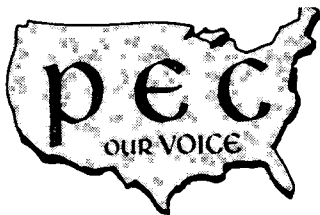
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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 17, Number 5

May 1992

## Western Region Conference

Saturday, June 6, 1992

Location: The Maple Tree Room

At: Boulder Youth Services  
2160 Spruce Street  
Boulder, Colorado

Registration fee \$30 per person. To register send check payable to AIPec to Susan Catt, 2292 North Ironwood #110, Apache Junction, AZ 85220 -- phone # (602) 982-0370 evenings. For full details see April Newsletter page 4 or contact Susan Catt (above) or PEC national office (914) 947-2726.

*(Inside)*

**PEC Representatives Visit  
Northern Ireland and London.  
Meetings held with National-  
ists and Unionists.**

*See column 1, page 3*

## Newsbits

by Kathy Regan  
*New York State Director*

On October 7, 1991 a small group of Northern Protestants held a press conference in Buswell's Hotel 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. . . 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. (Democracy 3/92) ....At its January 28, 1992 Retirement Board meeting, officers of the NYS Teachers' Retirement Board acted to support the MacBride Principles. This action was taken after a report given by Board member Joseph McLaughlin. (AIN-PEC

## British Misinformation -- Deceiving the Public

by Stephanie Finucane

20 years ago one of the worst bombings in northern Ireland occurred in a nationalist bar in Belfast called McGurk's. How the British government and media blindly pinned responsibility on the IRA, while disregarding the UVF's (Ulster Volunteer Force) numerous calls to newsrooms to claim responsibility, is just another example of Britain's efforts to purposely mislead the public around the world.

It was an early evening in December 1971 when people from the area gathered in McGurk's bar on North Queen's Street. In one of the small rooms above the bar, the bar owner's son and two other teenage boys played a bar football game. In the attached rooms of the family's flat, Mrs. Philomena McGurk and 13-year old daughter Maria sat in the living room. At that time, Joseph McClory, an 8-year old newspaper boy, approached the pub in order to sell his last few papers and saw a big black car with 4 men inside pull up outside the bar. One man got out and carried a brown grocery box.

"I saw that there was a wire sticking out of the box . . . and he placed (the box) at the front of the bar and got back into the car," McClory later said (*Andersonstown News*, 14/12/91).

This grocery box exploded at 8:40

that night, killing fifteen people in the bar, including one of the boys playing bar football, and Philomena and Maria McGurk. Two other people in the bar died shortly afterwards due to injuries received from the bombing.

Although the loyalist group, the UVF, openly claimed responsibility for the bombing, the morning newspapers "carried the official RUC line - one that was to be maintained right up to the jailing of a UVF man for the killings in 1978: 'The bar - possibly without the knowledge of the proprietor - was a known pick-up point for bombers who planned a wrecking expedition that night'" (*Andersonstown News*, 14/12/91). In other words, the public was purposely being misled to believe that the bomb was an IRA bomb that accidentally went off in transit. How else could the RUC maintain that the IRA would bomb their own?

Even at Stormont UVF responsibility was denied: the Minister of State for Home Affairs, John Taylor, threw out the argument that the UVF was behind the bombing.

Sadly enough, while the British state and media coldly protected the real bombers, mourners attended fifteen funerals over that Tuesday and Wednesday, doubtful that the truth would ever get out. **PEC**

3/92)....On March 17 the Boston Chapter of the American Irish PEC presented a petition with over 2000 names to Cardinal Cahal Daly of Northern Ireland (via Boston's Cardinal Law) asking that he speak out against British injustice in Ireland. Copies were also sent to the National Conference of Catholic Bish-

ops. (AIN PEC 3/17/92)...."The prospect of Irish people suing the British government over PTA [Prevention of Terrorism Act] has been raised by an EC Commissioner. Martin Bangemann, the EC's internal market commissioner, warns that Britain must halt systematic

*Continued on page 4*

## From The Editor

*Until we demand respect for our cause -- an end to British injustice in northern Ireland and the establishment of a free, democratic and united Ireland -- we will continue to be ignored. Ignored not only by our Government's leaders, but also by concerned Americans who share our beliefs.*

*We have allowed ourselves to be maliciously labelled as supporters of violence, terrorism, communism, etc., simply because we legitimately oppose British injustice in Ireland. This label has been put on us by the British government and promoted by many of our Government leaders with the help of media magnates. Our government's position is all about foreign policy and Anglophilia and has nothing to do with who is right or wrong. Our government will not embarrass the British government -- at least not as long as we are weak and divided.*

*As long as we do nothing to correct this false image we will continue to be divided and ineffective. Our government will continue to ignore us as they did in the case of Joe Doherty.*

*As we learned through the deportation of Joe Doherty, there are millions of Americans who share our views. Many will come forward when they understand that we are legitimate, non-violent and working wholly through the American democratic process.*

*This year you will come in contact with your federal and state legislators as they campaign for election or reelection. Be sure to approach them **publicly** and ask what they are doing to end British colonialism and injustice in Ireland. Do not accept ignorant answers such as "I do not support violence, terrorism, etc." Tell them you only ask that they speak out against British colonialism and injustice. Do not take no for an answer. If you don't like their answers, let them know politely but clearly, that you will not vote for them.*

*Also ask your friends, family (and children), business associates, etc., who share our views, to come forward. Urge them to read this newsletter. We must assert ourselves and make our own decisions.*

## Offensive Situations

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts State Director

Several New York members have notified the PEC of an offensive situation that took place on New York City's W.O.R. Radio on March 16th, 1992. At 4:00 p.m. the talk show host, Dick Oliver, described the New York City American Irish community and the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade as "a bunch of donkeys." This openly bigoted statement would not be allowed to go unchallenged by other American ethnic groups. The term "donkey" is an 1840's racist slur used to describe Irish immigrants settling in large east coast cities such as N.Y., Boston and Philadelphia. All members are urged to write letters of protest to W.O.R. Radio, 1440 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.

Boston-based PBS station WGBH produced a show on PBS on Monday, March 16th called "The Monday Night Group." The nationally televised show dealt with northern Ireland. On the show, the British were labeled as

## The American Irish PEC

**founded 1975**

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Vice-President.....Albert Doyle  
Treasurer.....Loretta Fitzgibbons  
Recording Secretary.....Kathy Regan  
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### American Irish Newsletter

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

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

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

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"peacekeepers" and the Irish were labeled as "terrorists." No representatives of the Irish Nationalist viewpoint were invited on the show to talk. Letters of protest should be sent to: Mr. Ron Bachman, Program Director, WGBH TV-2, PBS, 125 Western Avenue, Boston, MA 02134.

Following the travesty of justice, the Joe Doherty deportation, several New York State members have notified the PEC of an offensive situation that took place in *The Catskill Daily Mail*. The paper serves the northern Catskill Mountain area of N.Y. State including Greene County in "the Irish Catskills." An article by columnist Annabar Jensis described supporters of Doherty as "misguided" people who "flaunt the shamrock." Letters of protest should be sent to: Editor, Catskill Daily Mail, 30 Church Street, Catskill, N.Y. 12414.

Send all Offensive Situation to: Kevin P. Murphy, P.O. Box 8895, J.F. Kennedy Station, Boston, MA 02114.

## RUC Youth Harassment

by Sandy Carlson  
Reporting from Belfast

Although CBS News responded positively to the PEC's Action Request that they investigate the RUC's harassment of nationalist youths in Belfast, they have not yet reported on their investigation.

In the run up to the UK general election, four 16-year-old youths from West Belfast were arrested and taken to the RUC barracks. The boys' mothers got into the RUC jeeps and stayed with their sons during their interrogation because the boys were too young to be interrogated alone. The boys were later released, unlike the ten nationalist youths currently on remand in the Crumlin Road Jail.

The ten on remand were charged with IRA-related offences after two separate attacks on the British armed forces. Seven youths are currently in hiding in the south and elsewhere for fear of being arrested if they return to Belfast. According to their families, the British armed forces regularly visit the families' homes with the hope of finding the young boys on the RUC's youth-internment hit list.

This issue received international media attention when Amnesty International issued an urgent action request for Damien Austin, son of Sinn Féin councillor Joe Austin, who was twice arrested and brutalized in Castlereagh detention center. During detention, detectives ripped stitches from his ear, slapped him in the head and neck, hit him in the testicles, and issued death threats against him and his father. In August, Austin was released after four RUC doctors and his general practitioner said there was evidence of ill-treatment. At the time, Amnesty said, "The record shows that existing safeguards are inadequate to prevent the ill-treatment of detainees."

Since his release, Austin has been repeatedly stopped in the streets near his home. He currently has pending three cases of assault against the RUC.

The young men currently on remand claim they were slapped around the head and neck, threatened, coerced to inform, denied rest, and intimidated.

They all say they were forced to sign a pre-written confession. All the young men lost a significant amount of weight during their detention, according to Voice of the Innocent.

The RUC's targeting of youths in West Belfast has taken its toll on families there, as well as on the community as a whole, the boys' families say. Family members say they are constantly jeered at and taunted by RUC in the area.

They say that their families have been disrupted by the arrests. Younger siblings often cry for long periods and express apprehension about the possibility of their own arrests. One two-year-old boy, when he sees the RUC, says, "There's the bad ones who took our Tony." In another family, a 17-year-old brother of a detainee sleeps fully dressed and on the sofa for fear of the RUC coming to arrest him in the night.

In addition, young people in the areas are not so willing to socialize outside or to stay out too late. Their youth has been curtailed for fear of being arrested and beaten into confessing for a crime they didn't commit, their mothers say.

Against this evidence, RUC Chief Constable Hugh Annesley has told the Armagh Diocesan Synod (October 1991) that stories of brutality are made up because subjects know interrogation is "central to our success in obtaining evidence and information." Nonetheless, the only evidence against these young men are their confessions, which they were coerced into signing. Families say the RUC did not take clothing or objects from their homes for forensic tests.

Annesley has said of human rights campaigners opposed to the RUC's interrogation methods that their "motives in this area lie in undermining any part of the legal system which is effective in stemming their criminality." Thus, in one sense, Annesley has criminalized the young men and their families and supporters, even though there is no evidence to support his claims and a mountain of evidence against his and the RUC's position.

The difficulty in fighting the British armed forces' guilty-by-suspicion tactics is the campaigners' lack of

## PEC Accomplishments

This Newsletter issue's *Reproduce & Distribute* article (*If You Support The Reunification Of Ireland*) lists some of the accomplishments of the PEC. We are sure you will be as surprised as we were when we recently reviewed our past.

Many of the accomplishments are the result of letter writing. The article explains clearly how the PEC works and how effective we can be when we work together. This R&D will serve well to help recruit new PEC members and supporters. We certainly need many more members (potential letter writers) to increase our effectiveness and to support our work when the office opens in Washington, DC.

We urge all to reproduce this article and to use it to recruit new members. **SAVE ALL NEWSLETTERS!** When making copies of R&D articles, the original in the newsletter makes the best copies.

## Political Solicitations

Certainly, many of us, if not all of us, receive financial solicitations from the different candidates for elected office and from the Democratic and Republican national committees.

**Don't send them a donation.**

Instead, write to them expressing your disgust about their failure to speak out publicly against British colonialism and injustice in northern Ireland. There is an extra benefit -- you can use their postage paid return envelope. This does not pertain to the candidates who actively support our cause.

resources. They are thus at the mercy of the good will of supporters elsewhere. Also, if the media drop the issue, the issue no longer exists in the public mind.

It is vitally important that pressure be kept on the RUC and the British government via the media.

All members are asked to again write to CBS News. You will be joined by Belfast residents in this campaign.

Turn to Action Request #1 on page 6.

## ***The Irish In The U.S.A.***

by Andy Kelly  
*Washington State Director*

The role of the Irish in American history has been the world's best kept secret.

Beginning with the Revolutionary War on through the Civil War, the settling of the West, the Indian Wars, WWI, Korea, Viet Nam and Desert Storm, the Sons of Erin have made a tremendous impact upon every phase and facet of our lives, be it: the military, politics, education, entertainment, religion, music, transportation, law enforcement, medicine or the legal profession.

During the Revolutionary War, over fifty (50) percent of George Washington's Colonial Army was comprised of Irish and American Irish who had flocked to the Colonial Army to fight their age-old nemesis, England.

Following that war, they provided a substantial portion of the wagon trains, the railroad crews who laid track from the East to the West coast, settled the land as pioneers, were law enforcement officers, teachers, ranchers, musicians, missionaries and entertainers.

Many of our first hospitals were founded by Irish who, incidently, also tended the casualties of the Civil War - both for the North and the South.

In fact, the only women allowed into the South's hospitals were the Sisters of Mercy, nuns who were trained as nurses.

The U.S. Navy officially credits those Mercy Order Nuns with the beginning of the U.S. Navy Nursing Corps when they served, as nurses, aboard the converted river steamer "The Red River".

The Irish in the American Civil War, as in the Revolutionary War, again comprised a major portion of the military, in both the South's and the North's armies. They continued to defend their adopted nation as members of the military in every engagement since, very noticeably as the "Fighting 69th Division" under "Wild Bill" Donovan in World War I.

In education, at all levels, be it elementary, high school or university, they made giant contributions - but nowhere is there any university more readily identified for excellence in both education and sports than the "Fighting Irish of Notre Dame."

While not their greatest contribution, but perhaps their most notable, was their contribution to the political area, national and state levels. There have been 18 presidents with Irish ancestry, numerous governors, mayors, senators, congressmen.

In the fields of entertainment, stage, screen, radio, theater, etc. there are the Barrymores, Eugene Field, Gene Kelly, Spencer Tracy, Jimmy Cagney, Bing Crosby, Maureen O'Hara, etc., the list goes on.

In sports, there are standouts such as John L. Sullivan, Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, Connie Mack, John McGraw, Chuck Knox, etc.

In education they were instrumental in establishing the parochial school system that enabled so many underprivileged to receive an education and later to assume roles as national and world leaders.

Perhaps the members of George Washington's Colonial Army were the ones who made the most significant contribution. They were instrumental in providing us this nation, its freedoms, privileges and opportunities. Without them, it is quite possible and very probable that the Revolutionary War would have been lost.

That is why we feel so strongly that this land of the "Free and the Brave" should support the cause in northern Ireland, to give them the same freedoms of speech, religion and opportunity their forefathers were so instrumental in securing for us.

Unfortunately most Americans, and most in the media, are not aware that the Irish, who they so willingly take for granted, were very instrumental in making this nation the world's greatest super power.

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

port and airport checks by this year's end or face court action. He said all member states are committed to a single European market, meaning an end to border controls, not just on goods but people." (Irish Post 3/7/92)....**Frank McShane** had a **confrontation** with a British soldier and ended up with 240 stitches in a wound in his right arm. He stated, "A joint RUC/British army patrol had stopped a number of young fellows...As I got near, I saw one of them being manhandled into a jeep by an RUC man. When I asked what was going on, one of the RUC men said to a soldier 'Will I hit him or will you?' The soldier put his hand up to my face and pushed me through the window of the house where we were standing outside. As I fell, he grabbed me and pulled me forward again, through the broken glass. (Andersonstown News 2/22/92)....**Amnesty International** is launching an international letter-writing campaign to secure an independent public inquiry into Nicky Kelly's conviction for the 1976 Sallins mail train robbery. Nicky wants his name cleared because the only evidence against him was a confession beaten out of him by the gardai. (Irish Post, 2/15/92).

**A priest** was asked why he and other priests in the six counties don't give "unceasing and public witness to Britain's policies of assassination, torture, unjust imprisonment and job discrimination." Fr. X replied as follows, "My parishioners suffer terrible injustice, but the British government funding of our parochial schools could be affected were I to speak up, so, for the children's sake, I am forced to be silent." (Irish Post, 2/8/92)...**The LEGAL loyalist paramilitary group** (under a government which claims it is keeping the peace?), the Ulster Defense Association, has rebuffed an appeal by Presbyterian church figures to call off its campaign of violence. (Irish Post 3/7/92)

### **SAVE YOUR NEWSLETTERS**

**The original newsletter copy is best for making copies for distribution.**

# If You Support The Peaceful Reunification of Ireland

## Why not Join Or Support The AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee (PEC)

Millions of Americans share your concern. The only way we can make progress towards Ireland's reunification is through unity -- belonging to a non-sectarian organization such as the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC).

### Why not join the PEC...

The PEC is the oldest and largest grassroots organization in the US that promotes a democratic and free united Ireland by working through the American democratic process. The PEC has the largest and best organized letter-writing network.

The PEC, through its monthly newsletter and telephone hotline, generates many thousands of letters annually concerning northern Ireland related issues. It has conducted many letter-writing campaigns to the media concerning media misinformation about northern Ireland and will soon open an office in Washington, DC to enhance this campaign.

**Full Time Operation** -- The PEC maintains a national office in New York which is open 40 hours-a-week, Tuesday thru Saturday from 9am to 5pm. We also established in 1991 a **Western States Region**. The purpose of this operation is to organize our members more efficiently in the west and to enhance our network there.

### More PEC Accomplishments

**March 1992** -- In response to a PEC letter campaign the Catholic News Service (CNS) in Washington, DC established contact with PEC for news contacts here and abroad.

**March 1992** -- Organized a media event in Boston on March 17 which received extensive media coverage (3 TV stations, *Associated Press* and *Boston Herald*). The event covered the presentation via Cardinal Law of petitions to Cardinal Cahal Daly in Armagh requesting that he speak out against injustice in northern Ireland.

**February 1992** -- CBS News in London contacted the PEC in response to a letter-writing campaign it conducted through its members via the *American Irish Newsletter* requesting that CBS investigate current RUC harassment of nationalist youth. CBS is considering an investigation.

**March 1991** -- In January 1991 the PEC received a letter from Amnesty International stating it would not take up Joe Doherty's case. In February the PEC conducted a letter-writing campaign to Amnesty requesting that it take up Joe Doherty's case which it did in March.

**March 1990** -- a proposed New York City MacBride Principles contract compliance bill sat dormant for 9 months in the Council President's office. It was not until the PEC conducted a letter-writing campaign through its members that the bill was moved for a vote and became law.

**January & March 1990** -- The PEC arranged and attended highest level official meetings ever to take place between our Government and representatives of the Council of Presidents of Major Irish-American Organizations (COP). COP met with State Department Secretary Robert Kimmetz and representa-

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tives of the National Security Council (NSC).

**1978** -- prompted the first Congressional Report on Human Rights in northern Ireland which was prepared by Congressman Benjamin Rosenthal.

**1977** -- through the PEC St. Patrick's Day 1977 was declared Human Rights for Northern Ireland Day by the Governor of New York. This was one of the first official recognitions of British human rights violations.

### PEC Initiated and/or Orchestrated Economic Sanctions

**1978** -- contacted the top 5000 American businesses asking that they not invest in northern Ireland because of Britain's human rights record there. The campaign received wide spread media coverage in England and Ireland. The *Economist* covered it and noted the PEC.

**1980** -- organized the letter-writing campaign responsible for the successful conclusion to former NY State Assemblyman Sean Walsh's initiative to deny British-owned Grand Metropolitan special privileges in protest of British injustice in Ireland.

**1983** -- orchestrated the campaign that produced the highly publicized Rockland County Legislature's decision to divest its funds from the Barclay Bank, a British-owned firm, in protest of British injustice in the north.

**1983** -- initiated in Massachusetts a bill which prohibited the state government from doing business with companies whose operations supported British military occupation in northern Ireland.

**1985 -- present** -- The PEC is second to none in advancing the MacBride Principles in the United States. It has taken a leading role and initiated campaigns in many states and local communities and has helped win support from such important organizations as the **National Education Association** and the **Episcopal Church in America**.

### More Significant Accomplishments

The PEC organized the letter-writing campaigns that brought about the decisions by American Greetings and Hallmark Card Co., to discontinue their offensive St. Patrick's Day cards that depicted the Irish as silly drunken fools. Over the years, we have had many successes concerning negative stereotyping of the American Irish. The PEC is the only organization with such an ongoing campaign.

**American Irish Library & Research Center** -- The PEC also maintains a library and research center dealing with northern Ireland and other Irish topics. There are more than 1000 books and other research materials available. This center is located in the PEC office and is open to the general public five days a week.

**Irish Gift Shop** -- The PEC also has in the office an Irish Gift Shop. The proceeds are used to help cover the expense of maintaining the PEC office and library.

**For information about the PEC, call  
(800) 777-6807, 24 hours, 7 days-a-week.**

## British Use of CS Gas In Northern Ireland

by Stephanie Finucane

Late 1969 the Scarman Tribunal investigated the conduct of the RUC and B Specials during August 1969 and not only concluded that the RUC used firearms indiscriminately, but also accused the B Specials of indiscipline. That same year the Hunt Commission investigated the RUC and the B Specials, recommending that the RUC be relieved of all military duties, restricting its role to intelligence gathering, and that the B Specials be disbanded. Left and right, government investigations were castigating the "law enforcers" for their treatment of the Irish people.

Why? Civilian injuries received in August 1969, in particular, were extraordinary, resulting from more than mere spontaneous RUC abuse. They were the product of planned and organized "riot control" tactics that crossed the line of prevention into the zone of outright brutality. One of these tactics was the prominent use of CS gas by the RUC as a method of "crowd dispersal" - which proved to be a violent means of enforcing order, clearly depicting the overall violent intent behind "British justice".

CS gas was first used in northern Ireland shortly after midnight on August 12, 1969 when the RUC charged into the Bogside, County Derry, to hose down nationalists defending their neighborhood. For the next 36 hours the RUC, wearing protective gear and gas masks, indiscriminately doused nationalists. Official records show that 1,091 cartridges, each containing 12.5 grams of gas, and 14 grenades, each containing 50 grams of the gas, were fired (McClellan, R. *The Road to Bloody Sunday*).

Dr. Raymond McClellan, who attended many of the victims, inquired at the nearby RUC Barracks as to the nature of CS gas and its effects. A medical officer assured him that the gas was absolutely safe. However, McClellan witnessed that the gas not only caused "severe irritation and watering of the eyes, but massive irritation and constriction of breathing . . . (and) in many cases marked nausea and vomiting." As Dr McClellan writes in his book, *The Road To Bloody Sunday*, the horror show did not end there: "... now a new type of casualty appeared, this being rioters who had been hit at close range by the actual gas canister itself . . . One patient had just been brought in who had been hit in the face by a gas canister. I lifted his nose and the entire organ was almost separated from the rest of his face and the bony structure below."

Dr McClellan began to do some research, unable to accept the attitude of the British medical officer after seeing the realities of the gas victims. He discovered that CS gas is a chemical called "ortho-chlorobenzal-malononitrile" and, upon breaking down its structure, uncovered its lethal potential. Broken down, CS gas is comprised of chlorobenzene and malonic acid. McClellan, an "industrial medical officer who was working full-time on a chemical plant and whose job it was to monitor the effects of chemical agents on human beings," knew that "chlorobenzene was a well-known industrial poison which could cause damage to the brain, the liver and the kidneys." He had even "read reports of malonic acid causing fatalities in American industrial plants . . . (and) a subsequent editorial in the *British Medical Journal* referred to reports of brain, liver and kidney damage following exposure to CS." Also, the Porton Down research team had published a report on how the use of CS gas on laboratory rats causes liver damage. Thus, information was available to the British that

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clearly demonstrated the harmful potential of CS gas. McClellan got hold of the Report and prepared a list of questions which he presented to the British government, "who had given this large amount of CS gas to the RUC and therefore carried the prime responsibility." He dealt with Home Secretary James Callaghan who sent a reply two and a half months later which was "evasive and non-constructive as regards the CS gas . . . (but stated) that the RUC were not properly instructed beforehand in the use of such massive quantities of a potentially lethal chemical."

McClellan was concerned about the effects of CS gas not only on healthy individuals, but on persons already suffering from pre-existing bronchitis, asthma, liver and kidney disease, or epilepsy - to whom exposure could be lethal. This is what makes the use of CS gas most criminal and negligent.

The Himsworth enquiry was set up on August 30, 1969 to investigate the use of CS gas in the Bogside on August 13 and 14. During a meeting between Sir Harold Himsworth, his investigators, local doctors, and people who had been exposed to the CS gas, Dr McClellan raised the question of the potential of liver and kidney damage, quoting from the Porton Down research work. Himsworth merely responded: "Your remarks are noted," and later invited McClellan to dinner at the Broomhill Hotel, giving him "some fatherly advice about prudence, and my future medical career." During dinner Himsworth told McClellan that he "kept a rogues' gallery" in his office in London where he had pictures of persons who "were an embarrassment to his department. He told me that my photograph was in his gallery."

Needless to say, the eventual publication of the Himsworth Report covered up the potential toxicity of CS gas in the Bogside in order to hide the obvious negligence and irresponsibility on the part of the British government in authorizing its use. **The Report left out the questions McClellan raised about liver and kidney damage and never referred to the Porton Down research.** Nor did it record that one of the participating doctors was employed full-time to monitor the effects of chemicals on human beings.

The Report did recommend, however, that standards be introduced to control the use of riot control agents like CS gas similar to standards used for new drugs on the market. At the time of publication of McClellan's book, 1983, he noted: "it is quite interesting . . . that the British government has not yet moved on this recommendation of the investigation team which they appointed." In 1992, Britain still has done nothing.

The grossness of the situation is the fact that the British government armed the RUC with a toxic agent virtually uninvestigated by the British government. In other words, Britain was grossly negligent in authorizing the use of such a toxic chemical - which doesn't say much at all for the rest of Britain's conduct concerning the well being of the people of northern Ireland.

[Ed. note: In 1970 CS gas was supplemented by 5 & 3/4" X 1 & 1/2", 5 & 1/4 ounce rubber bullets, which were soon replaced by the harder, more accurate plastic bullet of slightly shorter length.]

**JOIN OR SUPPORT**

**The American Irish**

**Political Education Committee (PEC)**

**For Membership Information Only Call 800 777-6807**

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## PEC Reps Visit Northern Ireland & London

As we go to press PEC representatives have completed a fact-finding trip to northern Ireland. PEC national president John Finucane, Belfast correspondent Sandy Carlson, and Ned Delaney, Indiana State Director, just completed 4 days of meetings, April 10-14. The itinerary was arranged by Sandy Carlson.

As part of the PEC's *Outreach Program* (reaching out to the Protestant community), which began in 1989, the PEC reps met with representatives Jack McDowell, Roger Kelly, Bobbie Heatley and Kevin McCorry of the *Campaign For Democracy*, a predominantly Protestant organization which supports a United Ireland,

They also met with Robbie McVeigh of the *Irish Protestant Education And Action Group* (Irish Protestant Republican organization made up mostly of young people).

Meetings were also held with Rev. Des Wilson of the *Spring Hill Community*; Ted Howell, Foreign Office of *Sinn Fein*; Kevin Nolan of the *Voices of the Innocent*; Maureen and Joseph Doherty, parents of Joe Doherty; Basil McLaughlin of the *Andersonstown News*; Pat McGlade of *Analysis*; Michael Ritchie and Martin O'Brien of the *Committee for the Administration of Justice*; and Feilom OhAdhamill of the *Northern Ireland Voluntary Action Group*.

Several meetings were designed to expand our existing news sources, and to establish new ones, for the purpose of having available on the spot news coverage of situations in northern Ireland. This information will be transmitted in quick fashion to our new office in Washington, DC when it opens.

Ned Delaney also attended a Human Rights Conference in London, April 5-9 on behalf of the PEC.

Detailed reports of the above meetings will appear in the June issue of this newsletter.

**BE A LETTER WRITER**  
Respond to the Action Requests  
and use the PEC Telephone  
Hotline (914) 429-7849.

## Attention New Yorker's

In 1986, New York passed MacBride Principles legislation. Since then, employment practices in American companies operating in northern Ireland have been monitored. There have been no significant improvements.

New MacBride legislation, introduced in New York State by Assemblyman John Dearie and Senator Joe Holland, is designed to put pressure on companies to practice fair hiring. One bill calls for contract compliance (the preferred) and one calls for divestment. These bills are needed to put more strength into the existing legislation.

It is most important that all members in New York State write to their New York State Assembly rep and Senator (not your US Senators D'Amato and Moynihan).

Write the sample letter below.

Addresses are: Assemblyman \_\_\_\_\_, NYS Assembly, Albany, NY 12248, Senator \_\_\_\_\_, NYS Senate, Albany, NY 12247. When writing to your Assembly Representative use bill # A8723 and A8883. When writing to your Senator use bill #S7249 and S7250.

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

Please sponsor / support MacBride Principles bill # (see above) introduced by Assemblyman John Dearie, (or Senator Joe Holland when writing to your Senator), which call for fair employment practices by American companies operating in Northern Ireland.

I await your response.

Sincerely,

Contact your Town Hall or local post office for your representatives names.

## From One Republican To Another

Dear Mr President [George Bush]:

It is indeed most difficult for me to put into words the deep sense of shame I feel regarding the deportation of **Joseph Doherty**. To think that this great nation that has so often served as the last refuge of the politically oppressed would, to curry favor, return a political refugee to certain torture and persecution. I am certain that my feelings of revulsion are shared by most Americans who have championed human rights for all the people of the world.

No purpose would be served to review all the details of the Doherty saga. I am certain the whole disgraceful affair has been spread before you and notwithstanding facts or justice you succumbed to demands of the British. Let me just touch on the obvious highlights. Joseph Doherty was convicted in absentia on most questionable circumstantial evidence. The killing charged was of a British soldier, not a civilian or policeman, on duty as a member of an occupying force. Joseph Doherty was leading a law abiding existence prior to his capture in this country by an obsessed federal agency working in fact at the behest of a foreign nation. Joseph Doherty was imprisoned for almost nine years without charges or bail. Numerous federal courts held that he was a political refugee

entitled under law to political asylum. However the continuing zeal of your Justice Department, directed in the past by President Reagan, continued to pursue the matter to the Supreme Court at the urging of the British Government. Then having won their first victory, Doherty was spirited out of the country without a deportation hearing in the dead of the night, truly the appropriate time for a vile and evil act.

Mr President, it is now too late for Joseph Doherty. Too late to save him from the brutal torture the British are well known for afflicting upon Irish freedom fighters. Too late to rescue Doherty from an untimely death in the hellhole of a British prison. Too late for the United States to remove this terribly repugnant stain from our Nation's honor.

It is not, however, too late for me to report to you that, as a Republican, I cannot support your candidacy for reelection and have so advised the county chairman of my party.

I regret that this letter will never reach the President's desk and that he shall never know first hand the outrage felt by so many of his fellow Americans.

Sincerely,  
Thomas P. Morahan  
Legislator  
Rockland County, New York



## Action Requests

**Action Request #1** is to Mr. Al Ortiz, CBS Foreign News Editor. In October 1991 we did an Action Request to Mr. Ortiz regarding RUC harassment of Nationalist youth in Belfast as updated on page 3 by Sandy Carlson. In March 1992 CBS in London contacted the PEC indicating they were interested in investigating this issue. Nothing has happened since. We must follow up. **West Belfast citizens** will also join in this letter-writing campaign. **Write to:** Al Ortiz, Foreign News Editor, CBS, 524 W 57 Street, New York, NY 10019. If possible, include a copy of Sandy Carlson's article *RUC Youth Harassment* on page 3.

**Action Request #2** is to Mr. Ronald Brown, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. We must pressure them to speak out publicly on British human and civil rights violations in northern Ireland. **Write to:** Mr. Ronald Brown, Chairman, Democratic National Committee, 430 South Capitol St. SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Write the letters in your own words or simply rewrite our sample letters. Have your friends, family, and organization(s) also write.

### Action Request #1

Dear Mr. Ortiz:

What happened to CBS's intended investigation of Northern Ireland's RUC harassment of nationalist youth in Belfast? This harassment, which includes imprisonment without trial, continues today. Please resume your efforts to investigate this blatant injustice. For information contact the Voices of the Innocent in Belfast 011-44-232-232234 or American Irish Political Education Committee (914) 947-2726.

Sincerely,

### Action Request #2

Dear Mr. Brown:

It would be foolish for the Democratic National Committee not to take advantage of the millions of Americans who are angry about the Bush administration's deportation of Joe Doherty. Many of those people would look favorably upon candidates who publicly speak out in favor of the MacBride Principles, an end to British colonialism and injustice in northern Ireland, and would support the appointment of a special envoy for Northern Ireland.

Sincerely,

## Please Don't Forget !

... to Send a Donation to Help Support the PEC's *Public Affairs/Media Representation Office* scheduled to open soon in Washington, DC. Send checks (payable to AIPEC) to AIPEC, Fairgrounds Plaza, 18 Route 92, West Haverstraw, NY 10993. Any questions call (914) 947-2726. Office hours Tuesday thru Saturday, 9am to 5pm.

### Join Or Support

#### The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC)

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

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Members receive the monthly *American Irish Newsletter*.  
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