



10-1992

American Irish Newsletter - October 1992

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - October 1992" (1992).
American Irish Newsletter. 113.
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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 17, Number 10

October 1992

Anti-Irish Comment Brings Radio Station Under FCC Investigation

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is investigating the allegation that Charles Laquidara's morning radio show on Boston station *WBCN-FM* aired an offensive, anti-Irish joke between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. on March 2, 1992.

The comment, which the *Boston Herald* deemed "unprintable" (8/15/92), depicts the Irish people as "drunken misfits who attack their daughters," according to our source. Several letters of complaint were written to *WBCN* and the FCC, in response to which the FCC has commenced investigation.

If the FCC decides the broadcast was indecent, *WBCN-FM* could face a civil fine of up to \$25,000.00. Tony Berardini, the General Manager of the station, claims the station "did not violate the FCC standards of decency," and says that he is not worried about the investigation.

Making An Election Issue

...of British colonialism and injustice in Ireland!

Recently, the PEC's Public Affairs Committee took two significant, if not historic, steps. On Sunday, September 20, the committee placed an Op-Ed page advertisement in the *New York Times*. A copy of the ad, *Why England Must Leave Ireland*, appears in this newsletter opposite page 5. The committee also placed an advertisement in the *Houston Post* during the Republican National Convention (see *From The Editor*). These actions have brought the issue of British colonialism and injustice in Ireland to the forefront in politics.

We also initiated a mass letter-writing/post card campaign to Governor Bill Clinton urging that he make a public issue of northern Ireland.

We must continue to place more ads in newspapers and generate more letters and post cards to Governor Clinton, if we want to keep our issue in the forefront. (You can order pre-messaged, pre-addressed post cards to Governor Clinton from the PEC at 5 cents each.) **Copies of the *New York Times* ad should be reproduced and distributed immediately to everyone and anyone!!!**

You Can Help!

Raise funds in your community for the purpose of placing an advertisement in your area newspaper. You can use our ad copy opposite page 5 for this purpose. Please forward a copy of your ad to the PEC. Imagine the impact we will have as these advertisements appear in newspapers around the U.S.?

OR, if you have not already done so, you can send the PEC a donation to support our Public Affairs newspaper advertising campaign.

Newsbits

by Kathy Regan, *New York State Director*

Former Beirut hostage and Church of England envoy Mr. Terry Waite shared a peace platform in the North with President Mary Robinson last night. Both were in Derry City for the opening of the international 'Beyond Hate' conference aimed at finding ways [to peace] ... in the North. But Mr. Waite walked straight into a row with hardline loyalists over whether the British government should talk to Sinn Fein. When asked should talks take place, Mr. Waite said: "...From my point of view...I would say if I want to resolve a dispute with you, I would rather like to talk to you. And if you want to resolve a dispute with me, I would like you to talk with me." (Cork Examiner 10/7/92). Waite's favoring Sinn Fein be included

in the talks was immediately attacked by DUP press officer and former Belfast Lord Mayor Sammy Wilson. The SDLP also voiced its opposition to inclusion of Sinn Fein in talks.

A Norfolk, Virginia member informs us that he saw a TV news broadcast from rural Illinois. During this broadcast, Governor Clinton was asked about US foreign policy as regards northern Ireland and gave a rather vague, although positive, response. When asked to elaborate on his answer; Mr. Clinton quoted Amnesty International and Helsinki Watch reports outlining British human rights abuses in Ireland. (AIN-PEC 9/13/93) This shows that the American lobby for justice in Ireland is having an impact. Rural Illinois is not exactly an area where an Irish popu-

Continued on page 6

PEC Annual Dance

Saturday, October 24, 1992

9:00 PM to 1:00 AM

St. Aedan's

Pearl River

In Rockland County, New York

Music by

Celtic Justice

Admission \$20 per person
(includes beer & set-ups:
BYOB)

For reservations call (914) 947-
2726, (914) 947-2998, or (212)
365-0213

From The Editor

As we advance towards our goal of a Washington-based Public Affairs Office, we have decided to begin the activities of the Public Affairs operation. **Begin we did and in a big way.**

As reported on page one in, *Making An Election Issue*, we placed an ad in the *New York Times*, perhaps the most effective newspaper advertising space in the United States. This ad cost \$15,770.

According to the *Times*, the Op-Ed page is read by 68% of Federal government officials and 52% of opinion leaders.

On Sunday, August 16, the kick-off of the Republican Party National Convention in Houston, Texas, our Public Affairs operation placed a \$17,000+ full-page advertisement in the *Houston Post*. According to a convention attendee, the ad "struck a raw nerve" at the convention. The *Houston Post* ad was also covered by some news media.

What we have done is brought to the forefront in America the issue of British government colonialism and injustice in northern Ireland, and the failure of our presidential candidates, President George Bush and Governor Bill Clinton, and our Congressional candidates, to take any actions against these injustices. **We must keep these issues in the forefront!**

To do that we must continue placing similar ads in influential newspapers around the country throughout the presidential campaign and into the future. The more ads we place, the greater will be the pressure on our presidential and Congressional candidates, and the British government, to address fairly these pressing issues.

To do that, we will need the sacrifice and support of all caring Americans. (See *Making An Election Issue* on first page).

British Fair Employment Laws Do Not Work

A secret report on job discrimination in northern Ireland leaked to the press admits the failure of fair employment legislation to end job inequality, predicting no change in "the unemployment differential" over the next decade (Irish News, 9/15/92). The report notes the success of the MacBride Principles Campaign worldwide, especially in the US, European Parliament, Scandinavia, Canada and Italy. For example, the Campaign produced a "general reluctance by US companies to risk exposure to further attack by taking a pro-active role in opposing" the Principles. The report quotes a US executive: "Having gotten out of South Africa, we are not interested in getting into another hornet's nest in northern Ireland." It also states that Fred Olsen, Norwegian shipping magnate, is under pressure by Scandinavian trade unions to adopt the Principles. Belfast Shipyard, which relies heavily on Olsen's business and has a primarily loyalist workforce, may have to adopt the Principles.

Initiate a MacBride Principles campaign in your community. For information contact the PEC -- call (914) 947-2726 or write.

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

National President.....John J. Finucane
 Vice-President.....Albert Doyle
 Treasurer.....Loretta Fitzgibbons
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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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Offensive Situations

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts State Director

New Jersey member Ken Clinton has informed us that the 1992 Deluxe Edition of Websters Dictionary of the English Language defines Ireland as "the westernmost and second largest of the British Isles."

Course of Action: write Carol Summerfield, Editorial Director, F. G. Ferguson Publishing Company, 200 West Monroe, Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60606 -- Phone# (312) 580-5480.

Advise her that the 1992 Deluxe Edition Websters Dictionary definition of Ireland as a part of the British Isles is offensive and obsolete. State that Ireland should be defined as an independent island nation and not as part of the British Isles. State also that Ireland has a constitutional claim over northern Ireland, a colonial dispute yet to be resolved.

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

From The North

by Rev. Des Wilson
 Director Springhill Community Belfast

Most commentators are asking what advantage the British government gets by banning the UDA (Ulster Defence Association). International opinion is probably the primary reason why this killer organization has been banned. In the US the British government is being asked, Why do you still discriminate against Catholics (nationalists) in jobs? Why do you not outlaw the British killer organization the UDA?

The British tried to neutralize the first question by pointing to their futile fair employment legislation -- enacted to satisfy American public opinion. Now they will reply to the second question. But we have banned the UDA, haven't we? In neither case have they made any real difference, apart from gaining credibility among those who have not examined their abysmal human rights record and their appalling persecution of nationalists.

Some argue that the British are trying to convince the Dublin government they are serious in looking for a humane settlement. This would tie up with Northern Ireland Secretary Patrick Mayhew's recent outburst against the Orange secret societies. But Dublin needs no persuading -- it has been telling world diplomats for years that the Irish, not the British, are the aggressors in Ireland.

For some years now the UDA has been re-organizing into a cell structure

somewhat like that of the military republican movement and is therefore less easily infiltrated by British police and military.

The UDA was infiltrated up to the top since it began. It was the British military and police in disguise. What the UDA did the police and military did. This was made clear in court when the British agent Brian Nelson was shown to have been the British director of UDA operations. Most of us knew by the mid-seventies that the UDA was infiltrated. What the UDA did at two in the afternoon was known to the British police and military by tea time. They even knew what the UDA had for their tea.

The British government is trying to satisfy international public opinion -- Dublin opinion does not matter **In the future the killing and terrorizing of nationalists will be done more directly by MI5, under the guise of MI5 "taking control of anti-IRA operations"**. The government, in other words, now has less need for semi-official and sometimes inefficient loyalist citizen killers. The profoundly anti-Irish British regime is preparing more efficient repression of nationalist, not less.

They intended, it seems, to reduce the Sinn Fein vote drastically in the last election. By a well constructed program of assassination, arrest, harassment, intimidation and with the help of pulpits provided by the churches, the British government tried

hard to reduce the Sinn Fein vote substantially. Having done that they would use this falling support for Sinn Fein as an excuse to ban Sinn Fein, thus putting the republican movement permanently out of business. To make the move palatable to international opinion they would ban the UDA at the same time.

In an act of supreme cynicism they used the UDA in West Belfast to help the SDLP oust Sinn Fein. The election plan failed to decrease the Sinn Fein vote and the civil servants went back to the drawing board. After this tactical failure they aimed for damage limitation and whatever could be rescued from the shambles. The government banned the UDA, which is now in danger of getting out of government control, and insisted that although they would like to ban Sinn Fein they cannot because Sinn Fein has electoral support.

The British can now begin to answer a question posed more and more in America -- how can a "democratic" government support a loyalist killer organization and refuse to listen to a party which has the support of 30% of the nationalist population?

British strategy is to appear to bend to public opinion. They ban the UDA and admit that Sinn Fein has electoral support and therefore some day -- some day -- they must be heard.

And meanwhile they will continue to kill nationalists by whatever means may be suitable.

NEWSBITS con't from page 1

lation could be expected to be encountered yet the issue was raised to a Presidential candidate. Also, the fact that Clinton was prepared to answer such an unexpected question means that he is sensitive to the PEC letter-writing campaigns. (AIN-PEC 9/92)

As part of a three-week session of the UN's Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the United Nations has heard fresh allegations of human rights abuses in northern Ireland. Its human rights sub-committee meeting in Geneva was told of defense lawyers in northern Ireland being intimidated

and the UN is being urged to protect detainees from ill-treatment in custody. The Belfast-based Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) complained that, despite criticisms by the UN Committee Against Torture last November of ill-treatment in Belfast's Castlereagh Interrogation Center, its recommendation for change have been ignored by the British government...The CAJ is particularly concerned about laws allowing seven-day detentions, restrictions on detainees' rights to remain silent, admissibility in court of uncorroborated confession evidence, removal of the right to trial by jury, and the lack of independent scrutiny of

interrogation procedures. The UN considers northern Ireland a 'non-urgent country situation,' but the CAJ wants it to take a much stronger stand on persistent allegations of human rights abuses. (Irish Post, 8/22/92)

A London-based contractor is receiving 800,000 pounds from the International Fund for Ireland to build a 14-room hotel on Tory Island. The contractor plans to relocate to Tory Island to manage the hotel. (Irish Post, 8/22/92) With a population of 164 people, will a new hotel really address Tory's unemployment problem or are the American taxpayers building a retirement home for a politically connected contractor?

How The PEC Works

The PEC works through its members and supporters.

A primary function of the PEC, through its members, is to carry out organized letter-writing campaigns. We do this through our *Newsletter Action Requests* and *Telephone Hotline Programs*. We ask our members and supporters to write to selected targets, (everybody writes to the same person), and to distribute *Reproduce & Distribute* articles (R&D) to influential people and the general public.

The more members and supporters we have writing the letters and distributing the R&D articles, the greater our effect.

Every time you write a letter pertaining to northern Ireland, whether or not it is in response to our letter-writing programs, be sure to include one or two R&D articles. More than two articles may deter individuals from reading the material. One of the articles to include should always be *PEC Meets With Northern Ireland Protestants* from the June 1992 Newsletter. **This article makes clear that the struggle in northern Ireland is not a religious one.**

The R&D articles appear in each issue of our Newsletter and are marked *Reproduce & Distribute* at the top right corner. Some members also make copies of the R&D's for distribution at meetings and public events. Members also set up information booths for this purpose.

Until the media decides to report the truth about British colonialism and injustice in Ireland, it will be up to people like you to get the information out to the public. If each of us made a special effort to distribute information and write a couple of letters each month, we would be more effective.

Don't forget! One letter to a national figure concerning a national issue represents the views of 1000 people.

Senator Timothy Wirth Blunders

On the September 14 *Larry King Show*, US Senator Timothy Wirth from Colorado made an awful blunder. He stated that the war in northern Ireland is a religious one. He misled millions of viewers. Where does Senator Wirth get his information?

He must get his information from the British government or the US State Department. Northern Ireland nationalists and unionists, for the most part, will tell you that the war is anything but religious.

Albert M. Bender

by Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts State Director*

Irish people of all backgrounds have contributed greatly to the fabric of American life. Albert M. Bender, an Irish immigrant in San Francisco, is one who achieved great success in America.

Albert M. Bender was born on June 18, 1866 in Dublin. His father was a well-known Rabbi in Dublin's Jewish community. At the age of 13 Albert left Ireland for San Francisco where he worked as an insurance broker. He was proud of both his Irish and Jewish heritage and became prominent in the large Irish immigrant community of San Francisco.

It wasn't long before Albert Bender became the largest insurance broker in California. He sent donations to Ireland to help the poor of his homeland. He built a wing of the Dublin Museum in memory of his parents. He soon became the leading force behind the construction of the San Francisco Museum of Art. In memory of his mother, he built several large libraries at the University of California, Stanford and St. Mary's College. He donated over 6000 rare books to Mills College. He also played an important role in the building and development of the San Francisco Public Library System. He was a major force in founding the Opera and Symphony Halls in San Francisco.

Remembering his Irish immigrant heritage, Bender helped finance college educations of hundreds of San Franciscans. Always proud to speak of his love for Ireland, Albert Bender helped shape the city by the Bay into the great metropolis it is today.

(Special thanks to Edward Kelley, P.E.C. Massachusetts, for the use of his library of Irish American history).

C-SPAN Looks At The North

by Albert Doyle, *PEC Vice President*

The non-commercial television network, C-Span, recently presented a four hour program on the subject of politics in northern Ireland. At this time we have seen only part of the full program, but we will shortly be reviewing the entire show. Our initial conclusion is high marks to the producers for a serious attempt to present all sides and to allow the protagonists to speak for themselves. By all sides we mean Ian Paisley to Sinn Fein -- John Hume to the Northern Ireland Office -- with many familiar faces such as Reverend Des Wilson and many ordinary people. It is difficult to identify a particular conclusion from such a diverse and fascinating program, but if this viewer had to identify one I would say that our long-held belief that the conflict has little to do with religion came across strongly from all sides.

The format of the interviews was a little frustrating for a viewer familiar with the North as the unseen American interviewer simply threw out subjects or questions and did not follow up on self-serving or half-truth answers by the interviewees. For example, the polished spokesman for the Northern Ireland Office was allowed to get away with a description of the Civil Rights movement as being based on a "perception" of discrimination by the minority -- with no acknowledgment of the validity of those perceptions, something even the British admit. Nevertheless, this amazingly open program is deserving of our salute for the exposure it has given the issues. One of our Action Requests this month on page 6 suggests a comment.

Integration Of Irish Schools: Peace Catalyst?

by Albert Doyle
Vice President, PEC

Obviously, it's easier to hate people you don't know than those you do know -- the idea of "them" against "us". Northern Ireland provides many examples.

Protestants and Catholics have few social contacts and few shared educational experiences although remarkably, when free of outside interference these contacts do occur. For example, cross-denominational marriages are now estimated to be 20 to 30% of Catholic marriages. However, with rare exceptions Catholic children attend Catholic schools and Protestant children attend state schools.

It will be a surprise to many Americans, accustomed as we are to the rigid legal bars to state support of religious schools, that both of the school systems in northern Ireland (as in most European nations) are supported by the state and that Catholic schools are allowed a remarkable degree of freedom in curriculum matters. Also strange to Americans, used to a sometimes aggressively secular public school administration, the state schools in northern Ireland are managed by committees dominated by Protestant clergy -- the mirror of the Catholic system!

Given the unfortunate coincidence that political views in northern Ireland are usually polarized along religious lines, the result is that generations of children have been educated in quite different traditions of history and culture -- "them" and "us". The Catholic Church has been extremely protective of its turf in educational matters, generally with the support of the Catholic-Nationalist community.

This community, dispossessed of power in their own country, has had a measure of control in their own schools. Nationalists also remember that the "National Schools" were historically used by the British to attempt to anglicize the Irish people during the period when Britain ruled all of Ireland. Protestants, on their side, fear

submersion as a minority in a united, Catholic dominated Ireland.

Fortunately, there are people of good will on both sides who want a way out of this situation. The problem is how to educate children to at least understand, and hopefully to respect, the history and culture of "the other side" without being forced to capitulate with regard to one's own beliefs -- to surrender to the former enemy. There are reasons to be hopeful.

In northern Ireland, ironically, a Thatcher - promoted education proposal may provide the opening to change hearts and minds in the north. The Northern Ireland Education Reform Order (1989) seeks to establish a core curriculum for all schools -- a notion which might well raise suspicions given the source of the proposal. Without recalling the "National Schools" we note that the Thatcher Tory administration attempted to strangle local government bodies in Britain when they became controlled by Labor Party opponents. Nevertheless, the Order does seem to contain legitimate education reform.

Most importantly from the viewpoint of our topic, the Order facilitates integrated education, that is schools in which Protestants and Catholics attend in approximately equal numbers and in which an attempt is made to fairly present the history and culture of both communities. Religious instruction, seen by both Protestants and Catholics as a necessary part of education, would have to be handled separately -- although the exact means for doing this are not clear to this writer at least and, given our American experience, may prove to be a difficult matter to implement.

Also, "fairly presenting" everyone's history and culture in the environment of northern Ireland is indeed a daunting task. A reliable commentator has noted that in the few integrated schools which presently exist in northern Ireland, the pro-British ethos of the state system seems to predominate. Lastly, it will be important that in the integrated schools the present clerical dominance of the administration must give way to a system in

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which control resides with the parents and community leaders.

So far there are few integrated schools in the North, only 10 out of 1300 schools. If the monumental task of designing a culturally, politically and religiously fair curriculum can be implemented, it will be most interesting to watch the results. Even if the integrated schools remain few in number, they will likely gain a kind of elite status as they are more likely to be set up in more affluent areas at first. This might tend to isolate them politically, but could also produce a new and different kind of leadership in northern Ireland.

In the Republic of Ireland a movement toward integrated education has been active for some time, again with only a few schools involved. Although the Catholic Church in the Republic has been less than enthusiastic about these schools, they certainly have fewer obstacles to overcome than those in the North and add to the hope for the future of integrated education. Believing as we do that the divisions in Ireland have little or nothing to do with religion, we wish the best to these efforts to break the cycle of the past.

For an interesting report on the northern Ireland aspects of school integration, see "Eire - Ireland", Fall 1991 article by Kevin Reilly, a New York State educational official and for information on integration activities in the Republic, write: Parallel Lines Productions, 250 W 99 St, New York, NY 10025.

**Join Or Support
The American Irish Political
Education Committee (PEC).**

For information write American Irish PEC, 18 Route 9W, Fairgrounds Plaza, West Haverstraw, NY 10993 or call (800) 777-6807.

Published October 1992 by American Irish PEC

Why England Must Leave Ireland

Torture -- physical and mental. Innocent men, women and babies turned out of their beds in the dead of night while their homes are literally smashed to pieces. Wanton, cruel beatings with rifle butts. Special single judge, non-jury courts where convictions are based on uncorroborated confessions (often coerced) and where refusal of a defendant to testify is used as evidence of guilt.

No, this is not Hitler's Germany. This is Northern Ireland under British rule TODAY.

Even murder by British forces routinely goes unpunished. Hundreds of innocent Irish civilians have been killed by British forces. The only case in which a British soldier was convicted and sentenced turned out to be a mockery. Although sentenced to life imprisonment the soldier was released after twenty-six months and reinstated in his army unit.

All told, over 33,000 people have been killed or injured by all sides during the past twenty years of war in Northern Ireland (population 1.5 million). A comparable number in population in the United States would exceed 5,700,000.

British policies in Northern Ireland have been condemned by Amnesty International, Helsinki Watch, the European Community and other human rights groups.

Why do we seldom hear of these horrors? Why aren't there protests against Britain by our government like those against the Serbs in Yugoslavia? Two reasons: a deliberate blind eye by U.S. policy makers and almost total domination by England of all news coming out of Northern Ireland. All this suffering and injustice so that England can keep Ireland divided.

England divided Ireland in 1921 against the expressed wish of more than 80% of the people of Ireland who voted in 1918 for independence from 700 years of English colonial rule and oppression. This forced division of Ireland keeps the nationalist and unionist communities divided and prevents them from working out a new future.

That the continued division of Ireland is wrong is best described by the well-known Anglican theologian, John Austin Baker. The former Chaplain to the Speaker of the British House of Commons pointed out in Westminster Abbey (December 1, 1980):

No British Government ought ever to forget that this perilous moment, like many before it, is the outworking of a history for which our country is primarily responsible. England seized Ireland for its own military benefit; it planted Protestant settlers there to make it strategically secure; it humiliated and penalized the native Irish and their Catholic religion. And then, when it could no longer hold on to the whole island, kept back part to be a home for the settlers' descendants, a non-viable solution from which Protestants have suffered as much as anyone. Our injustice created the situation; and by constantly repeating that we will maintain it so long as the majority wish it, we actively inhibit Protestant and Catholic from working out a new future together.

The silence of U.S. policy-makers has allowed the British government to maliciously and wrongfully depict American opponents of British colonialism and injustice in Ireland as supporters of violence and terrorism.

In this election year, it is time for all American supporters of democracy to demand that our presidential candidates, President George Bush and Governor Bill Clinton, and our Congressional candidates, change U.S. policy on the division of Ireland. It is time that our government do more than simply condemn violence. It is time to take action against British injustice.

The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC), founded in 1975, is a non-sectarian American organization. We seek the help of all Americans in hastening Britain's withdrawal from Northern Ireland and the reunification of Ireland through peaceful means.

Your help and your support are needed to continue our work -- NOW!

**Paid for by the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC)
18 Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993, 1 - 800 - 777-6807**

Grosse Ile: Canadian Burial Ground of the Famine Irish

by Stephanie Finucane

Canada has its own Ellis Island, known as Grosse Ile, which is a burial ground for thousands of Irish who fled Ireland in the 1800s. Located off the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, about 35 miles south east of Quebec City, Grosse Ile is currently being developed into a national park by Environment Canada in order to commemorate the historic site. However, the plans of Environment Canada involve rewriting a bit of history as well as playing down the true tragedy behind Irish immigration to Grosse Ile.

For example, as the Environment Canada Development Concept (March 1992) states, the project will not place "too much emphasis on the tragic aspects of the history of the island." This means deemphasizing statistics like this one: in 1847 records show that approximately 105,000 people, mainly Irish, traveled on coffin ships from Irish and British ports, and only 82,700 people arrived. Between fever, typhus and starvation, passengers arrived dead, dying, or in dire need of hospitalization. Few arrived healthy. Few left hospital alive. According to these figures, over 20,000 Irish, and possibly up to 30,000, died.

This "tragic aspect" is only one element of the history of Grosse Ile that Environment Canada plans to undermine. Another is the misrepresentation of the causes of the Irish immigration: Environment Canada attributes the suffering and deaths of the "Famine" to purely economic forces, freeing British colonialism from all responsibility.

In contrast, Action Grosse Ile, an organization working to properly commemorate the sacred ground of Grosse Ile, claims the Irish were "driven from their homes by the English government, whose policy was to clear the land." Action Grosse Ile is not alone in its determination. In 1847, Dr. George Douglas, the Medical Superintendent at Grosse Ile who warned the Canadian government of the impending health hazards perpetuated by the coffin ships, erected a monument at one of the many graveyards riddling the island with the inscription: "In this secluded spot lie the mortal remains of 5424 persons who fleeing from Pestilence and Famine in Ireland in the year of 1847 found in America but a Grave."

Similarly, in 1909 the AOH in the US raised \$5000 in public donations to put up a 45-foot Celtic Cross of gray granite with the following inscription in Irish: "Children of the Gael died in their thousands on this island having fled from the laws of foreign tyrants

and an artificial famine in the years 1847-48. God's blessing on them. Let this monument be a token to their name and honor from the Gaels of America. God Save Ireland."

As these efforts demonstrate, Environment Canada will commit a serious wrong if allowed to go ahead with their plan to rewrite history.

Action Grosse Ile asks you to contact the persons below. In your letter, tell them 1). you are shocked by EC's plans to rewrite history; 2). the main theme of Grosse Ile is the Irish mass graves which is the result of British colonialism; and 3). to recognize the importance of Irish immigration to Canada.

The Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel: (613) 992-4211
Fax: (613) 957-5636

The Hon. Jean Charest, MP
Minister of the Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel: (819) 997-1441
Fax: (819) 953-3457

For more information, write:
Action Grosse Ile, 129 The Kingsway,
Etobicoke, Ontario, M8X 2T9;
Tel: (416)233-9885.

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An Excellent Video For Educating the Public !!!

Cullyhanna: Report Of The Public Inquiry

On December 30, 1990, British troops, without provocation, opened fire on Fergal and Michael Caraher, killing Fergal and critically wounding Michael.

The people of Cullyhanna, Northern Ireland subsequently formed the Cullyhanna Justice Group and, when government officials refused to convene an official investigation of the shootings, they convened a public inquiry. This

video documents that inquiry and includes a reenactment of the shootings. By purchasing this video and enabling others to view it, you will help bring attention to human rights violations in Northern Ireland. VHS 21 minutes.
Regular price \$20.00
Our price \$15.95 -- Order# CUI21

A Molly Maguire Story by Patrick Campbell (Irish Echo)

On June 21, 1877, ten Irish-Americans were executed in the mining areas of Pennsylvania. All were accused of being members of a group called the

Molly Maguires, and all were convicted of planning and carrying out the murder of a number of mining officials. Ten more Irish-Americans were later executed in Pennsylvania on the same charges.

The Molly Maguires executions generated a great deal of controversy in Pennsylvania from the 1870s to the present.

Order # PC192.....\$11.95

Make checks payable to American Irish Awareness Committee and mail to AIAC, 18 Route 9W, Fairgrounds Plaza, West Haverstraw, NY 10993.. Be sure to include \$2.50 P&H.

New York State residents add sales tax.

Action Requests

Write the letters below in your own words or as is. Have friends, family, business associates, organizations, etc. do the same.

Action Request #1

As you can see by the report in this issue's *Newsbits*, Governor Clinton has made a favorable public comment regarding northern Ireland. We have also heard of a similar public statement he made on radio concernig Joe Doherty. Apparently he is taking our letters and post cards seriously.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON GOVERNOR CLINTON! Our persistence will assure that he continues to take us seriously. Remember also that what he says publicly is public record.

Even if you have already contacted Governor Bill Clinton's campaign headquarters, you are asked to do so again. This assures his office that we are serious. Also, if you have not yet had the post cards signed that we sent you with the September newsletter, have them signed now and mailed.

Write and/or call: Bill Clinton For President, PO Box 615, Little Rock, AR 72203 -- Phone# (501) 372-1992.

Dear Governor Clinton:

I respectfully request that you make public your positions on British colonialism and injustice in Ireland. I also want to know what steps you will take against this injustice, if elected President of the United States. I look forward to your response on this urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,

Action Request #2

In *C-Span Looks At The North* on page 4 we ask you to write C-Span. The address is 400 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 650, Washington, DC 20001.

Dear Editor:

I wish to commend C-Span for its recent program on northern Ireland during which it attempted to present all sides and permitted the protagonists to speak for themselves. I urge you to continue such coverage and to include interviews with Protestant supporters of a United Ireland.

Valuable information is available through the American Irish Political Education Committee at (914) 947-2726.

Sincerely,

Don't Forget !!!

Raffle Deadline -- October 21, 1992

Drawing Takes Place on October 24, 1992

Return your raffle tickets today with check payable to: **AIPEC, 18 Route 9W, Fairgrounds Plaza, West Haverstraw, NY 10993.**

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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