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## American Irish Newsletter - May 1991

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 16, Number 5

May 1991

*You don't have to be Irish  
to support Human Rights in Northern Ireland!*

NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

The PEC has organized a national lobby day for Joe Doherty to take place in Washington, DC on April 23. Coordinating this activity for the PEC is Patricia James, PEC Washington, DC representative. Ms. James has been working closely with Paul Hannah, assistant to US Senator Christopher Dodd, Sommerstein & Pike, Doherty's attorneys, the National Committee for Joe Doherty, the IAUC and other concerned organizations. The purpose of the lobby effort is to influence Members of Congress to sign the Amicus Brief (friend of the court) in the case of Joe Doherty scheduled to be heard by the US Supreme Court later this year. The Amicus Brief has been sponsored by Congressman Thomas Manton and US Senator Christopher Dodd (PEC 4/9/91)...British Member of Parliament Tony Benn, Labour Party, has stated that most Northern Ireland Secretary's of State concede that the solution to the Northern Ireland conflict is a British withdrawal (Analysis, 3/91).

"It is not enough that the Birmingham Six [were] released. How many of the policemen who participated in the systematic torture and beating of the six remain on duty? How many of the legal brains that participated in the shameful collaborations that resulted in the incarceration of the six innocent men are still in positions of authority? Will any of the judiciary be censured? (Andersonstown News 3/2/91)...The tragedy of the Birmingham Six is that they were convicted in the first place. That tragedy was compounded by the stubborn refusal of the judiciary and the British establishment to countenance even the possibility of incompetence on the part of agents of the law...For many, many years the Irish in Britain have harbored the suspicion that, in spite of laws outlawing racism, they were regarded as second-class citizens. The use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act against them has contributed to the perception that the law is not applied as equally to them as to others. The continuing incarceration of the Birmingham Six in the face, not merely of justice but also of common sense, confirmed for many their worst fears...The Birmingham Six were tried and condemned in the media long before any judge passed sentence (Irish Post 3/16/93).

The Fair Employment Commission (FEC) has found that the Belfast Port Employers Association discriminated against eight Catholic men, all former dockers (one with over 20 years of experience), who applied for work in the cross-channel dock in 1988. Fifteen vacancies at the dock were all filled by Protestant applicants, none of whom had any experience of dock work. All, however, were related to employees at the dock. The FEC finding also maintains that the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union (ATGWU), which has operated a closed shop with management since 1924, was aware that the agreed recruitment practices would discriminate against the Catholic applicants. The 15 successful applicants included a postman, a butcher, an RUC reservist, a car sprayer, a barman

## PRO-BRITISH PARAMILITARY CIVILIAN ASSASSINATIONS -- 632

According to England's Irish Information Partnership \*, British (Loyalist) paramilitaries have killed more innocent civilians in Northern Ireland than any of the combatants including the IRA and the British army. Figures released in the Partnership's latest publication, which covers 1969 through 1989, reveal that pro-British Loyalist paramilitaries have murdered 632 innocent civilians, many of whom were killed at random. That number includes 114 Protestants. British "security" forces have killed 178 civilians, the vast majority of whom were Catholics, and the Irish (Nationalist) paramilitaries have killed 574 civilians. The total number of civilians killed by British "security" forces and Loyalist paramilitaries in Northern Ireland is 810.

During the month of March, 1991, British paramilitaries murdered at least 7 more innocent children and adults, two of whom were young girls.

Despite these murders, Loyalist paramilitaries will be represented at the upcoming talks in Northern Ireland while their nationalist counterparts are excluded because they will not renounce violence.

These shocking statistics have not been reported by the American news media.

\* Irish Information Agenda, Published by Irish Information Partnership -- London, England 1990 page 295

and a motor cycle courier. One was not able to begin work until three months after the others, when he was released from prison. Mr. Oliver Kearney of the Fair Employment Trust stated that this latest case of discrimination underlined the need for the implementation of the MacBride Principles on fair employment. This is a classic case of the structured, institutionalized discrimination which the FEA-FEC have been unable to change at the source...It is not without significance that the ATGWU has campaigned vigorously against the MacBride Principles in the US (Andersonstown News 3/2/91)...A resolution from the *London Press and Public Relations* branch of the National Union of Journalists states that "violence stems from political causes which need to be addressed." The resolution calls on any incoming Labour Government to "declare its intention to disengage from Ireland in full consultation with the elected representatives of the Irish people and the Irish government" (Irish Post 3/16/91).

**SORRY!**

In the last issue of the *American Irish Newsletter* our NEWSBITS ended abruptly on page 3. The incomplete newsbit is as follows: "A Protestant man needed some money so he decided to pawn his statue of King Billy. On the way he dropped it and it went to pieces. Among other things, he said, "You stupid b . . . , you could cross the Boyne, but you couldn't cross the Newtownards Road to get to the pawn" (Irish Post 1/19/91)

**FROM THE EDITOR**

Americans were shocked by the news of the release of the Birmingham Six in England, after serving 17 years in prison for an offense the British government knew they did not commit. Certainly, many Americans have since questioned Britain's role in Northern Ireland. Some American legislators have already reacted by their support for several current MacBride Principles initiatives. Imagine their reaction if the media reported directly and accurately from Northern Ireland the many injustices inflicted upon the nationalist community, including: murder, torture, imprisonment without trial, discrimination, etc.

The media must share much of the blame for British/Irish violence because of their failure to report the injustice that causes violence.

On this rare occasion, the media, including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe*, *ABC*, *CNN*, and *CBS*, are to be commended for a job well done. They reported fairly and accurately about this British injustice and the American people have been enlightened. Most of the above media have been recent or ongoing targets of PEC letter-writing/post card campaigns. We can only hope that maybe they are beginning to listen.

Undoubtedly, fair-minded Americans, if properly informed by the media about British injustice in northern Ireland, would oppose British government policies, just as they oppose apartheid in South Africa. They would pressure our own government leaders to address the issue of British colonialism in Ireland, just as they addressed the issue of apartheid in South Africa.

It is the responsibility of the media to keep Americans informed of the truth, and it is our responsibility to continue to bring pressure on the media to force them to report the truth. We ask every member to make a special effort to write the letters as requested on page six (See Action Request #1).

**ACTION REQUEST #2: Offensive Situations**

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts State Director

**ARE YOU STILL PURCHASING PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY RECYCLED PAPER PRODUCTS INC.?**

Members were active this past St. Patrick's Day in protesting offensive cards produced by **Recycled Paper Products** and they were effective.

Members picketed a store in Newburyport, Massachusetts that sold primarily cards produced by Recycled Paper Products; in Lynn, Massachusetts members joined with AOH members and successfully protested at the Star Market and Osco Drug store chain. Star Market and Osco agreed to review and remove the offensive cards. This protest organized by Vincent Brennan received front page news coverage. Member Thomas Delahunty in Fayetteville, North Carolina went to several stores in his community and was successful in at least one store and is awaiting a reply from another. All it takes is a little spunk. We must follow up on these stores next year.

Students at the University of California State at Northridge launched a large protest that included leaflet handouts in protest of a campus bookstore's selling of St. Patrick's Day cards that depict the American Irish as silly drunken fools. The students also protested to the University president. It would be in our best interest to help these young students in their protest. Let them know that we support them.

**WRITE A POLITE LETTER TO:** Dr. James W. Cleary, President, California State University at Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330. Urge that he support the

**The American Irish PEC**

**founded 1975**

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 Vice-President.....Albert Doyle  
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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

LABOR LIAISON: Kevin Garvey, IUOE Local 891, 560 West 169 Street New York, NEW YORK 10032-(212)281-7172.

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

STUDENT ORGANIZER: Sandy Carlson, AIPEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 - (914) 947-2726.

Supported in part by the Emerald Society, NYC Fire Department.

recent student protest over the sale of degrading St. Patrick's Day greeting cards at the Matador Book Store on campus. Ask that he direct the store management to discontinue selling these cards that depict American Irish as silly drunken fools.

Member Dale Warner of San Jose advises us of a nonsense ongoing action being taken by the Irish Task Force of San Jose. The United Way of Santa Clara County in California uses the term "paddy" in some of its literature and will not remove it. The Task Force protest consists of families discontinuing their financial contributions to the Santa Clara United Way. Dale also provides us with the following information on the term "Paddy". The Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition, Volume XI, states that "paddy" is derogatory, and includes "low in character, mean, and contemptible."

Thanks to all members who send in materials to the PEC for this column. Without you this column would be impossible to write.

**SEND ALL OFFENSIVE SITUATION TO:** Kevin P. Murphy, PO Box 8895, JF Kennedy Stations, Boston, MA 02114.

## JOHN HUME AND THE SDLP

by Stephanie Finucane

During the 1981 hunger strikes Sinn Fein discovered that the ballot box could become a viable route to increased support from the nationalist community. The SDLP, a constitutional nationalist party which prides itself on "representing" the nationalist community, saw Sinn Fein's use of the ballot box as a threat to their hold on the community. The fact that Sinn Fein in practice stood for reunification, what the SDLP in word only promised, made no difference to the SDLP. In the Northern Ireland Assembly elections in the Fall of 1982, Sinn Fein won 30% of the Catholic vote and in the summer 1983 British general elections Sinn Fein won 43% of the Catholic vote. The political credibility of Sinn Fein was growing and the SDLP desperately searched for ways to counteract this success and maintain its own prominence. The SDLP attempted to do this, with the help of the governments of Britain, Ireland, and the U.S. through the New Ireland Forum, the Anglo-Irish Agreement, and aid from the Washington based National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Announced in 1983, the New Ireland Forum was the constitutional nationalists' immediate attempt to stem the growth of Sinn Fein. The Forum brought together the major nationalist parties in Ireland: Fine Gael, the Labor Party, and Fianna Fail from the south, and the SDLP from the north, to come up with their own method of attaining the unity of Ireland. The Forum excluded Sinn Fein altogether "on the grounds that Sinn Feiners espoused violence when all the parties invited to the Forum - notoriously the British government to which its deliberations were addressed - relied on soldiers and police (professional men of violence) to uphold their rule" (Collins, Tom. *The Irish Hunger Strike*, 610). Thus, from the onset the Forum participants knowingly attempted to undermine support for Sinn Fein, denying them the role they rightfully deserved in such proceedings.

Participants in the Forum did not enjoy a consensus on a platform for the Forum and could not agree on one vision of Irish history, each party unwilling to compromise its own selective account of Ireland's past, present, and future. While most participants eventually endorsed the Haughey and Fianna Fail objective of promoting Irish unity, Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald insisted, with the backing of SDLP leader John Hume and most of the SDLP, that joint authority (calling for continued British rule) was necessary. It was Fitzgerald's version of the Forum that Britain received and rejected. When Fitzgerald pursued talks with Britain, by November 1985 their efforts resulted in the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

The Agreement committed the British and Irish governments to much closer activity concerning Northern Ireland. However, the Agreement did not actually involve joint effort between the two because Britain retained the privilege of having the last word on issues affecting Northern Ireland.

Immediately, John Hume, along with the Irish government, tried to stress connections between the Agreement and the Forum in order to present the SDLP and its constitutional nationalism as a politically active vehicle of the nationalist community. Hume wanted to publicize that the SDLP had been involved and, thus, give the party some political credibility, which the electoral successes of Sinn Fein had virtually wiped out. While blowing his own horn, Hume conveniently left out the fact that Sinn Fein had been excluded from participating in the Forum.

The Unionists in the North rejected the Agreement because

they opposed any power sharing with the Irish government. They claimed the Agreement "threatened their hegemony" (Collins, Tom. *The Irish Hunger Strike*, 614) and would not agree to British dictation.

Thus, the Agreement basically excluded or was rejected by the two most important groups essential to any effective solutions, Sinn Fein and the Unionists.

1985 was also the year that the U.S. came to the aid of the SDLP in the form of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) which, in the next four years, provided the party with \$250,000, in cash and kind. The NDI is part of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a Congressional funded body that initiated President Reagan's Project Democracy which is responsible for Irangate, the Oliver North Affair, and the covert activities of the National Security Council in Central America. Similarly, the purpose of the NDI was to "aid foreign parties sympathetic to democracy" (*An Gael*, 5/90).

Aid from NDI included intensive training in the latest techniques in electioneering and media, the installation of a new computer system, and advice on party reorganization. Similar to the Anglo-Irish Agreement, aid from the NDI was "all about seeing off Sinn Fein's threat to overtake or emasculate the SDLP's dominance of Nationalist politics" (*An Gael*, 5/90).

By 1989, the SDLP voted to end funding, due to all the internal jealousies and disputes over how the funding should be used. However, by that time the SDLP was fatted up with three times the 1985 amount of representation in Westminster, as well accommodated with another patron, Eddie Lawlor, and his \$400,000 in aid (*An Gael*, 5/90).

Thus, once Sinn Fein had gained substantial political footing within the nationalist community, the SDLP tried its best to counteract and make little of Sinn Fein's success. The SDLP turned its efforts toward creating an image of itself as doing something for the nationalist community, even if it wasn't in line with the wants and needs of the community: witness the SDLP's support for "joint" authority and the master-slave relationship reiterated in the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The greatest example of the SDLP's lack of commitment to the nationalist community is party leader John Hume himself. He rejected the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland, which Sinn Fein endorsed, and, thus, used his political position to shoot down a feasible proposal that can alleviate the grievances of the nationalist community. Hume has also used his position to promote such projects as the Foyle Bridge in Derry (completed in 1985), which effectively rendered the original port in the Upper Foyle region, a primarily nationalist area, inaccessible to British cargo ships, depriving the nationalist area of the jobs the port supplied. Therefore, how can Hume and the SDLP claim to represent the true nationalist voice? Obviously they are saying one thing and doing another, concentrating on getting popular and securing votes for the sake of power, without offering the political substance that deserves such support. Hume and the SDLP are content with a minority voice as long as their position and power are intact.

*(Ed. Note: Designed and built as a low level bridge, the Foyle Bridge is just too low for cargo ships to pass under. The ships now dock in a deep sea port far down the east side of the river, creating jobs in this primarily loyalist area.)*

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## WOODROW WILSON, ANGLOPHILIA AND JUSTICE FOR IRELAND by Seamus Metress, PhD.

Woodrow Wilson is usually remembered in American history as the well educated liberal reform Governor of New Jersey and the Democratic President of the United States during World War I. He was viewed as the champion of small nations and identified with the saying: "self-determination for all peoples." His most cherished dream was the establishment of "the League of Nations."

Though his ancestral roots were in Ireland, Wilson was no friend of Ireland. He was an Anglophile of the first order. It has been said that from childhood he greatly admired the chivalry of England and Scotland. His work The History of the American People published in 1901-1902 was one of the foundations of Anglophilia in the United States. In his chapter "The Swarming of the English," he heralded the cultural imperialism of England. His works also had strong nativist and racist overtones. For example, in reference to Italians and Hungarian immigrants, he wrote: "men out of the ranks...where there was neither skills nor energy nor any initiative of quick intelligence." He even defended the aristocratic slave owners of the South, referring to slavery as a condition where "the spirit of the better men ruled the conduct of the less noble."

Wilson's trouble with the Irish-Americans began in the lead up to World War I. Most Irish-Americans wanted the US to remain neutral in this struggle to control European capitalism.

The British government had to work actively and extensively to combat Irish-American opposition to the war. They encouraged British elements in the US government and media to carry on an active campaign against hyphenated Americans like the Irish-Americans. President Wilson was greatly upset by Irish-American behavior which he considered disloyal. By 1915 he adopted the hyphenated Americans' approach which his former rival Teddy Roosevelt had gleaned from that major literary apologist for English imperialism, Rudyard Kipling. At Christmas 1915 in a message to Congress he said: "The gravest threats against our national peace and safety have been uttered within our own border," an obvious reference to German and Irish Americans that smacked of blatant nativism.

In 1916 the Easter rebellion in Dublin stunned the world as Ireland became the first small nation to challenge modern British imperialism. But Britain's brutal repression of the rising greatly affected the sympathy of Irish-Americans for the rebels. The public execution of the leaders was a crucial political and socio-psychological mistake by the British. Britain actually began to fear that the US might break the blockade of the central powers. Of course, when the US entered the war in 1917, the Irish-Americans had to prove their loyalty. They rallied to the call and fought bravely. Regiments like the largely Irish Fighting 69th became almost legendary. At home, Irish groups mobilized to have Ireland included in the peace talks.

When World War II was over, Irish-Americans pressed for self-determination for Ireland. The Friends of Irish Freedom, founded March 1910 by the Clan Na Gael, took the lead. An Irish Race Convention was held in Philadelphia during February 1919 where three Irish-American representatives to the Peace Conference were elected. However, they were subsequently refused admission to the Versailles talks. Further, the British government prevented Irish representatives such as Eamon DeValera from attending the Conference. Irish-Americans reacted by pressuring the American Congress. On March 4, 1919, the House and Senate supported the idea of an Irish representative at the peace talks by votes of 216 to 45 and 60 to 1, respectively.

Wilson was unyielding. He disliked the Irish-American interference in foreign affairs and dismissed them as disloyal and ungrateful hyphenated Americans. Wilson was also an anti-Catholic bigot which may be related to his anglophilic attitude toward British culture and institutions. He also took a nativist stance in objecting to what was viewed as old world feuds and loyalties being transplanted to America. Furthermore, he detested one of the major Irish-American leaders Judge Daniel Cohalan of New York. Even without the above factors influencing Wilson's attitude, it was obvious that he needed British help to form the League of Nations. The League was Wilson's dream. Thus, he would not have risked alienating Britain over Ireland. Wilson said that self-determination only applied to the lands of the former central powers; not to those of allies like Britain.

However, let us look at one of Wilson's famous 14 Points and its application to Ireland, namely that every country, every national unit was to have the right to self-determination. The right to self-determination was to be based on 4 points: 1). a clearly defined boundary; 2). a contiguous boundary; 3). a population that was homogenous; and 4). a long standing political identity and history.

Ireland was possibly more homogenous than any country in Europe and its boundaries are without question. Historically, no unit known as Northern Ireland existed before the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 passed by the British Parliament.

Irish-Americans responded to Wilson's rejection at Versailles by actively supporting the IRA's war against England between 1919-1921. Enormous amounts of money were raised for the provisional government of Ireland to fight the Anglo-Irish war. At home, the Clan Na Gael and its front, the Friends of Irish Freedom, began a campaign against the League of Nations. Led by Judge Cohalan, they held large mass rallies and took out full page newspaper ads against the League wherever Wilson traveled to promote it. They collaborated with former WASP enemies, Senators Borah and Lodge, in order to defeat the League's ratification by Congress. Wilson died knowing that the United States never joined the League, which was to be the lynchpin of his plan for world co-operation.

Wilson is gone but the American Anglophiles are alive and well. Our media, State Department, universities and presidents seem to be taken with British culture and royalty. Anglophilia characterizes many teachers, textbook writers, literary figures and important decision-makers in the US. British propaganda is at work to promote British cultural influence from the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships to the British Information Services. Most Americans are thus prevented from factual knowledge of the sinister nature of British political, economic and cultural influence on American opinion.

### JOE DOHERTY NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

Joe Doherty's case is expected to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court this fall. He needs our help now more than ever.

We must all continue to educate the American public about Joe's case. In this issue we reprint an updated version of our *Reproduce & Distribute* article on Joe Doherty. Again we ask you to reproduce this article and continue to distribute it throughout the summer months right up to his hearing. Please reach out beyond the American Irish community.

If you would like to donate to his hard-pressed defense fund, make checks payable to Committee For Joe Doherty and mail to PO Box 20474, Midtown Station, New York, NY 10129.

**PEC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**  
**American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC)**  
**Saturday June 29, 1991 - Rockland Irish Center**

Dear fellow PEC member:

Your are cordially invited to attend our Leadership Conference.

In our efforts to accomplish full human and civil rights for all people in British occupied Northern Ireland, we are up against a powerful British adversary. Yet, we have made great strides towards achieving that goal through initiatives such as the MacBride Principles Campaign, our campaign against media censorship and our public education programs.

Much of our success to-date is due to our members implementing actions requested through the PEC Newsletter and Telephone Hotline. Most of our members currently work alone.

It would be easy enough to increase our members effectiveness and clout. All we have to do is organize them more effectively. That we can do by expanding our leadership. The more people we have taking leadership initiatives, the more effective we will be.

We must now begin to develop leaders to organize community PEC Support Groups, to become state officers, to expand the PEC's national executive board.

This is what the PEC Leadership Conference is all about. We welcome all members to attend. We particularly urge those members to attend the Conference who: want to be more active in the PEC, want to assist in fundraising, want to take on leadership positions, and/or possess special skills and talents.

Please review the program schedule and reservation information. Complete the attached registration form and mail it back today with your check payable to AIPEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980.

**Schedule**

8:00 - 9:00 Registration & Coffee, Tea & Donuts

9:00 - 9:10 Program Introduction *Brian McGrath*

9:10 - 9:30 Keynote Address *John J. Finucane*  
*National President*

9:30 - 10:00 How to organize a PEC Support Group  
*James Brown, Mass. Support Group Coord.*

10:00 - 10:30 How to organize a telephone chain  
*Kathleen Regan, NYS Director & Secretary*

10:30 - 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 - 11:15 How to influence media coverage  
*Terry Deem Reilly, Colorado State Director*

11:15 - 11:45 How to recruit new members

11:45 - 12:15 Question and Answers

12:15 - 1:30 Luncheon and Address - *James Kelly, retired*  
*Captain in the Irish Army, chairman of the United Ireland Forum and Gearoid MacEoin, Treasurer*

1:30 - 2:00 How to conduct grassroots lobbying  
*Patricia James, Washington, DC representative*

2:00 - 2:15 How to get involved in local politics  
*Susan Catt, Arizona PEC State Director*

2:15 - 2:45 How to initiate a MacBride Principles Campaign  
*Tom O'Flaherty, MacBride Principles Consultant*

2:45 - 3:00 Speakers' Bureau - *John J. Finucane*

3:00 - 3:30 Questions and Answers

**DIRECTIONS to Rockland Irish Center**

**From New Jersey** - take Garden State Pkwy to NYS Thruway or Palisades Interstate Pkwy and follow directions below.

**From Connecticut or Upstate New York** - take NYS Thruway and follow directions below.

**From NY City or vicinity** - take either George Washington

or Tappan Zee bridges and follow directions below.

Palisades Pkwy to Exit 6E to first light (Dutch Hill Rd.)- take left to 2nd left (Parkway Dr. South) straight to stop light (Convent Road) take left go under overpass to corner (Eisenhower Court) - Rockland Irish Center phone # (914) 365-2495.

**HOTELS IN AREA** - Sheraton Motor Inn - Nanuet - 800 325-3535 \* Pearl River Hilton - 800 445-8667

**PEC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE - June 29, 1991 - Rockland Irish Center - Blauvelt, NY**

List below the names and addresses of all the people from your party who will be attending (fee - \$25 per person)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for conference reservations.

## JOE DOHERTY: AN AMERICAN POLITICAL PRISONER

by Sandy Carlson

**Reproduce & Distribute**

On June 18, 1991, Joe Doherty will begin his ninth year of imprisonment in the United States. He has been held prisoner longer than anyone else in the history of the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City. Having committed no crime in the United States, he has been held, without bail, on an immigration warrant.

Joseph Patrick Doherty, 34, grew up in the New Lodge Road area of Belfast, a small Catholic ghetto surrounded by Loyalist enclaves. He lived there with his parents and sisters. During his youth, he witnessed Loyalist mobs, unhampered by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC, police), intimidate his neighbors, sometimes burning them out of their homes, sometimes assassinating them at random. British military forces frequently picked up and interrogated Joe. On his seventeenth birthday, Joe was interned for five months without charge or trial. His oldest sister was one of the first women interned. She was strip searched more than 80 times before she was released.

In 1983, the British government filed an extradition request after Doherty was seized by federal agents for having illegally entered the U.S. He had done so after escaping from jail where he had been held for the alleged murder of a British soldier. Yet according to *Newsweek* reporter Tony Clifton 12/11/89, "...On May 2, 1980, Doherty and other members of the Irish Republican Army were ambushed by British troops in Belfast. In the firefight, Capt. Herbert Richard Westmascott of the British Army was shot dead". Joe Doherty asserted that he should not be extradited because he was a guerrilla soldier fighting a legitimate war against an occupying force. American law, he argued, barred extradition for political reasons. Likewise, in support of Doherty's claim, "In December 1984, U.S. District Court Judge John Sprizzo agreed with him, holding that the facts of this case present the assertion of the political-offense exception in its most classic form" *Newsweek* 12/11/89. In denying the extradition request, Judge Sprizzo determined that none of the acts in Doherty's case violated international law or standards of civilized conduct. He ruled that Doherty's acts were not common crimes but offenses of a political nature.

Two subsequent attempts by the government to overturn Sprizzo's decision failed. Federal Judge Charles Haight, Jr. maintained Sprizzo's decision. The Executive Branch appealed Judge Haight's decision. The U.S. Court of Appeals termed the Executive Branch's position "startling" and went on to affirm in all respects Haight's decision in favor of Joe Doherty.

The British negotiated a new extradition treaty with the U.S. eliminating the political offense exception. The new treaty would apply to Doherty if it were made retroactive - a violation of the US Constitution which specifically protects against ex post facto laws. Mr. Doherty agreed to deportation to the Republic of Ireland. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) appealed the order.

In 1987, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) ruled

against the INS. Two days later the INS reopened the BIA decision. The BIA then reaffirmed the correctness of the order to allow Joe Doherty to be deported to Ireland.

The case was then referred to the Attorney General Edwin Meese. Thus, the Executive Branch was allowed the final say although it was the losing party throughout the entire process. On June 9, 1988, Meese ordered Doherty deported to Britain. The Executive Branch invalidated six separate decisions in Mr. Doherty's favor.

Meese's decision was vigorously criticized by various Congressional Representatives.

Doherty filed a petition for review of the Attorney General's decision with the U.S. Court of Appeals. Its filing bars execution of the deportation order. In November 1988, the BIA granted Mr. Doherty's motion to reopen the deportation proceedings. This decision, the seventh in his favor, entitled Doherty to go forward on his claims for political asylum and/or withholding of deportation. The granting of either would bar his return to Britain.

The Department of Justice, through the INS, looked to Attorney General Richard Thornburgh to reverse the BIA's decision to grant Doherty's motion to reopen. On June 30, 1989, Attorney General Thornburgh overturned the BIA's decision of November 14, 1988.

Concern for Doherty's situation has prompted U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd, Archbishop John Cardinal O'Connor, Reverend Jesse Jackson and many U.S. Congressional Representatives to visit Mr. Doherty in prison.

More than 132 US Senators and Congressmen have signed a resolution introduced by Representative Thomas Manton calling for the Attorney General to grant Mr. Doherty bail and ultimately to grant him political asylum.

The case of Joe Doherty has gone to the U.S. Supreme Court and is scheduled to be heard this fall, (1991).

For our government to turn Joe Doherty over to the British justice system would be a grave violation of American principles. The British system of justice has collapsed because of its treatment of Irish people. In March 1991 British courts released 6 Irishmen (Birmingham Six) who were imprisoned for almost 17 years for Northern Ireland related offenses the British government **knew they did not commit**. In 1989 and 1990 the British courts released or exonerated at least 16 men, women and children, 7 had already completed their sentences, for similar offenses **they did not commit**. One of the victims died in prison.

Contact your US Senator (US Senate, Washington, DC 20510) and Representative (House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) and ask that they speak out against this injustice by our government.

**JOIN OR SUPPORT** The American Irish  
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**SPECIAL OFFER!!!**

**WE NOW HAVE REV. DES WILSON ON VIDEO**

The American Irish Political Education Committee has produced an informative forty-minute video interview with Rev. Des Wilson. Rev. Wilson is the director of the Conway Mill and Springhill Community Center in Belfast and contributes a column in our *American Irish Newsletter*. He is one of Northern Ireland's most prominent human rights activist.

The video was professionally produced in the studios of Superior Audio Visual Productions.

Appearing with Rev. Wilson are John Finucane, National President of the PEC and Albert Doyle, PEC Vice-President.

In this informative interview Des Wilson discusses civil and human rights violations and the subtle and often deadly tactics of the British government in an effort to discredit the work of people like Rev. Wilson and his associates. He discusses the role of the media and the major importance of the MacBride Principles campaign. He is optimistic about the future and believes the end of the conflict is near.

The video is an excellent educational tool. It can be used in colleges, cable TV networks, public gatherings, etc. It will serve well to inform the uninformed about Northern Ireland and help provide a clear understanding of the work of the PEC and like organizations.

We strongly recommend that all members purchase a copy if just for the purpose of educating family, friends, relatives, business associates, etc. It will also be helpful to win support for the MacBride Principles.

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**THE UNCOUNTED IRISH IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES**

by Dr. Margaret E. Fitzgerald (writer for the American Irish Newsletter) and Prof. Joseph A. King

This book published in 1990, which should be standard reading for every American Irish family, tells the story of those forgotten, overlooked, or trivialized by historians. The authors attempt to provide a balance to the ethnic and religious bias against Irish and Catholics that appears in school textbooks and standard histories (a bias documented in the book). The authors do not claim that the Irish were the only builders of North America. They do claim that the Irish played an important and significant part in American history, not only in building the cities, but also in founding colonies, taming the wilderness, expanding the frontier, settling the prairies, and making the New World a good place to live. Hardcover, 399pp, over 40 illustrations, including 30 photos.

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**MACBRIDE UPDATE** by Tom O'Flaherty

MacBride Principles bills continue to move forward. In some states the legislative sessions finished without bringing forth bills. In these states the efforts by those involved created an awareness that will help insure future success. It is our experience that the first year of a campaign is an educational experience for both the legislator and the MacBride activist.

**MISSOURI** -- State Director Phil Chaney reports that on March 14, the Kansas City Council unanimously adopted a MacBride Principles bill. **CALIFORNIA** -- PEC MacBride coordinator Mary O'Donnell and member Brian Blake advise us that on April 7, the Assembly Public Employees Committee approved the MacBride Bill introduced by Assemblyman John Burton of San Francisco. **Members in California are advised to write a polite letter to Governor Pete Wilson (State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814) urging that he support the MacBride bill now before the State Legislature.**

We commend PEC members and the Americans For MacBride in Washington State and Arizona for a job well done in initiating legislation in both states. **WASHINGTON** -- PEC MacBride activists Marianne Blumhoff and Andy Kelly report that HB 1407 passed in the House of Representatives 83 to 15, but died in the Senate Financial Committee as the legislative session ended. Rep. Dennis Delwo and Speaker pro-tem John O'Brien worked very hard to get the bill through the House and Senate. Jim Dinan, legislative liaison for the Americans For MacBride, was instrumental in the House passage. Washington State activists will spend this summer preparing for next year's effort. **ARIZONA** -- PEC State Director Susan Catt reports that Arizona's first attempt at state legislation died in the Senate Finance Committee as the session came to an end. Susan reports that much ground work has already been done for next year, including the formation of a group to lobby the legislature. She also reports that Secretary of State Mahoney will be joining US Senator Dennis DeConcini in requesting the US Dept. of Justice Criminal Division pursue enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and asking for compliance by the British government in registering its agents. **NEW YORK** -- The Foreign Agents issue surfaced again when the NY City Council Committee on Government Operations conducted hearings on its MacBride contract compliance bill. British agents Sean Neeson, James Eccles, Harry Coll and Martin Dunnigan testified against the fair employment bill. Eccles stated that he read about the hearings and came to New York on his own to testify. Council Member Carolyn Mahoney produced documents supplied by the PEC accusing Eccles of being a paid lobbyist. Harry Coll admitted that his expenses were paid by the NI Dept. of Economic Development (DED). Mayor David Dinkins testified in support of the bill as did PEC National MacBride Principles Consultant Tom O'Flaherty and other respected political and organization leaders. Passage of the bill is anticipated by mid-summer. **CANADA** -- Kevin Callihan of the Quebec Ireland Committee reports that CSN and FTQ trade unions, representing over 560,000 workers, adopted the Principles.

**Please forward the names, dates and if possible, the testimony of all persons who testify against MacBride to the PEC.** (Ed. Note: Unfortunately, two Irish American newspapers that quoted Tom O'Flaherty failed to acknowledge him as a representative of the PEC. In his testimony O'Flaherty stated that he represented the PEC and was there on behalf of President John Finucane and NYS Director Kathy Regan. It is important that Irish American media give proper recognition to all organizations and, in this case, particularly to the PEC, as it was a PEC letter-writing campaign that made the hearings possible.)



**URGENT ACTION REQUEST #1**  
**All members are asked to write the letters below**

In our From The Editor on page two, we note the importance of the media in reporting fairly and frequently about British injustice in Northern Ireland. There is no doubt that such coverage would go a long way toward ending British/Irish violence and resolving this problem of British colonialism.

We ask members to make a special effort to get friends, relatives, family members, business associates, etc. to write a letter. Use our sample letter below as a guide, or simply rewrite it as is. Please be courteous in your letter.

Write the letter below to: Mr. Eric Ober, CBS News President, 524 W 57 Street, New York, NY 10019 and R.E. Turner, President, TBS Inc., One CNN Center, Atlanta, Ga 30348.

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

Your network's accurate coverage of the March 1991 release of the Birmingham Six in England was an eye-opener to many Americans. I urge your network to continue to provide fair and frequent coverage of British injustices in Northern Ireland which I am sure will help end British/Irish violence. An informed public will certainly help bring about a solution.

Sincerely,  
 signature

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**THE YELLOW RIBBON STORY**  
 by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts

From Maine to Hawaii, every city, town and village proudly displays yellow ribbons to show support for U.S. soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and other coast guardsmen and women who are fighting in the Persian Gulf region. As with many other American Irish contributions, the facts behind the symbolism of the yellow ribbon have been left out of our media.

The first recorded use of a yellow ribbon in war time dates back to the Wild Geese era in Ireland when, due to British cruelty, many of Ireland's top leaders, soldiers and Gaelic noblemen fled Ireland for service in France, Spain and other lands. Irish peasants placed yellow ribbons on the cottages, village squares, etc., to symbolize the hope that the Wild Geese Irish would some day return to free Ireland from English colonialism.

The first recorded use of the yellow ribbon in the United States dates back to the American frontier when the wives of the heavily Irish U.S. Army troops would wear yellow ribbons while the troops rode out on duties in the wild west of 1800s America. This practice received much attention when the widows of General Custer's predominantly Irish troops made the yellow ribbon a symbol of support for American horse soldiers. In the late 1940s, American Irish movie director John Ford made a famous movie starring John Wayne entitled: "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon." That movie showed the yellow ribbon was an American Irish symbol of patriotism towards America.

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