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## American Irish Newsletter - March 1991

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 16, Number 3

March 1991

NEWSBITS by Kathy Regan

Efforts to involve Amnesty International in the case of Joe Doherty gain legislative support. In December 1990 eleven members of the New York State Assembly (Assembly members Sam Colman, Paul Tonko, John Dearie, Joseph Crowley, Matthew Murphy, Neil Kelleher, Richard Connors, Alan Hevesi, James Tallon, Richard Keane, Thomas Catapano) wrote to Mr. Ian Martin, Secretary General of Amnesty International, requesting Amnesty's involvement in the case of Joe Doherty....

**Catholics of Irish heritage** are not the only ones to feel isolated from their church hierarchy. A bulletin board in a Protestant church in New York was used by members as a place to post all kinds of notices, from the local bake sale to support for the National Rifle Association. A member decided to post information on human rights abuses in the north. The church council immediately decided that only local news could be posted on the board. Anything of a political nature was out of the question (AIN-PEC 1/91)....**PEC member Mary Holt Moore** has been elected Grand Marshal of the 1991 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade.

At the installation of Cathal Daly, all the unionists were invited; all the British establishment was invited; representatives of only 60% of his own Church were invited; no members of Sinn Fein were invited. That should not have happened. He is, or should be, the Archbishop of the Catholic people first and foremost, not of the British establishment . . . Catholic church leaders should protect and revere their own people, not marginalize them . . . (The Cardinal's installation) showed the worldly characteristics of a church which hopes to gain the world through government favor rather than to keep its soul through an absolute commitment to its own people . . . We would be astonished, if we were not used to it, at the spectacle of a prelate condemning the violence of those who were not present, and failing even to mention the violence of those who were . . . If the government succeeds in using the Catholic Church to humiliate the Catholics, then the Catholic Church leadership itself, when it is no longer useful, will be humiliated again as it has been for the past 800 years (Andersonstown News, 12/22/90).

At a special Mass to mark World Human Rights day, Fr. Joe McVeigh stated, ". . . It used to be thought a great Christian virtue to be quiet and submissive; to keep your mouth shut about injustice and accept your lot. In fact, in many places in Ireland it still is . . . It is no virtue to be submissive; the real virtue is outrage and anger at the violation of people's rights and dignity and a commitment to the struggle for justice. Taking a preferential option for the poor was dangerous for clergy because it meant total solidarity with the oppressed . . . It was the option of Jesus and of the first Christians. But it is not the option of the official church in Ireland. That church is aligned with the status quo, with the police and with the well-off . . . That is the scandal of the collaborators with it . . . Good cannot be reconciled with evil and the tyranny imposed by the British Government has gone on for too long" (Andersonstown News, 12/15/90)...Continued on page three

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

All members are urged to help us recruit new members. During the month of March 1991 we are conducting a special drive. We recognize that not all people who care about Ireland want to join an organization. Some would like to know more about our organization before they join it. Perhaps they would like to subscribe to our Newsletter first. Our special drive offers them a choice of joining the PEC, of subscribing to our monthly *American Irish Newsletter*, or of getting information on the PEC.

For the month of March 1991 only, we are offering a special ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER as an alternative to joining the PEC. The special rate for the subscription is \$12.

**WE URGE ALL** members to help the PEC double its effectiveness by enrolling at least one new person as a subscriber or a joiner, and by reaching out to others to subscribe or join the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC). **HELP US SPREAD THE TRUTH!**

For this purpose, we have prepared in this issue a *Reproduce & Distribute (R&D)*, under the heading *Partition of Ireland: The Minority Becomes A Majority*. We also ask you, if you have access to a copy machine, to make copies of this R&D for distribution at different functions during the month of March ONLY. You can also use this form to request that we send PEC membership kits to people you feel might be interested in joining the PEC.

## PEC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE Set For Saturday, June 29, 1991

One June 29, 1991 the American Irish PEC will conduct a one-day Leadership Conference in New York. The Conference will deal with building our organization and network, creating more PEC Support Groups, opening a Washington, DC office, developing a Speakers' Bureau and getting more members involved in membership recruitment, fundraising, and public relations. The Conference will help prepare members to more effectively represent the PEC and our issues.

**All members are invited.** We particularly urge to attend, all State Directors, PEC Support Group leaders and members, members with special talents, and all members interested in playing a leadership role in the PEC. Full details will appear in the April issue of the newsletter.

**Members interested in attending should contact the PEC (914 947-2726 - Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980) as soon as possible so that we can estimate the facilities needed.**

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET!  
Support Our Fundraising Raffle  
Remember!**

**Deadline is 3/31/91 for the 4/17/91 Drawing**

**FROM THE EDITOR**

On December 20, 1990, after ten months of resistance by New York City Council Chairman Peter Vallone, the MacBride Principles contract compliance bill, sponsored by Councilwoman Carolyn Maloney, was introduced to the full Council for consideration. This action by Vallone took place only after he had received many letters requesting him to do so, which in turn had been requested by a coalition of organizations representing the Americans For MacBride. We are advised by sources in the City Council, that the vast majority of the letters came from PEC members.

The first step in this democratic campaign was a direct mailing by PEC New York State Director Kathy Regan to all our members in Vallone's district (parts of Queens, NY), requesting them to write to him. This request was followed by an Action Request in our Newsletter asking all members in New York City to do the same.

This success is another example of how effective letter writing can be, if it is organized.

The reason Chairman Vallone moved was because of the many letters he received in support of the bill. The letters demonstrated to him that there was substantial support for it. If he had not received the letters, the bill would still be in the dead file. We need more letter writers -- we need new PEC members -- we need more of our members to take part in our letter-writing campaigns.

The opinions of people opposed to British injustice in Ireland can count a lot, but only if made known.

We appeal to all members to consider forming a PEC Support Group (letter-writing group) in their community, explained in detail in our last Newsletter issue; to promote our St. Patrick's Day Recruitment Drive, which is explained in this Newsletter issue; and to take part in our letter-writing campaigns.

**OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS -- Action Request #2**  
by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts State Director

Recycled Paper Products continues to sell St. Patrick's Day greeting cards that are not only in poor taste, but are downright bigoted. This continues despite the fact that the PEC, through its members, has for years urged Recycled to end this practice.

Already this year, we have received numerous complaints about their cards. One such card depicts a drunken Irishman with a pig's nose stating: Happy St. Patrick's Day. Other cards degrade St. Patrick and most depict the American Irish as silly and socially inferior. This kind of negative stereotyping does not enhance the public image of organizations such as the PEC when promoting issues relating to northern Ireland.

We urge you to Boycott Recycled Paper Products. We also ask that you write to Recycled (3636 North Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613): advise them that because of the offensive nature of their St. Patrick's Day cards, you will no longer purchase their products and that you will promote a boycott of their products.

For a boycott to be successful, we must make a strong commitment to the boycott and must continuously strive to participate in the boycott. Where you find their offensive cards, ask the owners to discontinue selling their products. Ask your associates to make the same request of the owners. If they do not cooperate, don't do business with them.

We urge all members to be alert to offensive situations this St. Patrick's Day. Do not hesitate to speak out against them and to urge others to do the same. Be sure to inform the PEC.

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

**The American Irish PEC**

**founded 1975**

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Vice-President.....Albert Doyle  
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Supported in part by the Emerald Society, NYC Fire Department.

**SEAN MACKIN UPDATE**

The political asylum case of Sean Mackin has been proceeding through the Immigration Courts since 1985 and is expected to come to a conclusion in May 1991. Mackin's attorneys intend to introduce evidence that his photograph was one of those recently released to Loyalist paramilitary groups thus increasing his chances of being murdered if forced by the US government to return to Northern Ireland.

The Immigration Naturalization Service and the New York State Department of Labor have approved Mackin's application for a sixth preference visa thus allowing him to remain here as a permanent resident. However, a final requirement preventing him from receiving a visa is that he must return to Ireland for a final interview at a US Consulate. To return to Ireland will expose him to grave danger.

For full details on the case of Sean Mackin or to make a donation to his defense fund, contact *The Justice for Sean Mackin Committee*, 52 Duane St., 5th fl., New York, NY 10007 or call (212) 571-7100. Attn: Sean Downes

**FROM THE NORTH**by Rev. Des Wilson, *Director Conway Mill, Belfast*

At a press conference in Belfast six men told how they were tortured by the RUC. The Irish media did not report it. There were two reasons for this: to hide the fact that torture has now reappeared as a normal means of getting information and "confessions" and because public opinion had to be prepared for the extradition of Dessie Ellis -- if it became known that the British were torturing again in northern Ireland it would be more difficult to extradite Ellis from Dublin to Britain.

Torture is a matter of British government policy, not of the whims of individual local police. The church hierarchy said nothing about the renewed tortures in RUC stations although some people recalled how strongly churchmen spoke out when the same techniques were used by totalitarian -- or communist -- countries some decades ago.

The use of torture was given as a prime reason why totalitarian regimes should be condemned as fundamentally evil. When priests, nuns or bishops were tortured there was a special outcry. When exactly the same techniques are used in Ireland there is a deathly silence, deathly in the sense that it could spell death for many people and also in the sense that signals the death of a church hierarchy as a credible body.

RUC techniques today are similar to those perfected during World War II and later wars to brainwash captured soldiers, pilots, etc., to "re-educate" them, and by totalitarian regimes to make people confess in court to things they did not do.

The recent case of a young man arrested by the RUC illustrates how effective the techniques are and how familiar they are to those whose memories go back even a few years.

This young man clearly could not possibly have had any connection with the charges against him. He had no interest in political affairs, but rather music and study. Neither physically nor mentally was he capable of being involved. And yet he made extraordinary statements, saying what he had done and what others had done. None of it could have been true. He gave the police information which he could not possibly have had access to, information given to him by the police themselves. Because of this treatment he became disoriented and frightened and reproduced to them information which they had fed him.

He said to police, for example, that guns were transported in a false petrol tank in a car which he did not own. "Now," said the police, "you know this, so you must have had something to do with it." The young man said that they themselves told him about it the previous day. "No", said the police, "we did not." Soon the young man was convinced that the information had indeed come from himself. He was effectively brainwashed.

His lawyer pointed to the similar treatment given to the Guildford Four with similar results. In 1990 after 12 years imprisonment in Britain, for an act they did not commit, the Guildford Four were exonerated and set free. In the court the young man withdrew everything he had said in the brainwashing sessions. The judge, however, ignored his retraction, refused him bail and, thus, left him open to further treatment of the same kind.

A prison chaplain gave evidence that the young man chose to stay "in the paramilitary wing" of the prison. What he really said was that he wanted to stay with his brother who was arrested at the same time -- he had not mentioned the "paramilitary wing." The evidence of the chaplain should not have been given. But in a state where torture is normal, everyone is expected to co-operate.

**NEWS BITS continued from page one**

**American Bishop Mark Hurley**, author of *Blood on the Shamrock*, traces the history of partition in the north and tells how the civil rights movement in the north was born in peaceful demonstrations which were met with violence. "A Derry priest, Father John McCullough, described the quandry of the nationalists: 'I saw men ask for work and they were given the opportunity to emigrate. They asked for security and were given a promise . . . Then they stopped asking; for some discovered that, while there is nothing as dead as a stone on the ground, there is nothing more eloquent than a stone in the air.' The easiest strategy is to condemn all violence and terrorism, to call for social justice and to plead warmly for a change of heart between loyalist and nationalist, between Protestant and Catholic. But those comfortable recommendations leave untouched the root cause of the problem: Partition . . . We Catholic bishops who as missionaries of peace have spoken out so forcefully on crises in El Salvador, Lebanon, Chile and Poland seem to have bought the U.S. State Department line: Hands off Great Britain. Let us hope that this strange silence will end; for with the disappearance of the Border between East and West Germany, there remain now only two interior borders (both British) within the 12 countries known as the European Community: at Gibraltar and Ulster" (Maryknoll Magazine, December 1990).

A two-year old from North Belfast, seriously injured in the same fire that killed his mother, was in an ambulance on its way toward the Royal Victoria Hospital via the Shankill Road. Security screens erected by the RUC around the Unity Flats to cordon off an Orange parade stopped the vehicle. The driver was told by an RUC inspector that he couldn't get through and

would have to take an alternate route. (This after the ambulance had already been forced to take a roundabout route to get to the child) (Andersonstown News, 12/22/90).

"Peter Brooke didn't understand why his purchase of a Celtic print at an auction was such a source of amusement to fellow-bidders. At the bottom of the print was an inscription which Brooke stated was in Latin. In actual fact it was a well-known Irish proverb. He didn't understand why attendees were laughing, but he was a good sport and joined in" (Andersonstown News, 12/22/90).

As Charles Haughey seems content to accept the status of the Irish language as "an official language," and not the language of the people, "it appears that the staunchest defender of the Irish language will be [French] President Mitterand who said European unity must be used to protect the diversity among Europeans. Take the Gaelic language. Who will save it if Europeans don't?" (Andersonstown News, 12/22/90).

"The Republican Post was born in Derry in 1981 and was adopted by Belfast in 1983 . . . Volunteers deliver mail in nationalist areas from the beginning of December to December 21 for only 10p a stamp, a considerable saving on the Post Office stamps. . . The stamps themselves have also excited the attention of philatelists and a full set of the stamps issued since 1981 with their distinctive franking marks are now being held by the National Museum of Dublin" (Andersonstown News, 12/15/90).

"The early years of Springhill Community House includes the story of the expulsion from Ballymurphy of Mother Teresa by Cannon Murphy which prompted the memorable Andersonstown News headline: NUN FIRED BY CANON" (Andersonstown News, 12/15/90).

**THE IRISH HUNGER STRIKE - 1981**

by Stephanie Finucane

**Reproduce & Distribute**

*March 1991 marks the 10th anniversary of the 1981 hunger strikes in the H Blocks of Long Kesh.*

The hunger strikes of 1981 were in response to a series of political maneuvers by which Britain attempted to manufacture an internationally acceptable form of detention without trial, comprised of a "judicial" system that imprisoned "political offenders" through special courts characterized by one judge, no jury, and convictions based on forced confessions. When grave international pressure mounted over the large number of political prisoners in Northern Ireland (2,848), Britain initiated a new security system involving the recharacterization of incoming political offenders (criminalization). Whereas anyone imprisoned in Long Kesh between 1972 and late February 1976 was classified a political prisoner, prisoners entering after March 1, 1976, arrested under the same exact emergency powers, were treated as common criminals and denied the same political status.

The first man to experience the new criminalization policy was 23 year old Ciaran Nugent in September 1976. The new policy required him to don prison clothes and submit to prison labor - to accept criminal status. Instead of submitting, Nugent initiated what is known as the "blanket protest." He was locked in his cell with only a blanket. By November 1980, 500 other blanketmen had joined him on the protest. Their five demands essentially equated to special category status: the right to wear their own clothes; not to do prison work; to free association with fellow prisoners; to weekly visits, parcels, and to organize educational and recreational pursuits; to full 50% remission of sentences (The Irish Hunger Strike, Collins, 79).

Locked up 24 hours a day, the blanket men were allowed no exercise, fresh air or reading material. When they went to wash, they were beaten and humiliated by the guards and not allowed to wear blankets. So the men stopped washing. When the men began to rely solely on the chamber pots, the guards would not let them empty their pots. So then the blanket men smeared the contents on the wall. Author Tom Collins, in his book The Irish Hunger Strike, describes the cells as "sickening. The walls became covered in stucco patterns of dried excrement. Rotten food piled up in the corner, a breeding ground for the ever-present flies. Maggots squirmed and crawled about the floor and up the wall" (Collins, 69). By 1979, the prison conditions had driven approximately 35 men insane.

Beginning in February 1980, Cardinal O'Fiaich and Bishop Edward Daly of Derry tried negotiating with Humphrey Atkins, then the Northern Ireland secretary of state. They urged him to widen the definition of prison work and let prisoners wear their own clothes. After seven months of scattered talks, Britain still did nothing (Collins, 78-79).

On October 27, 1980, seven prisoners, led by Brendan Hughes, went on hunger strike simultaneously after "having exhausted all means of protest to bring about a settlement" (Irish Times, 5/10/81). In December, 33 more prisoners joined them, including three women from Armagh jail: Mairead Farrell, Mary Doyle, and Mairead Nugent. Before anyone died, the strike was called off on December 18, 1980 when the British government "intimated to the hunger strikers that they would implement a workable and just solution" (Irish Times). On the same day, Amnesty International sent an urgent telex to Atkins, asking him to relax prison restrictions. When the British reneged on this promise in January 1981, Bobby Sands initiated the second hunger strike on March 1, 1981. He was the first of

ten men to die, followed by Francis Hughes, Patsy O'Hara, Raymond McCreesh, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kieran Doherty, Kevin Lynch, Tom McElwee, and Michael Devine. This time the prisoners went on strike one at a time in order to periodically mount pressure on Britain.

Throughout the hunger strike, Thatcher remained inflexible to the strikers' original five demands. Efforts to intervene by the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace, as well as the European Court of Human Rights, proved futile. After Michael Devine, the tenth hunger striker, died on August 20th, the other men still continued their fast. However, many families intervened and took their sons off the fast, due to medical reasons and pressure mainly from the Church, undermining the efforts of the hunger strikers and removing the focus of blame from Britain. Ultimately, the hunger strike was called off altogether on October 3, 1981. Since the prisoners ended the strike themselves, Britain was considered the victor. Yet, by October 5th, the five demands were granted, although the British government never formally attributed political status to the prisoners (Beresford, Ten Men Dead, 429).

Great support accompanied the 1980 and 1981 hunger strikes all over Ireland. Giant demonstrations took place in Belfast and Dublin. In Northern Ireland "there were 1,205 demonstrations requiring two and a half million hours of police duty. The total cost of policing these parades and ensuring order was over 12 million pounds" (Darby, J. ed. Northern Ireland: The Background to the Conflict, 56). Such "policing" authorized the firing of "hundreds of thousands of rounds of rubber bullets ... 16,000 in one month alone" (Darby, 56). Not only does this reflect the inflexible, non-negotiable attitude of Thatcher, but also that the hunger strikes and consequent policing "did more to unite Catholic opinion than any other single event since internment in 1971 or Bloody Sunday in 1972" (Darby, 56).

Similarly, the election of Bobby Sands as MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone and the subsequent succession of his campaign manager, Owen Carron, along with the election of hunger striker Kiernan Doherty and blanket man Paddy Agnew to the Dail in the South all document strong popular support throughout Ireland for the hunger strike campaign. Also, the elections proved that the people were not buying Britain's criminalization policy. As author Tom Collins quotes Father Des Wilson, the people were awakening "to the fact that these young men who were dying were their neighbors, were dignified people, were poets and thinkers too, perhaps. The policy of criminalization was crumbling as the tens of thousands at the funerals of the hunger strikers [over 100,000 people turned out for the funeral of Bobby Sands] and the tens of thousands at the polling booths gave their own answer to it" (Collins, 605-606). The hunger strikes enabled Sinn Fein to build a political base which has grown to 35 - 43% of the nationalist electorate, making Sinn Fein the fourth largest party in Northern Ireland.

**THE IRISH HUNGER STRIKE (662pp)** by Tom Collins is available through the American Irish Awareness Committee, Malloy Bldg., Stony Point, NY 10980 at \$7.95 + \$2.50 P&H (reg. \$12.00). To order use Multi-Purpose coupon on page 6.

**JOIN or SUPPORT** The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC). For information call toll-free 800 777-6807 or write: PEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980

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## BRITISH INJUSTICE IN IRELAND:

### The Casement Accused

by Sandy Carlson, *Reporting from Ireland*

The appeal of three of the five men convicted of the killing of two British soldiers at the funeral of Caoimhin MacBride on March 19, 1988, began on February 15, 1991. Although the prosecution admitted that none of the five people sentenced for the killing were in possession of firearms or fired the fatal shots, the Court nevertheless sentenced the five to life for the killings.

MacBride was a victim of loyalist Michael Stone's attack on the mourners at Milltown Cemetery, Belfast, who were burying three unarmed Irish Republicans murdered by Britain's Special Air Service in Gibraltar on March 6, 1988.

The father of one of the three awaiting appeal told the story as he experienced it. He and his son were proceeding with the mourners when they became aware of a speeding car heading toward the funeral cortege: his son followed the car. Then the car left the footpath, sped up a service road, and reversed at high speed until it was blocked in by a number of taxis taking part in the funeral procession.

By the time the young man reached the car, other people were there. Some attacked the vehicle and others tried to calm the crowd and discover the identity of the occupants. One person in the crowd shouted that the occupants had guns. The young man scurried away.

Meanwhile, one of the armed occupants emerged through the car window. There was another surge toward the car, including the young man. When the young man heard shots, he moved backwards and then forwards again. The occupants were pulled from the car, but the young man was not in a position to see this.

Fighting broke out as the group moved towards Casement Park. Although his son was with the group, he made no physical contact with the two men who turned out to be soldiers in plain clothes. A figure in the crowd alleged by the prosecution to be the young man is at no time seen coming in contact with them. The young man was not alleged to have taken part in the events in the park.

The soldiers were then taken away in a taxi and driven to a car park. The soldiers were seen to have put up a fight. This fighting occurred while the young man and his father were walking with the cortege.

Former Northern Ireland Minister Tom King has stated that the soldiers knew there was a funeral taking place on that road. King also stated that the soldiers had been briefed that tensions in the area were bound to be high due to the week's events. King admitted that the crowd feared another bomb attack. "That was a possibility. As soon as it was clear that the matter was indeed serious, the police acted with considerable determination."

Thirty-nine people have since been charged with offenses arising from this incident: 8 charged with murder, 17 with causing grievous bodily harm, 13 with false imprisonment, 8 with causing a fray, and 2 with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Through the first five trials, one judge admitted that the initial response of the mourners was justified, while the others have regarded any attempt to disarm the occupants of the car as criminal. During the trials, the Crown put forward a proposition of fact that those around the car knew early on that the occupants of the car were not loyalist terrorists but members of the British army. This proposition has depended largely on one media witness (Witness "E"), who said he was at the hood of the car and could hear the soldiers squealing in English accents and could hear the crowd shouting, "They are Brits, they are Brits!" Lord Justice Murray said he felt "E" was "a thoroughly unreliable witness who inter alia gave...a wholly inaccurate account of the arrival of the Passat in the midst of the funeral procession." Still,

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the men were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

The Casement Accused Relatives Committee (CARC) is concerned over several aspects of the Diplock trials that have led to certain mourners having been convicted. First, the evidence consists mostly of pictures taken by a British helicopter filming the funeral. Lord Chief Justice Hutton accepted that the film was very poor. Also, the prosecution had highlighted particular defendants in the photos, thereby suggesting guilt. Second, the charges are based on premeditation. How could a group's response to a sudden, unexpected, apparently offensive, intrusion into a funeral be premeditated? Further, how could they know that this sudden intrusion was committed by armed soldiers rather than by pro-British terrorists. Should the mourners have felt less threatened because the occupants of the car were undercover, armed soldiers rather than armed paramilitaries? Third, the judges rejected the argument of self-defense, which asserts that the crowd acted to prevent what they perceived to be a danger to their lives.

CARC, other victimized community members, the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC), which has had an observer present at the appeals and trials, Committee for the Administration for Justice (CAJ), and the American Protestants For Truth About Ireland, believe that the British have used the incidents at the funeral and Casement Park to carry out a vendetta against the people of West Belfast. The British have capitalized on this tragedy by putting in prison an inordinate number of persons for inordinately long periods. Further, because arrests continue (the RUC tried to arrest two more men during Christmas), the case is sub judice; therefore, the media are severely limited in the nature and amount of information available to publish regarding the case. This allows the case to go almost unnoticed by the public. In addition, because the accused have been tried in small numbers over a long period, the case does not appear to be the show trial it is.

The integrity of the trials is further challenged by the fact that one of those sentenced for murder is taking his case to the European Court. He asserts that Britain broke its obligation under Article Six of the European Court of Human Rights to provide a fair trial because several of the witnesses were screened from the accused and the public, and their names were not known to the accused, their lawyers, or the court.

Further, Lord Chief Justice Brian Hutton recently found that the conviction of one of those sentenced, Sean Lennon, was unsafe and unsatisfactory. Lennon had served the equivalent of a five-year sentence. In an interview, Lennon said, "When I got to Castlereagh (interrogation center), they were able to describe what in actual fact eventually happened. They told me that I would get twelve years or more, that I might beat it on appeal, but by then I would have done plenty of time."

It is no wonder that the nationalist people have no faith in the British forces which terrorize their funerals or a court system which sentences them for unjustly long periods for crimes they did not commit. Thus, regardless of whether their funerals are attacked by self-proclaimed freelance loyalist terrorists or undercover British Army personnel, the nationalist people nevertheless are punished for protecting and defending themselves.

**JOIN or SUPPORT The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC). For information call toll-free 800 777-6807 or write: PEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980**

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# PARTITION OF IRELAND: THE MINORITY BECOMES A MAJORITY

by Thomas Garvey

(Reprinted from the *American Irish Newsletter*, July 1980)

"Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right" was the war cry in 1920 of the pro-British loyalist when the treaty between Ireland and England was being negotiated. Actually, there should not have been any debate on independence for all of Ireland, because at the last general election in 1918, when all Ireland -- north and south -- voted, more than 80% of the people of all Ireland voted for a free, independent and sovereign nation. But England, which had inveigled America into "the war for the freedom of small nations," refused to grant majority rule to Ireland. England told the Irish delegates that the province of Ulster would be temporarily separated from the rest of Ireland until an accommodation could be reached with loyalists in Ulster. The alternative given the Irish was an "immediate and terrible war."

When the Orange-English leaders took another look at Ulster they found that in six of Ulster's nine counties, the nationalists were in the majority and could conceivably vote Ulster into a united Ireland in their time. Then England unilaterally changed the rules of the game by excluding three of Ulster's counties which had a strong nationalist majority. Gone was any illusion of fair play.

But even they, with all their deceit and guile, could no longer sell this artificial statelet as Ulster. They had to settle for Northern Ireland. It has no historic or natural geographic boundaries but only artificial boundaries drawn solely to ensure perpetual domination by the loyalists. England then illegally turned over the governing power of the new statelet to the rabidly anti-Catholic Orange Order and made a non-interference covenant with them, giving them free rein. Catholics were always treated as second-class citizens under direct rule from London. But now under the Orange government conditions for the Catholics became intolerably worse.

In the words of Sir James Craig, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, 1921-1940, "I have always said I am an Orangeman first and a politician and member of the parliament afterwards -- all I boast is that we are a Protestant parliament and a Protestant state." Sir Basil Brooke, Prime Minister, 1943-1963, stated, "I recommend those people who are Loyalists not to employ Roman Catholics, 99% of whom are disloyal... You people who are employers have the ball at your feet. If you don't act properly now, before we know where we are we shall find ourselves in a minority, instead of the majority. I want you to realize that, having done your bit, you have got your Prime Minister behind you".

Today's loyalist masses are kept in continual fear of Catholicism by the Rev. Ian Paisley's passionate crusade. His hushed listeners are told that all men are not children of God -- some few are elected to be saved. That Roman Catholicism is the Anti-Christ, Greatest of all Heresies, Mother of Harlots, Whore of Babylon, Enemy of Godliness and Freedom. His religious oratory is without charity, moderation or ideas -- a fierce blast of 17th century righteousness and emotion. In response to incitements from their leaders, loyalists vented their feelings on the then defenseless Catholics by burning out whole sections of nationalist areas and leaving hundreds dead, injured, and homeless.

In 1968 when civil rights groups, including some fair-minded Protestants, held peaceful protest marches they were set upon and beaten by Orange (loyalist) mobs while the police turned their backs or joined the mobs. Nowhere in Christendom are a people so vilely persecuted.

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## **ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT INJUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND?**

We hope you are concerned and that you will join with us, either as a member of the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) or as a subscriber to our monthly *American Irish Newsletter*.

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**MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE**

To date no American companies have yet officially adopted the MacBride Principles. Honeywell, Pitney Bowes, Digital Equipment, Federal Express, Belleek and NYNEX have agreed "to make all lawful measures to implement the fair employment standards embodied in the MacBride Principles, and to cooperate with the independent monitoring program of the Investor Responsibility Research Center (IRRC)." **MONROE, NEW YORK** - Members Doug Garnham and Barbara McInerney report that on February 4 the Monroe Town Council, representing over 35,000 residents, unanimously adopted a resolution in support of federal MacBride Principles legislation. This action was taken on behalf of the *Americans For MacBride*. Copies of the resolution were forwarded to pertinent federal legislators including House Speaker Thomas Foley and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell. The purpose of such resolutions is both to win support for the MacBride Principles and present us with an excellent opportunity to educate the public about British colonialism and oppression in northern Ireland. **FEDERAL MACBRIDE LEGISLATION** - To bolster our ongoing grass roots campaign in support of federal MacBride legislation, the PEC recently mailed post cards, addressed to Congressman Thomas Foley urging he support MacBride legislation, to thousands of concerned Americans. They were asked to sign and mail the cards. This action compliments our ongoing letter-writing campaigns to Mr. Foley. Similar cards are also being sent to Senate Majority

Leader, George Mitchell. *IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE PEC TO SEND YOU 5 OF EACH CARD (TO FOLEY & MITCHELL), SEND US A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH POSTAGE AFFIXED.* **CLEVELAND, OHIO** - Member Neil Conway advises that Council Member Patrick O'Malley, Cleveland, has introduced a contract compliance ordinance directed at the hiring policies of corporations doing business with the City of Cleveland that locate operations in Northern Ireland and South Africa. The ordinance is aimed at curbing discriminatory hiring practices in South Africa and Northern Ireland - places where institutionalized class rule has resulted in systematic unfair hiring practices throughout society.

This ordinance appears to be the first of its kind. It would outlaw doing business with companies that support the inequities of South Africa and Northern Ireland. Ramifications of the bill's passage can be viewed not only in terms of initiating the use of law as an instrument of social change, but in the methodology of combining social concerns over distinct but similar issues addressed in a single piece of legislation.

Cleveland members are urged to contact their City Council member and Mayor Michael White at 601 Lakeside Ave, Cleveland, OH 44114 or call (216) 664-2000 requesting their support...**CALIFORNIA** -- PEC MacBride Principles coordinator Mary O'Donnell (415 641-8178) advises us that Assembly member Robert Burton will soon introduce a MacBride Bill in the California State Legislature. In 1989 a MacBride bill was overwhelmingly adopted by the California State Senate and House, but was vetoed by the Governor at the request of the British government and US State Department. Mary also advises us that prominent members of the SDLP have stated that the SDLP (Social Democratic Labor Party) does not oppose the MacBride Principles Campaign as long as it does not call for corporate divestment. Their action is in line with the PEC MacBride campaign which calls for investment and contract compliance legislation. Has SDLP leader John Hume, who opposes the MacBride Principles, isolated himself from the SDLP majority regarding the Principles?

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This quality video focuses on the little known plight and hardships endured by the families of Irish political prisoners in English prisons. Long and exhausting hours of costly travel are exacerbated by the trauma of running the gauntlet of harrassment, intimidation, overt racism, threats and slurs in an alien and hostile country; the haunting omnipresence of English Special Branch with its vast powers of arrest and detention; visiting wives, mothers, daughters and sisters subjected to the strip search. A powerful video for use in educating your family, friends and the general public.

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**ACTION REQUEST #1 -- Urgent**

One of Amnesty International's purposes is to push for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners. The facts in Joe Doherty's case show that his treatment by our government continues to violate the concept of a fair and prompt hearing. In Joe Doherty's case, the legal process has been consistently manipulated by our executive branch to advance the political interests and goals of the British government, thus making Mr. Doherty a prisoner of these political considerations.

Currently there is a united letter-writing campaign being conducted to Amnesty International in support of Joe Doherty's just request for a fair and prompt hearing. **All members are urged** to write a letter to: Hon. Ian Martin, Secretary General, Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London, England WC1X-8DJ. Use our sample letter below as a guide, or simply rewrite it as is (an overseas air-mail stamp is required). Have your family, friends, business associates, etc. do the same. **PEC Support Groups are requested to use this letter.**

Dear Mr. Martin:

I urge Amnesty International to communicate with U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh to request he allow impartial U.S. courts to decide Joe Doherty's fate, which is proper under American law. I also ask that Amnesty express to the Attorney General its dismay and concern over the incarceration for almost eight years of an individual not even charged with a criminal offense.

Sincerely,

**NEW PEC SUPPORT GROUPS FORMED**

Since we recently began officially promoting the formation of *PEC Support Groups* to serve at the community level, we have had an encouraging response. *New PEC Support Groups* have formed in Boston, Massachusetts; Long Island; New York; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We have also received a number of inquiries from other areas of the United States.

We already have Groups operating in Greene County, New York and Worcester, Massachusetts. Students have contacted the Worcester and Boston Support Groups about forming PEC Support Groups at their colleges.

A comprehensive explanation of what a PEC Support Group is appeared in the February 1991 issue of the Newsletter under the title *We Invite All Members To Play An Active Role In The PEC Organization*. If you do not have that copy contact the PEC national office and we will forward a copy.

**We urge you to form a Support Group in your community.** For assistance call the appropriate person below:

New York State: Kathy Regan (212) 365-0213

Massachusetts: Jim Brown (508) 755-4599 days

All other states call National PEC (914) 947-2726

**If you would like to join an existing Support Group, please call the appropriate person below:**

Greene County, New York: Ann Carroll (518) 945-1289

Worcester, Massachusetts: Jim Brown (508) 755-4599

Boston, Massachusetts: Helen Bruen (617) 396-9655

Long Island, New York: Bridie Sweeney (516) 368-4778

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