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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 15, Number 5

May 1990

NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

The influential Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) has produced a report entitled *Human Rights in Northern Ireland - Irish Terrorism or British Colonialism*. General Secretary of the NHC and co-author of the report, Bjorn Cato Funnemark, said, "At a time when democracy in Europe has never been stronger, Northern Ireland remains an isolated issue pushed onto the fringe of Western Europe." He dismissed the concept of Britain as a peace-keeping force or the problem as "one of mindless terrorism" and described the situation as "a long-ignored" political and economic problem. He welcomed the MacBride Principles and called on Fred Olsen, the Norwegian-based owner of Harland and Wolff in Belfast to implement the Principles. Reuiff Steen, former President of the Norwegian Parliament, welcomed the report and also backed the Principles. (AIN-PEC)....."As the killing in the six counties continues, the moral standing of Britain in Europe continues to plunge...The need for new thinking in this matter has never been so great. Given the will to conduct a serious political dialogue, a solution to the Irish question can be found, just as solutions are being found by the world community to other regional conflicts around the world...The solution lies in the withdrawal of foreign troops, respect for basic human and civil rights, and the recognition of the right of nations to self-determination." (Czechoslovak Life, 1/1990)

Dublin TD, Tony Gregory, called on the Irish government to sponsor a submission on the Birmingham Six to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe which will be held in Denmark this summer. Although the government has stated its concern for the six, it does not seem to wish to embarrass the British government by raising the case at an international conference. A spokesperson for the co-ordinating committee stated, "Whether the Irish government officially supports the submission or not, it will be made and will not only embarrass the British government but also the Irish government, because people will be asking why their government isn't opposing injustices against Irish people." (Irish News, 2/14/90)

"Mr. Noel Walsh, who had testified at the trial of the Birmingham Six, will contact their defense committee to inform them that his testimony had been influenced by a court officer who stated that John Walker was 'an IRA lieutenant.' Mr. Walsh had intended testifying that Walker was a gentleman, had nothing against the English and would not have become involved in a bombing until the officer's statement colored his view of Mr. Walker." (Irish News, 1/10/90).....Mr. Walsh now says that after the bombings, police called to his pub and questioned him on what he knew of the men. Walsh alleges that the police hinted that John Walker, one of the prisoners, being beaten in custody. Walsh claims, "The police said to me

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Important Action Requests

See *NY Regents to Revise American History* in *Reproduce & Distribute* supplement and *NBC Campaign* on page 6

THE PEC SUCCEEDS WITH YOUR SUPPORT

The American Irish PEC has achieved much over the past year. For the most part, these achievements are the result of our members' support and participation in our letter writing campaigns, *Reproduce & Distribute* programs and membership drives, and purchasing of videos, books, etc. through our Newsletter. Our success regarding the meetings with the Bush Administration and greeting card producers are explained in *From The Editor* on page two. We have also opened a Library & Research Center (see *PEC Opens Library & Research Center* on page 5)

We are also happy to report progress in our office operations. Our office is now open six days a week - 9am to 5pm - Monday thru Saturday. While the full-time operation is in progress, we still have a way to go to maximize our efficiency and effectiveness. What we need for the immediate future is a staff of three full-time employees including an office manager. One of our long term objectives is to establish offices in key locations throughout the United States.

Much of the time in the national office is utilized for promoting the MacBride Principles, writing, typesetting the newsletter, preparing new membership and membership renewal mailings, filling orders for books, videos, etc., and answering letters and phone calls--all of which are very time consuming. We need an expanded office staff so that we can concentrate on reaching out to decision makers to win their support for our issues and planning and carrying out new and current action programs. One of these employees with telephone communication skills would be responsible for locating and contacting these decision makers.

To fulfill these necessary requirements will cost a lot of money. We know that we cannot raise this financial backing through our members alone. We will need the help of others - new members and new donors.

HOW MEMBERS CAN HELP! Respond generously to our two annual donation requests, promptly renew your membership when you receive your renewal notice, and recruit new members and financial supporters whenever possible.

We will be successful if we persist in our efforts and by keeping our focus on our goal of Ireland's reunification.

TO GIVE A DONATION TODAY
USE THE MULTI-PURPOSE COUPON ON PAGE 6.
BE SURE TO CHECK DONATION BOX.

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE

MAINE - PEC MacBride Principles Consultant Tom O'Flaherty advises us that both the Maine House (vote 110 to 27) and Senate (vote 21 to 10) adopted the MacBride Principles divestment legislation introduced by Rep. Jim Cashman. A major mover behind the success of this bill is Bob Carey, Special Assistant to the House Speaker Tom Martin. **NEW YORK** - Sr. Regina Murphy advises us that MacBride Principles shareholder resolutions will be brought up at the following Share Holder Meetings: **May 8 American Brands**, Waldorf Hotel, New York City; **May 25 General Motors**, Fischer Hall, Detroit; **May 15 Marsh & McLennan** 1221 Ave of Americas, New York City; **May 8 3M St Paul Civic Center**, St Paul, Minnesota; **May 10 Mobil**, Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N Akard St, Dallas; **May 30 Oneida**, Mansion House, Oneida, NY; and **May 17 Xerox**, Rochester Convention Center, Rochester, NY.

Any members wanting to attend any of these meetings and make a statement are urged to contact Sr. Regina Murphy, Sisters of Charity Center, Mount St. Vincent-On-Hudson,

Bronx, NY 10471 - (212) 549-9200. Shareholders in companies with MacBride resolutions are urged to cast their ballots in support of MacBride. **MASSACHUSETTS** - Member Dave Burke advises that on March 13 the Lawrence City Council unanimously adopted the MacBride Principles resolution prepared by the PEC for town councils. Dave advises us that it was really no big deal. He and members of his AOH division approached the Town Council and began the process. Dave urges all members to do the same (resolutions are available through the PEC). **PENNSYLVANIA** - State Director John Hatch and John Breheny advise that on March 20 the City Council of Scranton unanimously adopted a series of ordinances making the MacBride Principles the city's governing policy on investing in American companies doing business in the north. **Won't you initiate a MacBride Principles resolution in your community? For information contact the PEC.**

FROM THE EDITOR

The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC), through its members, has become a very effective organization. That is, important people are taking notice of our activities and concerns and are reacting to them.

Last year we commenced ongoing letter-writing campaigns to President George Bush and his close advisors concerning Northern Ireland, urging him not to turn his back on the American Irish. These activities, we are advised, prompted two high level meetings between the Council of Presidents of Major Irish American Organizations with the State Department and the White House National Security Council. These are the most significant events ever to take place between an Administration and American Irish activists concerning Northern Ireland. Both of these meetings were arranged through the offices of the American Irish PEC.

Our ongoing campaign against the degrading St. Patrick's Day greeting cards produced by Recycled Paper Products and Hallmark has suddenly drawn the attention of the media. Our complaints were aired for the first time on TV and received considerable newspaper coverage. Last fall Recycled Paper Products received the unenviable "Golden Pits" award from the National Coalition Of Ethnic Organizations at the request of the PEC because of their offensive greeting cards. This publicity creates an awareness among the American Irish, the vast majority of whom would otherwise not be aware.

What does all this mean? First: it means that for the first time a President and his Administration have officially recognized the legitimacy of organizations such as the American Irish Political Education Committee and our issues. Second: regarding the media coverage of the offensive St. Patrick's Day cards, it means that our education programs are effective.

These accomplishments are a beginning of an education process and are a result of our increasing effectiveness. We have gained access to quarters that have traditionally been closed to us. We must now intensify our efforts so that our action brings about further successes. Then, more influential people will listen to us, learn from us, and finally, support us.

The PEC and its programs have great potential. But we must continuously increase our efforts. That can happen only by increasing our membership so that more people become interested in carrying out our programs.

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

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American Irish Newsletter

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STUDENT ORGANIZER: Sandy Carlson, 19 Pond Brook Road, Newtown, CONNECTICUT, 06470-(203)270-0497.

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

FROM THE NORTH

by Fr. Des Wilson, *leading Northern Ireland civil rights activist and Director of Conway Mill in Belfast*

When walls started to come down in Eastern Europe, we in Ireland were given lectures about how we could get similar results if only we would act in a peaceful, non-military manner, like the East Europeans.

It was a nice lesson which avoided some important differences between the East European and Irish situations. For one, in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union had decided to stop interfering in the affairs of other nations. In Ireland, Britain has made no such decision and has, in fact, pledged itself to keep interfering, "in perpetuity", as Mr. Tom King said.

Second, Irish people have already done all the things the East Europeans did--they came out on the streets, demonstrated peacefully, tried every known peaceful means to get a democracy. When their peaceful efforts reached a climax in 1968, they, unlike the East Europeans, were beaten into the ground by the British government.

Third, it is impossible for citizens in Belfast or Derry to go to their city centers to demand democracy, as the East Europeans did. Last November, when Irish citizens tried to march to the center of Belfast to protest against censorship in the BBC, they were met by heavily armed British military and police who told them they would be shot if they marched outside their district. They have reason to envy the relative freedom of the East Europeans.

Fourth, the real barrier which has yet to be broken down in Ireland is not one between Catholics and Protestants, but the artificial border erected in the 1920's which was desired only by the government in Dublin. The people have done all in their power to demolish the barriers separating them from their neighbors. The British government has responded by strengthening the only border in Ireland that really matters. The difference between Soviet and British attitudes could not be more clear. One is the direct opposite of the other: one leads toward democracy and the other, away from it.

But there is no need to go on explaining the differences between the Irish and East European situations. Gorbachev has thrown up a challenge to all tyrannies, including the British, by dismantling his own. The British had no intention of following his good example.

Irish people in their own country have always been denied access to elected assemblies, to their own town centers, to their own culture, even to their own thoughts. Nowadays, when tyrannies are tending to dissolve in the East, Europeans are realizing with dismay that they have a tyranny on their western flank which many of them had scarcely even noticed.

MEMBERS CAN HELP IN THEIR STATE

If you wish to become active or keep apprised of PEC activities in your state, contact your PEC State Director whose name is listed in the Organization Box on page two. If there is no State Director listed for your state, contact the PEC national office. There is much important work that you can do including initiating a MacBride Principles resolution by your Town Council and/or organization(s) to which you belong.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Please do not call in or mail in **Offensive Situations** to the PEC office in New York. This is improper procedure. All **Offensive Situations** with all pertinent details (newspaper clippings with name of paper and date, etc.), are to be sent to Kevin P. Murphy, PO Box 8895, JF Kennedy Station, Boston, Ma 02114.

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STUDENT MACBRIDE CAMPAIGN

by Sandy Carlson, *PEC Student Activities Coordinator*

The 1990 student MacBride campaign workers have been very busy across the country. The following is a sampling of some of this semester's events.

Yale University students hosted a lecture by Richard May of Sinn Fein. Mr. May spoke of his experiences as a prisoner in Long Kesh. Many of the attendees were not directly involved with Irish affairs, but were interested in learning more about the human rights abuses in Ireland. We thank them for their open-mindedness and creativity in using this lecture as a first step in their MacBride campaign.

The Rutgers University Brehon Law Society co-president met with the University president to discuss his endorsement of the MacBride Principles. Society members spent much time researching the University's legal obligation to the Principles and are now seeking further endorsement on campus.

Western Connecticut State University students held several informational meetings, published articles in the university paper, hosted radio music and talk show programs, and hosted video presentations. They are working to educate their peers on human rights abuses so that when the board of trustees endorses MacBride Principles, they will face an educated student body.

Cornell University students have likewise been busy educating on campus regarding the MacBride Principles and showing videos. Because the university administration did not approve of some of the material, students arranged to show material in the dormitories. In one instance, they packed 25 interested students in one dormitory room to view "*Behind the Mask.*"

Students in other universities across the country have similarly been busy. The PEC heartily thanks all students who have contributed so generously to our education programs and MacBride Principles campaigns this semester. We encourage you to continue on next semester, setting as your short-term goal the enactment of MacBride resolutions on your campuses.

Anybody interested in joining this great effort should contact Sandy Carlson at the PEC national office.

A CASE OF EARLY AMERICAN PREJUDICE

by Kevin P. Murphy, PEC, Massachusetts

In the United States, we often see on television and read in the newspapers of the prejudice and discrimination that was aimed at various U.S. ethnic groups in the past. This is positive, for it exposes the ugliness of prejudice and, hopefully, will stop such actions. It seems, though, that the prejudice and discrimination endured by the American Irish is always somehow left out of such articles. Some revisionists--especially American Irish politicians, educators, and even clergy--would have us think that the Irish simply came to America and encountered instant prosperity without any obstacles. It is important for thinking members of the vast American-Irish community to tell the story of the hardships that our ancestors endured. The following true story is an example of such hardships.

The case of early Irish immigrants Dominic Daley and James Halligan goes down in the annals of judicial history as one of the major sideshows of prejudice and hate toward the American Irish. The year was 1805. Daley and Halligan had just arrived to settle in Boston. The Boston of 1805 was one that was dominated by the Anglo-Saxon merchants and traders. Boston had a small Irish immigrant community, but Irish roots in Boston were deep because large numbers of Irish immigrants had fought for U.S. freedom in the Revolution against England. In the autumn of 1805, Halligan and Daley were travelling through western Massachusetts into New York seeking jobs as laborers.

On November 5, 1805, the body of local farmer Marcus Lyon was found in the Chicopee River in Wilbraham, Massachusetts. Lyon was beaten, robbed and drowned. A 13-year-old boy named Laertes Fuller told the posse that two "foreigners with Irish accents" committed the murder. Days later, the posse captured the two Irishmen in what is today Rye, New York. When Daley and Halligan were brought to Northampton, Massachusetts, to face trial, the boy identified the two Irish immigrants as the murderers of Mr. Lyon. Newspaper articles in the area incited anti-Irish hysteria among the largely Anglo-Saxon readers. Large crowds turned out for the trial.

Presiding at the trial were Judge Samuel Sewall, whose great-great-grandfather presided at the Salem Witch Trials, and Theodore Sedgwick, who was Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. State Prosecutor was James Sullivan, who,

despite his name, loudly proclaimed his dedication "to rid Massachusetts of the Irish Papist devils". The state brought forth 24 witnesses against Halligan and Daley. The two Irishmen were allowed no defense. Their lawyer, Francis Blake of Worcester, Massachusetts, attempted to defend the two immigrants, but the deck was stacked.

The state's case against the two Irishmen was solely built upon anti-Irish fervor. In the official text of the trial, the state's closing argument was the following: "That the name of an Irishman is, among us, but another name for a robber or assassin." The one-day trial found the two Irishmen convicted by the Hampshire County jury. Judge Sedgwick ordered the Irishmen to be hanged and "dissected and anatomized" afterward. The ultra-cruel sentence underlines the hatred for the American Irish. Father Jean Lefebvre de Cheverus of Boston, who would later become a Cardinal, ventured to Northampton in seeking justice. Fr. Cheverus was refused lodging in Northampton. On the day of the hanging, 15,000 people came from throughout the area to see the two Irishmen hanged and dissected. The crowd shouted anti-Irish and anti-Catholic slogans. The crowd loudly cheered when the executions were done.

Thirty years later, Laertes Fuller's uncle confessed on his deathbed that he murdered Marcus Lyon. As a result of bigotry, two Irish immigrants were executed wrongfully. Fuller was paid \$2.00 to lie for his uncle at the trial.

Today, Northampton is a bustling city in western Massachusetts. At the site of Daley and Halligan's execution stands a monument to those two victims of anti-Irish bigotry. Each St. Patrick's Day, local American Irish organizations hold a ceremony to remember those two Irishmen.

In 1964, Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Robert Sullivan, the son of Irish immigrants, learned of this case while sitting in the Hampshire County Superior Court in Northampton. Judge Sullivan wrote that, "Whatever disagreement may have existed amongst Bay Staters of that era, they were united on a single point, their hatred for the Irish." Retired Northampton Firefighter John J. Carlon petitioned state authorities for nearly two decades to officially honor Halligan and Daley. Mr. Carlon spent countless hours of letter writing and phone calling in this effort. On March 19, 1984, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a bill that went into law officially pardoning the men and apologizing for the horrible treatment of James Halligan and Dominic Daley.

NEWS BITS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that John Walker fell down the stairs. They said it in a kind of nudge-nudge way, and said he might lose an eye. They said, 'We got him to confess.' I asked them how and they replied, 'We put a gun in his mouth.' Walsh said that he did not mention it at the time because he was very young and believed completely in the integrity of the police. John Walker of the Birmingham Six has always maintained that during custody police covered his head, put a gun to it and made a loud exploding noise. (Irish Post, 3/10/90)

Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster has called for the release of the Birmingham Six. "With my Guildford experience, realizing those confessions were not obtained correctly, one wonders if that pattern has reproduced itself...One could not help but notice at the appeal [of the Birmingham Six] there were four people who questioned the forensic evidence of the original trial but the judges just dismissed it." (Irish Post, 3/17/90)....."Birmingham Six campaigners have claimed Britain has attempted to limit the impact of the Congressional Hearing on the case. Mr. Paddy McIlkenny said he had been told pressure was being exerted in the United States to ensure the hearing does not 'ruffle any feathers.'... "Reliable sources have told me British

diplomats are very worried by the hearing." (Irish News, 3/9/90).....Campaigners for the Birmingham Six were delighted by the reception and the amount of congressional and media interest in the case as a result of the hearings before the [US] Congressional Human Rights Caucus...The chairman of the hearings, [Congressman] Tom Lantos, said "We will pursue this case to make sure the same thing will not happen again" (Irish News, 3/13/90).....The setting up of an ad-hoc all-party committee of TDs and Irish Senators on the Winchester Three case is being welcomed by the families of those convicted. (Irish Post, 3/17/90)

The British government's 'emergency powers' (in force for 15 years) were renewed by a clear majority. Shadow Home Secretary Roy Hattersley said that exclusion orders under the Act were inconsistent with the view that Northern Ireland was an integral part of the UK. "They say that a person is not fit to live in Scotland, Wales or England but can be required to live in Northern Ireland...[The PTA] works on the principle that there are men and women we cannot convict under the normal process of law so let us invent abnormal processes of law to make sure they are convicted. In a democracy

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URGENT ACTION REQUEST

NY REGENTS TO REVISE AMERICAN HISTORY: Should Irish Contribution Be Included?

by Thomas E. O'Brien, American Irish PEC

Americans of Irish heritage now have a golden opportunity to make certain that school students are taught about the significant role of the Irish in the building of America.

On February 19, 1990 the *New York Times* reported that the New York State Regents will revise American history courses in text to reflect the contributions of non-white culture to the development of the United States. State Education Commissioner, Thomas Sobol, told the Regents that, "The revisions must be without sacrificing historical accuracy - I'm not talking about re-writing facts". Walter Cooper, a regent, is reported in the *Times* as having said that the text books should explain that large numbers of George Washington's colonial militiamen were black; Martin C. Barell, the board's chairman, reportedly suggested that history should make clear that Chinese railroad workers labored under slave conditions during the 19th Century. Mr. Barell continued, "We ought to say it like it is and not gloss everything over". This is to insure that contributions which have been ignored be recognized.

Patently, it appears that the Iroquois Confederation is to be considered as a political system which contributed to the framing of the United States Constitution. If these facts are accurate, let them be reported and let us recognize groups who have not been recognized in the past whether due to prejudice or outright discrimination. American Irish demand equal time, space and recognition in the revised text.

Let it be shown that the first American naval victory in 1775 was won when Jeremiah O'Brien captured the British sloop of war *Margarita* at Machias, Maine. The vessel was renamed *Machias Liberty* and was commissioned as a ship of war in the Massachusetts State Navy, in which O'Brien was made the first Captain. This commission preceded congressional commissions because the Constitution was not signed and in effect.

John Barry was the first captain appointed under the Articles of Confederation. Naval tradition holds him to be the father of the Navy. This role is usually attributed to John Paul Jones who came later and as a Wasp was ethnically correct and more suitable to be cited for his heroism.

At the time of the American Revolution, British regiments usually contained a minimum of 25% Irish soldiers when garrisoned in the UK. Overseas, the Irish proportion was higher. Service in the American Colonies was considered to be service overseas. Originally there was no American Army as such. The Continental Forces consisted of volunteer militia which reflected the ethnic background of the area from which they came. However, it is likely that American strength on the muster rolls was similar to that of the British Army from which there was significant desertion to the American forces. Historians record that at least one third of the American revolutionary army were either Irish born or of Irish decent.

Between the Revolution and the War of 1812 American merchant ships were being seized or impressed into service in the Royal Navy. Irish and American Irish seamen were seized first because they were readily identified by speech pattern and

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accent. British policy did not recognize naturalization and went by birth or blood (*Jus Sanguinis*). Due to this, American born sailors of Irish descent were deemed British subjects. If they were lucky, they were not hanged as Royal Navy deserters but simply impressed as British subjects.

It is of record that when the rice fields of South Carolina were being cleared, slaves were too valuable to use in malarial snake-infested swamps. Irishmen were used because they were free and expendable. Their death caused no economic loss to the landowner. Similar conditions prevailed during the building of the Mercantile Canal and Inner Harbor in New Orleans. At that time it was said that every granite block in the Inner Harbor wall cost the life of two Irishmen.

I will not discuss conditions prevailing in Pennsylvania coal mines or in the building of the Erie Canal. Such treatment probably accounts for Irish militancy when the American labor movement came into being.

When the Central Pacific Railway was being built east by Chinese coolie labor, it was met at Promitry Point, Utah by the Union Pacific Railroad being built west by Irish coolie labor. The golden spike joining the two was furnished by management.

In spite of what is now called discrimination, the largest number of Congressional Medal of Honor winners are Irish or American Irish. Possibly, such outstanding loyalty is due to genetic aberration since it cannot have generated from support and acceptance on the part of the establishment.

All other minority groups go forward behind pressure groups. Let us do the same. Let us furnish statistical background to support our claims. Otherwise we will remain what many have always perceived us to be, unfocused people who are not to be taken seriously.

COURSE OF ACTION: Write to Mr. Thomas Sobol, Commissioner of Education and Mr. Martin C. Barrell, Chancellor, Board of Regents. The address for both is Department of Education, Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12234. Remind them to include the many contributions of the Irish towards building America, including: Irish made up 33% of American Revolutionary Army; first American naval victory in 1775 was won by Jeremiah O'Brien when he captured the British sloop of war *Margarita*; John Barry is the Father of the American Navy; the largest number of Congressional Medal of Honor winners are Irish and American Irish; also that they built the eastern half of the Trans Continental Railroad and that thousands perished building the Mercantile Canal and Inner Harbor in New Orleans.

This is a very important campaign which will affect us for many years to come. Please make a special effort and do not limit facts to our suggestions. Include also any detailed information you have on other contributions. You might suggest in your letter that for further information they contact the American Irish Political Education Committee. Make a special effort to have others write.

JOIN

The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC).
For membership information only, call 800-777-6807 between
5pm & 9am EST.

Published May 1990 by American Irish PEC

Britain's Prevention of Terrorism Act

by Sandy Carlson

The Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) became permanent legislation in March, 1989. The PTA is a vital part of Britain's Ulsterization, or normalization, policy, for political status and the legitimacy of political opposition are no longer acknowledged.

The 1974 PTA allowed the Secretary of State to proscribe any persons or organizations "which appear to him to be concerned with terrorism occurring in the United Kingdom and connected with Northern Ireland affairs" [PTA, 1974, I(1)(3)]. An individual is liable even if he attends a meeting to be addressed by a person belonging to a proscribed organization [PTA, 1974, I(1)(c)]. In 1974, the Secretary of State proscribed only the IRA. The Secretary of State has since proscribed the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) and the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). However, the loyalist Ulster Defense Association (UDA), responsible for murdering hundreds of persons, is still legal.

Under this section of the PTA, "Any person in a public place wearing, carrying, or displaying any article in such a way...as to arouse reasonable apprehension that he is a member or supporter of a proscribed organization, shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding 200 pounds, or both" [PTA, 1974 I(2)(1)(a-b)]. In addition, "a constable may arrest without warrant a person whom he reasonably suspects to be a person guilty of an offence under this section." [PTA, 1974, I(2)(2)].

The 1976 PTA made withholding information on terrorism an offense. The 1989 bill included measures to combat racketeering and fund-raising by illegal groups. Now banks must pass on to police any suspicions about the origin or destination of money and property. The bill requires the disclosure of any information which might be "of material assistance in preventing an act of terrorism or convicting someone of terrorism." (*Free Speech and Liberty in Britain*, Kevin Boyle) After the killing of two British soldiers who speeded into a funeral cortege in 1988, broadcasters had to hand over their film for use in court. Police have the power to seize bank records. Courts have the power to freeze any assets or dealings of a defendant from the time that person is charged. Between 1974 and 1987, 71 of the 103 people charged with PTA crimes were charged for withholding information.

Part II of the PTA concerns exclusion orders. "If the Secretary of State is satisfied that any person is attempting or may attempt to enter Great Britain with a view to being concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism, the Secretary of State may take an order against that person prohibiting him from being in, or entering, Great Britain" [PTA, 1974, II(3)(3)(b)]. Excluded individuals have not got the right to know why they are being excluded, the right to legal aid, or the right to challenge evidence leading to their exclusion. "An order under this section may include such supplemental or incidental provisions as appear to the Secretary of State expedient" [PTA, 1974, II(4)(b)]. Between 1974 and 1984, 245 people have been removed from Great Britain.

Part III of the PTA allows officers to search anywhere and to detain articles to determine if the Secretary of State should issue an exclusion order. Part III also allows "a constable to arrest without warrant a person subject to an exclusion order, a person guilty of an offence under Sections 1 or 3 of the PTA or a person concerned in the commission, preparation, or instigation of acts of terrorism [PTA, 1974, III(7)(1)(b)]. "A person arrested under

REPRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE

this section shall not be detained in light of the arrest for more than 48 hours after his arrest: Provided the Secretary of State may, in any particular case, extend the period of 48 hours by a further period not exceeding five days [PTA, 1974, III(7)(2)].

Soon after the original Act was published, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that 7-day detention was excessive. **Out of the 7,627 people detained under the Act from 1975 to 1987, only 2,462 were charged with an offense; only 31 were excluded.**

During detention, anything an individual says can be used against him or her. Convictions can be based solely on a confession. If an accused person asserts that the interrogators tortured him, he must show that he was tortured and that the torture was intended to procure confession. Otherwise, the confession will not be eliminated. "Verballed" confessions are also admissible. That is, if a detainee withstands torture, the interrogator could submit to the judge that the detainee "said so". A detainee can spend up to two years on remand without charge.

In 1978, Amnesty International reported that "maltreatment of suspected terrorists by the Royal Ulster Constabulary(RUC) has taken place with sufficient frequency to warrant the establishment of a public inquiry to investigate it." The British subsequently made the inquiry by Special Committee headed by Judge Harry Bennett, Q.C.

The 1979 Bennett Commission found that "medical evidence revealed that prisoners throughout Northern Ireland charged police with brutality." The Commission stated that 93 percent of cases tried in non-jury one-judge trials ended in conviction. Eighty percent of those convictions were based solely on confessions; in 80 percent of those, no evidence was ever adduced.

The report also noted that no woman was required to be present when women prisoners were interrogated, although the PTA provides that a woman must be present when women prisoners are either searched or questioned.

The 1976 PTA eliminated political status for persons detained under this Act. This provision is illogical, for persons detained under the PTA do not enjoy the rights ordinary criminals enjoy which guarantee the fair and impartial determination of guilt or innocence.

The British government justifies this legislation by asserting that members of the proscribed Northern Ireland organizations are not political prisoners or soldiers, but ordinary criminals. Yet, ordinary criminals are not subjected to Diplock courts, are not denied the right to legal counsel, are not banished from their countries. This Act is part of an Ulsterization policy destined to fail. This argument by assertion that political people are not political simply because the British say so is senseless. Equally senseless is the British argument that all persons concerned with terrorism ought to be proscribed in an effort to prevent terrorism. Such efforts to silence a united voice and stifle free thinking only lead to violence and yet more repressive legislation.

YOU CAN HELP!

JOIN the AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee (PEC). For membership information only, call 800-777-6807 between 5pm and 9am EST.

Published May 1990 by the American Irish PEC

BIRMINGHAM SIX

Members are urged to write to President George Bush requesting that he raise with the British Prime Minister concern for basic human rights violations arising from the continued incarceration of, and the miscarriage of justice resulting from the continued incarceration of, the Birmingham Six. Also, include in your letter that he speak out against British colonialism in Ireland. His address is: Honorable George Bush, President, The White House, Washington, DC 20500.

Resolutions supporting the Birmingham Six have been introduced in both the US House of Representatives and US Senate. Members are urged to write to their Congressman and US Senators asking that they co-sponsor the resolutions (in the House HCR # 249 - in the Senate SCR # 104). Also ask that they co-sponsor the Joe Doherty resolution (in the House HR #62 - in the Senate SCR # 62) which is of the utmost importance. Address for the Senate is: United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510 - for the House: House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

****** MAKING PROGRESS ******

On March 13, 1990 members of the Legislature voted to approve a Joint Resolution memorializing the President and the Congress of the United States to ensure Fair Treatment of Joseph Doherty. The resolution went on to commend the decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals to allow Joseph Patrick Doherty to apply for political asylum in the United States.....PEC member Professor Kathleen Young conducted a symposium on Northern Ireland which took place in Chase Hall in Bates University in Lewiston, Maine. The guest speaker was Mr. Tom O'Flaherty, PEC National MacBride Principles Consultant, who addressed a student dominated audience of almost 100. O'Flaherty's address entitled "North-east Ireland: Fiction, Fact, and The Struggle For Freedom" covered the many areas of discrimination, state violence and the MacBride Principles. He was also a special guest at a dinner/discussion sponsored by the Department of Sociology.

NEWS BITS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

men and women are not detained for seven days without charge when police cannot demonstrate reasonable grounds for suspicion that they have committed or are about to commit a specific offence." (Irish News, 3/7/90)

"Mrs. Thatcher has told Bernie Grant, a black MP, that there is a case for practical assistance to the ANC. It's less than three years since Mrs. Thatcher denounced the ANC as a terrorist organization. She saw it on a par with the IRA and the PLO. What has changed regarding the ANC? Nelson Mandela called for an intensification of the armed struggle. David Beresford in The Guardian quoted President De Klerk as saying that negotiations and reconciliations were the order of the day. He finished up by saying that, in the context of Ireland and the IRA the difference between South Africa and Britain 'is that Britain suffers a Prime Minister who lacks the vision of a South African head of state.' (Irish Post, 3/10/90)

"Unionist councillors are to be among the judges at this year's Dungannon Feis as part of a drive to encourage both sides of the community to take part in an event which until now has been seen as exclusively Catholic. The move follows a recent decision by the Unionist-controlled local council to give grant-aid to the feis." (Irish Post, 3/10/90)

"Because of emigration, altar girls are becoming the norm in Catholic churches in the west of Ireland." (Irish Post, 3/17/90)

**PEC OPENS
LIBRARY & RESEARCH CENTER**

The American Irish Awareness Committee, the sister organization of the PEC, is happy to announce that its American Irish Library and Research Center is now open to the public. The hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday thru Saturday.

The Center is stocked with materials and literature relevant to Ireland and the American Irish.

The Center, which also stocks for sale a large selection of Irish videos and audio cassettes and books, is located adjacent to the PEC's office in Stony Point, New York.

We wish to thank NYS Senator Gene Levy and Assemblyman Sam Colman for their help in winning New York State legislative grants to help fund the founding of this learning center.

Funding for the maintenance of the Center will be derived through the sale of books, videos and cassettes through the *American Irish Newsletter*, walk in sales and donations. We urge all members to purchase their favorite Irish music and books through the Newsletter.

BOOK DONATIONS FOR CENTER

We urge all members who no longer need books and other materials on Irish subjects to consider donating them to the Center. If interested, please send materials to the American Irish PEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 -- (914) 947-2726. We appreciate your support.

BOOKS AND VIDEOS, ETC.

Make checks payable to American Irish Awareness Comm.

IRELAND, A Writer's Island NEW VIDEO

Filmed in Technicolor by Vincent Corcoran, one of Ireland's leading cameramen. *Ireland, A Writer's Island* is a beautiful visual tour of the locations which influenced and inspired some of Ireland's greatest writers. It's an opportunity to see through the eyes of Yeats, Shaw, Joyce, Wilde and many more the rugged beauty of Ireland which has captured the imaginations of this island's artists and writers for centuries.

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BEHIND THE MASK VHS Video

After 20 years of violent conflict in the north of Ireland, this is the first documentary on the IRA as seen through the eyes of its activists. It records on video the opinions and experiences of the men and women who have carried the struggle for Irish independence into the present day.

It aims to examine the personal motivations, actions and sacrifices behind the events of the last 20 years, tracing the common experience of the guerrilla army -- defense of their people, taking up arms, combat, a life 'on-the-run', imprisonment, political education and the constant risk of violent death.

Order # B978 (65 minutes).....\$29.95

ACTION REQUEST #2 - NBC CAMPAIGN

It is important that we continue our letter-writing and education campaign to force *NBC* to end its degradation of the American Irish image. Although there are many offenders, we must not dilute our efforts by going after them all. *(If there are too many letter-writing requests, some members will be deterred from writing and those that do write will probably be selective. The end result will be that each offender will only receive a few letters which will dilute the impact of our efforts. Of course, we are not saying that you should not write when you see an offensive situation. What we are asking is that you make your letter-writing priority the requests we put in the newsletter.)*

NBC and *General Electric*, owners of *NBC*, have not responded to our simple request that it discontinue its offensive productions. *NBC's* latest attack came on St. Patrick's Day, on *Saturday Night Live* which presented a segment on "Irish drinking songs" led off with "nobody gets drunker than the Irish".

Since October 1989 *NBC* has aired at least five episodes of *Hunter*, *Mancuso* and *Golden Girls* that were offensive. The episodes in question suggested that Irish-born nationals and American Irish were committing violent acts in America, even murder, in support of the IRA and that the American Irish are alcohol abusers.

We continue our campaign by asking all members to write to the companies below who are sponsoring advertisers of *Hunter* (*Tylenol* and *Delta Airlines*). We ask that you get family

members, business associates, etc., to do the same. You can draft a form letter along the lines of our sample letter, make copies and have people (those who will not write a letter) sign and address them. Be sure they are returned to you to assure they are mailed. Letters to advertisers will be effective. We also ask that you boycott *NBC* TV & radio whenever possible.

If necessary, in the future we will publish a **Reproduce & Distribute** article on this issue. You will be asked to reproduce it for distribution wherever the American Irish gather.

Write the letter below, preferably in your own words, to: Mr. Michael Casey, President, McNeil Pharmaceutical, Welsh & McKean Roads, Spring House, Pa 19477 which advertises *Tylenol* on *Hunter*, and Mr. Hollis Harris, President, Delta Airlines, Harts Feild Airport, Atlanta, Ga 30320.

Dear _____:

I urge that you discontinue advertising on *NBC's* *Hunter*. Since October 1989, *NBC* has aired at least 5 ethnically offensive episodes of *Hunter*, *Mancuso* and *Golden Girls*. The episodes in question suggested that Irish-born nationals and American Irish are committing violent acts, even murder, in America which are untruths, and that the American Irish are obsessed with alcohol. These false portrayals are very damaging to the American Irish and will lead to discrimination.

Please do not treat my request lightly, as I will boycott your products and services if you continue to advertise on *Hunter*. I will urge my family and friends to do the same.

I look forward to your response on this urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,

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