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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 15, Number 11

November 1990

NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

In its third report, Obair, the Campaign for Employment in West Belfast, accused the British government of using West Belfast as a "political football." The report criticized government policies for West Belfast and pointed out that "special employment and training measures, (now catering to over 31,000 in the North), have become a substitute for jobs," and, in reality, were a way of fiddling the unemployment statistics. It also states that the government's emphasis on small business development and large-scale development of retail outlets, while ignoring the high rate of business failures, was not going to solve any of West Belfast's unemployment problems. Increased shopping facilities should not be equated with improved economic conditions as "these projects create, in the main, part-time, low-paid jobs" (AIN-PEC, 9/90).

Fair Employment Commission Chairman Bob Cooper reported under-representation of Catholics on [town] councils: only 5 Catholics out of 45 senior officers. He stated, "None of these councils made any effort to develop equal opportunities programs and some adopted a very negative response to the recommendations by delaying implementing them until it became their statutory duty to do so." None of them had equal opportunity policies, nor had any of them established monitoring systems, despite the encouragement to do so by the government and the Fair Employment Agency (Irish News 9/6/90). As additional proof that the government means to do little to change discriminatory hiring practices, the FEA could only encourage its councils to adhere to the law....Joe Doherty, imprisoned in the United States for over eight years, even though never convicted of any crime here, told a Manhattan district court that he would not flee because he believed in the US judicial system. He stated, "If I were to go back to face the hangman's rope, I would go back . . . I would pay my own ticket and graciously go back to that place without any malice towards the United States. I have been given a fair shake by the judicial branch of government" (Irish News 9/6/90).

The Irish language group Glor na nGael received "top security clearance" to hold a city center collection from the RUC on the same day that Action Community Employment (ACE) funding for 11 full-time and 8 part-time employees was withdrawn by the Northern Ireland Office for alleged paramilitary links (Irish News 9/5/90). Noirin Ui Clerigh, an official of the group, stated, "We're working with the kids. How the hell can we be paramilitaries?" (Irish News 9/5/90)...."If a member of the public were to accuse Glor na nGael of being linked to paramilitaries, it would be open for anyone involved in running the organization to take legal action for defamation of character. In court, the onus would be on the person who had made the accusation to prove that what he had alleged was true. In

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A RECOMMENDED FILM -- Banned In Britain
by Albert R. Doyle

PEC reps attended an advance showing of the Cannes Film Festival award-winning *Hidden Agenda*. This film, produced by the British company, Hemdale Film Corporation, and directed by Ken Loach, screenplay by Jim Allen, deals with the subject of the Stalker "shoot-to-kill" investigation and the recent revelation of the British security service attempts to discredit the Harold Wilson Labour Government of Britain.

The Thatcher Tory government is attempting to prevent the release of this film in Britain, apparently solely on the grounds that its revelations are embarrassing to Britain (which they are), since the cases reported upon have been widely known for some time. *Hidden Agenda* will be released in the United States shortly (November).

This film is certainly worthwhile and should be seen by all supporters of a united, democratic Ireland.

More important, this picture has the potential to attract the attention of a wider public -- the American of good will who, unfortunately, knows little about the conflict in Ireland and the undemocratic aspects of "the system" there. It is also very entertaining. Although the subject matter of *Hidden Agenda* is political, the presentation is highly professional and the story line -- even though based on actual events -- is attractive for a general audience.

Brian Cox, as the Stalker-like British investigator and Frances McDormand, as the American civil rights activist, are superb.

Please make a special effort to see this film and to promote it in your area.



Pictured from left to right on the occasion of the PEC's 15th Anniversary Testimonial, are John Finucane, PEC National President; honored guest, Police Officer Steven McDonald; Agnes Mallon, Testimonial Chairperson; and honored guest, Dr. Frank Holt. Both Officer McDonald and Dr. Holt were awarded the PEC's Outstanding American Award.

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

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

A Chester, New York member has informed us of an offensive situation involving a greeting card company. Vermont based Oatmeal Studios presently has a line of St. Patrick's Day cards that depict the American Irish as drunken fools of poor moral character. One card depicts a church as a bar. **ALL MEMBERS** are asked to write to: President, Oatmeal Studios, Box 138, Rochester, VT 05767, and urge that they discontinue the production of St. Patrick's Day greeting cards that depict the American Irish as drunken fools and people of poor character. Advise them that both Hallmark and American Greetings have discontinued their offensive cards and that their is no reason why Oatmeal Studios cannot do the same.

A member from San Antonio, Texas has advised us that the

San Antonio News' *Free Cultural Magazine* recently apologized after PEC members in San Antonio protested an article in that publication that labeled American Irish as drunks. **Congratulations to San Antonio!**

A Pennsylvania member informed the PEC that Deborah A. Bern of Employee Guidance Systems of Allentown, alluded that the ancient Irish legend of Leprechauns are in reality deformed children of drunken Irish women. **Ignorance is alive and well!**

New York City member James Leary informs us that Dick Oliver of radio station *WOR* frequently mocks and insults the American Irish image on his program. **Letters of protest** can be sent to: Mr. Richard Buckley, President, *WOR* Radio, 1440 Broadway, New York, NY 10018.

FROM THE EDITOR

In September, the PEC celebrated a significant event -- its 15th Anniversary. Not only have we survived but we have thrived.

During these years we have grown from a 4-member group to a nationwide organization with many thousands of members.

The PEC is forging ahead in making British human rights violations an issue of concern to all Americans. This fact is reflected in the membership of our organization which is made up of people from many different ethnic and religious backgrounds.

The PEC, once a part-time operation from the basement of a house, is today a full-time, six-day-week office operation, with a library and research center which are open to the public.

We are blessed with many determined and talented officers who take on leadership roles and who deliver our message across the entire United States and beyond. These officers, together with the support and active participation of our members, have made the PEC an organization to be reckoned with.

We are the prime movers in initiating and supporting the MacBride Principles campaign and have played a significant role in many other issues including the freeing of Joe Doherty. We have helped considerably in educating the American public on Irish and American Irish issues.

The PEC introduced to American Irish activists the concept of grassroots lobbying (letter writing, educating the public and urging members to meet with their Congressional representatives) -- working through the American democratic process.

We take modest pride in the fact that we maintain the largest national and best organized, action/education network.

The PEC is the only organization with a national, ongoing campaign against the negative stereotyping of the American Irish. And we have chalked up a number of successes including the decisions by Hallmark and American Greetings to discontinue the production of offensive St. Patrick's Day greeting cards which depict the American Irish as silly, drunken fools.

We are very much aware of the fact that none of this could have happened without the support and participation of our members. Our members are the PEC.

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

National President.....John J. Finucane
Vice-President.....Albert Doyle
Treasurer.....Margaret Ferris
Recording Secretary.....Kathy Regan
Financial Secretary.....Tom Sheridan

American Irish Newsletter

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA!

Why not enroll someone in the American Irish PEC? Give them the gift of KNOWLEDGE -- the American Irish Newsletter.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND ECONOMY

by Gerry Wilson, *Derry, Northern Ireland*

In a recent review of the Northern Ireland Economy, "Commercial and Industrial Review 89/90", printed by *The Irish News* in March 1990, readers were treated to headlines proclaiming: "City Centre Heads for New Heights"; "Impressive Innovation Programme"; "Developers Are Finding North's Positive Image". Belfast, by all accounts, "Is Buzzing"; in Derry "There's Something Special in the Air"; Larne, too, is on the Up and Up. It's all happening in the North, and nowhere is there the slightest hint of gloom and doom.

Strange, really, because it does not seem so long ago that we were in the grip of economic recession with the highest level of unemployment in northern Europe, among the lowest paid workers in Europe, and with the highest cost of living in the United Kingdom.

Particularly in Derry, economic regeneration is represented by the new EC-backed Euro Centre West, by 12 million pounds for new port development (EC-backed), by new development at Eglinton Airport (EC-backed), by new International Hotel, and by a new Shopping Centre (Boston Ventures-backed). Along with these we have a new Image to project in song, slogan, and promotional video. The city center has been pedestrianized, the historic wall cleaned up for the tourists, and new street furniture placed where once there were barricades. The signs are encouraging and the changes which have taken place are to be welcomed, although many would argue that the change is largely cosmetic.

Although public money has been spent, there is very little that is "special in the air" for the ordinary citizens--especially those living in the large public housing estates that surround the city center.

The official unemployment figure presented by the Department of Economic Development in March 1990 stood at 14 percent, or 97,593 unemployed persons. As bad as that figure is, it is not a true picture of unemployment levels in the north of Ireland.

Since 1979, there have been 31 changes in the method of calculating the official unemployment count. Almost all of these changes have had the effect of reducing the numbers on the unemployment register. Unemployment levels based on the pre-1982 method of counting would give a figure of 20.7 percent or 151,000 persons unemployed. How is this achieved? The total unemployed is based on a percentage of the workforce which before 1988 included the sum of the employed, the unemployed, the self-employed, and the armed forces. After 1988, those taking part in government job creation schemes were removed from the unemployment count and added to the employed count, thereby expanding the working population denominator and reducing the unemployment figure. In addition, since 1982, only those able to claim unemployment benefit in their own right are entitled to register as unemployed, thus a high percentage of married women were removed from the official count. Similarly, in September 1988, unemployment was abolished for 16 to 18-year-olds simply by removing their entitlement to benefit. These are now "guaranteed places" on Youth Training Schemes and are a population of non-statistics. More recently, the 1989 Social Security Act removed 50,000

TO THE EDITOR

I am an American Methodist who recently visited Belfast. Monday, August 13, I walked up Springfield Road to see where Mr. John Judge (a Catholic man and father of four) had been murdered. He was the second victim of Loyalist gangs that exist in that area within the past six months. The Ulster News had consistently reported "increased security" in the area and showed films of police (RUC) checking trunks of cars at a roadblock during every newsbreak.

I did not find British patrols, roadblocks or RUC checking trunks of cars at roadblocks in the area as the Ulster News reported. Amazed by this, I crossed Lanark Way to Shankill Road and continued down toward center city Belfast. Here again I found no security forces. Lanark Way is the route used by the [Loyalist] gun men coming and going from the killings, where night security does not exist.

I felt angry because the media was misrepresenting the facts. There were no security forces in the area at all. Another murder could have taken place in broad day light. The residents near Lanark Way were left unprotected and have asked repeatedly for some form of protection. Tuesday August 14, I returned to Lanark Way with my full size VHS video camera. I filmed the entire walk from Lanark Way, down the Shankill to center city. Not once was I stopped or questioned about my camera equipment or presence in this area.

It was not until I returned to the Falls Road [Nationalist area] that I encountered a roadblock. Logic would dictate that such a roadblock was much more needed on Lanark Way. I have proof of the facts that I have stated here in the video tape made on August 14.

I have written this letter with the sincere hope that it will prompt the authorities to ensure the safety of the community around Lanark Way.

**OUR ACTION REQUEST PROGRAM IS THE
BACKBONE OF OUR ACTION NETWORK.
WON'T YOU BE A LETTER WRITER?**

unemployment claimants in the United Kingdom who were deemed not to be "actively seeking work".

In just ten years, the numbers on training and temporary employment schemes has trebled to stand at 34,000 persons no longer included in the unemployed count.

Registered unemployment would be even higher if it were not for the fact that many people are forced to emigrate each year to find work abroad. No official figures are kept on emigration trends, however, NIERC (1990) reports that an average of 6,000 people (0.6% of the workforce) leave Northern Ireland each year, although some estimates put the figure at an average of 10,000 each year.

It would appear that our local economy, which has the highest birth rate in Europe, cannot sustain the size of the potential workforce.

So to get "Back to the Future", as it were, the hype in the media regarding the economy of Northern Ireland has to be seen against the back-drop of harsh economic realities. The power of "positive thinking" or "positive imaging" is all very well, but we must not ignore the reality of poverty, low pay, unemployment regulations and the lack of real jobs.

THE IRISH IN NORTH CAROLINA

by Margaret E. Fitzgerald, PH.D, Genealogist

North Carolina was part of the whole Carolina grant for which the English proprietors received a charter in 1663. The southern section had settlers from Barbados and the West Indies, to which the English sent so many Irish as slaves. The northern section was settled by immigrants from Virginia, mostly Quakers and Dissenters who had taken up residence even before the charter. However, many Irish settled in the northern area from the very beginning.

Irish names appear on all colonial records of North Carolina. By the time of the 1790 census there were 72 heads of family named Murphy and 38 named Sullivan. Other frequently appearing Irish names were Burke, Ryan, McGuire, McCarthy, O'Brien, O'Quinn, O'Connor, and O'Leary. The O's and Mc's were usually dropped and there were variant spellings such as Pitch, Patrick, Ogwin, Lary, Lurry, Murphew, and Maccartie.

The Irish were the most numerous of indentured servants brought from overseas to serve from 7 to 21 years. They were also the most numerous group seized by the local colonial authorities and indentured on the grounds that they were orphans, debtors, vagrants, or runaways from other colonies. Many escaped and fled to the western mountains far from seats of government. They were helped by Irish trappers and traders already in Appalachia. Irish Catholic fugitives joined Irish Protestant pioneers on a frontier where the problems of basic survival put religious antagonisms in the background. The influence of these early Irish settlers in western North Carolina can be seen in the music and customs of their descendants.

Other bondsmen served their terms and applied for land grants. The land, probate, and jury records for the 18th century indicate the great number of Irish who were respected freemen, whether they came voluntarily or in chains. Some North Carolina leaders born in Ireland were Arthur Dobbs, provincial governor; John Starkey, treasurer; Hugh Waddell, commander of the colonial militia; James Connor, Thomas Maguire, William Murphee, William and John Leary, all prominent members of the colonial assembly; Cornelius Hartnett, wealthy merchant and delegate to the Continental Congress.

During the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, North Carolina provided Irish Brigades. Rowan, Murfreesboro, and other towns and counties were named for Irish war heroes. Two North Carolina born presidents were Irish: James Polk whose 3rd great-grandfather was Captain Robert Pollack from Donegal, and Andrew Johnson whose mother was Mary McDonough. Andrew Jackson, whose parents emigrated from County Antrim, was born in South Carolina, but studied law and was admitted to the bar in North Carolina. He continued his career in the western district of North Carolina, comprising what is now Tennessee.

Although religion and nationality are not synonymous, there is some relationship between loss of faith and language and loss of national identity. As Irishness became equated with Catholicism and as the Irish Catholic became despised as a "Paddy," natives of the Tar Heel State began to deny their roots. A Maguire called himself Scotch-Irish and a Sullivan called himself Anglo-Saxon. The Murphy brothers, active Baptist ministers and preachers, were called Anglo-Saxon in church

records.

The English colonial charters of North Carolina specifically excluded Catholics and directed the proprietors to set up the Established Church of England. The planters lagged since they were loath to tax themselves to pay ministers. Though the state constitution of 1776 decreed that there would be no established religion, it also decreed that all office holders must be Protestant. Despite the law, Catholic Thomas Burke, born in Galway, was a delegate to the Continental Congress and the first state governor. His cousin, Aedeus Burke, served in both Carolina legislatures. Colonial North Carolina had only rarely enforced penal laws against Catholics and, since there was not a single priest south of Maryland, the Protestants did not see the Burkes as flaunting their religion.

However, as the seeds of Nativism and Know-Nothingism spread in the United States, the nomination of Thomas Gaston to the state supreme court was contested. Gaston, son of a Catholic mother and Irish Presbyterian father, was the first student at Georgetown College and graduated with highest honors from the College of New Jersey at Princetown. He served in various offices without challenge until 1833 when he was told that he was ineligible for office since the North Carolina constitution said that no person "who shall deny . . . the truths of the Protestant religion . . . shall be capable of holding any office."

Gaston argued that neither he nor any Catholic denied any truth of the Protestant religion. Eminent jurists decided in his favor and he was elected in 1833. In 1835 he proposed that the article on religious qualifications be deleted from the new constitution, but his impassioned pleas to the legislature were not heeded. He did succeed in having the word "Christian" substituted for "Protestant," but this was sort of a string for good behavior since Catholics and Jews almost always had been "tolerated."

James Gibbons, son of Irish immigrants and future cardinal, was assigned prefect-apostolic of the North Carolina mission in 1867. He found many Irish but few Catholics. Also, he found negligible consciousness of heritage among those whose forebears had been Irish Catholics or Irish Protestants.

North Carolina had no significant immigration of Irish in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Recently there has been an influx of northerners, including Irish Americans who brought with them an assertion of their cultural and religious heritage that seemed to evoke response in the once-long-ago Irish of the Old North State. In the 1980 census, 20% indicated Irish as a specific ancestry and North Carolina ranked 13th among the states in number responding Irish or Irish and another ancestry.

As the work of such groups as the American Irish Political Education Committee spreads, there will surely be a rise in ethnic consciousness. North Carolina will see the flourishing of pride in Irish roots, and, in accord with the state motto *Esse Quam Videri* (to be rather than to seem), the Irish Americans will take an active interest in conditions in the country from which their ancestors went into exile.

USE THE PEC TELEPHONE HOTLINE

(914) 429-7849

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF IN NORTHWEST

In Washington State, the *Americans for MacBride* have been formed to promote state, federal and local MacBride Principles legislation. The *Americans For MacBride* will solicit the help of other organizations (labor, fraternal, ethnic, etc.). This large diversified group, made up of people of various ethnic and religious backgrounds, will also serve to educate the general public about British human and civil rights violations in Northern Ireland. The Washington campaign has received the support of US Senator Brock Adams and Spokane Mayor Sheri Barnard. Through the offices of the Irish American Labor Coalition, labor support is also being organized.

To help kick-off the campaign, PEC National President John Finucane traveled to Washington to address a luncheon in Spokane on September 14, which was arranged by Andy Kelly, PEC State Director (retired Air Force colonel and former Chairman of the Board at Eastern Washington University). On September 16 Finucane addressed a general meeting in Poulsbo (Seattle area), which was arranged by PEC rep Rita Hagwell (school teacher and member of the Washington Education Association). This meeting was co-sponsored by the American Irish Society which is headed by Mr. Peter Duffy.

Attendees at the meetings included many prominent citizens: Spokane Mayor Sheri Barnard, staff members from US Senator Brock Adam's office, the President of Gonzaga University staff, the United States Attorney's office, and the State House and MacBride Principles activists from Canada.

At the gatherings Finucane explained the need for the MacBride Principles, the ways and means to implement them to the best advantage via business and political means, and provided suggestions as to how to organize a campaign. He also explained that they are not alone in their efforts, but rather, they are part of a national movement of Americans.

Mr. Kelly has already lined up sponsors (Democrat and Republican) for MacBride Principles legislation in both the State House of Representatives and State Senate.

Finucane urged the members to solicit resolutions of support for the Principles from city councils, town councils and other organizations (labor, religious, fraternal, etc.). This kind of grassroots support, he said, is critical to the success of state and federal legislation and provides activists further opportunities to educate the public. He also stressed the importance of members contacting their own state legislators to urge that they co-sponsor the Bill.

In the words of Andy Kelly and Rita Hagwell, "We have taken the most important step, we have begun the MacBride Principles Campaign in Washington State."

PEC members in Washington are urged to lend their support and/or active participation to this campaign. For information contact your PEC reps Andy Kelly (509) 747-7431, Rita Hagwell, 19301 Viking Way, Poulsbo, WA 98370 or Marianne Blumhoff (206) 243-8834. Your help is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

RAFFLE WINNERS

We are happy to announce the following winners of our raffle which took place on September 29 on the occasion of the PEC's 15th Anniversary Testimonial.

The winner of the two tickets to Ireland was: **Mary Brennan Staten Island, New York.**

Winners of the five \$100 consolation prizes were: **Leo A. Sweeney, Crestwood, New York, who donated his prize to the PEC;** J V Craven, Middlebury, Vermont; Patrick Murphy, Pearl River, New York; L. Redmond, Belvidere, New Jersey; and Gerry Hynes, Bronx, New York.

We thank all who supported our raffle.

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CAMPAIGNS ARE UNDERWAY OR PLANNED IN MANY STATES.

Below we list some of those states:

MISSOURI INDIANA COLORADO
OHIO TEXAS WISCONSIN
MONTANA PENNSYLVANIA
VIRGINIA CALIFORNIA NEBRASKA

IF YOUR STATE IS NOT LISTED, AND THERE IS A CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY OR PLANNED, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORGANIZE A NEW CAMPAIGN FOR YOUR STATE OR CITY, PLEASE CONTACT TOM O'FLAHERTY, PEC NATIONAL MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CONSULTANT, AT (603) 528-5733 NIGHTS, OR THE PEC NATIONAL OFFICE, AT (914) 947-2726 DAYS.



Pictured above are MacBride Principles Campaign organizers from western Washington and Canada. The meeting took place in Poulsbo, Washington on September 16. On September 14 Campaign organizers from the eastern area of the state met in Spokane.

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES RESOLUTION

For use by City and Town governments and Organizations

The MacBride Principles Campaign Of Fair Employment For Northern Ireland is more important now than ever. As you are aware Britain's new fair employment legislation is grossly inadequate according to Britain's Labour Party, Dr. Christopher McCrudden, one of Europe's foremost anti-discrimination experts, and the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Trust.

To continue to expand the success of the MacBride Campaign and to insure its success at the federal level, and at the state level if your state has not already adopted the MacBride Principles, we must win broad American grassroots support. The states that have adopted MacBride are: Minnesota, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Florida, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Illinois.

To help generate that grassroots support, we reproduce below, a sample resolution for use by legislative bodies, organizations, etc. Members are urged to contact their local legislators (city and town governments), representatives of groups (labor, political parties, religious and human rights groups, student bodies, etc.) and ask that their organizations adopt a similar resolution. It is important that you solicit support from outside the American Irish community as the MacBride is an American issue.

It is most important that copies of all adopted resolutions be sent to your US Senators and appropriate Congressman. If your state has not yet adopted MacBride legislation, copies should also be sent to your State Representatives and Senators. Also send copies to Speaker of the House, Tom Foley, US Senate Majority Leader, George Mitchell, and the American Irish PEC.

The resolution below can be adopted for both government bodies and citizens organizations.

Sample Resolution

WHEREAS, the (name of city, town, organization, etc.) supports human rights and the right of all people to equal employment opportunity;

WHEREAS, employment discrimination in Northern Ireland has been cited by the International Commission of Jurists as being one of the major causes of the conflict in that area;

WHEREAS, Dr. Sean MacBride, co-founder of Amnesty International and Nobel and Lenin Peace laureate, has proposed several equal opportunity employment principles to serve as guidelines for American corporations in Northern Ireland. These include:

1. Increasing the representation of individuals from underrepresented religious groups in the workforce including managerial, supervisory, administrative, clerical and technical jobs;

2. Adequate security for the protection of minority

employees both at the workplace and while traveling to and from work;

3. The banning of provocative religious or political emblems from the workplace;

4. All job openings should be publicly advertised and special recruitment efforts should be made to attract applicants from underrepresented religious groups;

5. Layoff, recall, and termination procedures should not in practice, favor particular religious groupings;

6. The abolition of job reservations, apprenticeship restrictions, and differential employment criteria, which discriminate on the basis of religion or ethnic origin;

7. The development of training programs that will prepare substantial numbers of current minority employees for skilled jobs, including the expansion of existing programs and the creation of new programs to train, upgrade, and improve the skills of minority employees;

8. The establishment of procedures to assess, identify and actively recruit minority employees with potential for further advancement; and

9. The appointment of a senior management staff member to oversee the company's affirmative action efforts and the setting up of timetables to carry out equal opportunity principles.

RESOLVED: that the (name of city, town or organization) endorses the MacBride Principles For Fair Employment in Northern Ireland on (give date);

RESOLVED: that the (name of city, town or organization) supports adoption of proposed federal MacBride Principles legislation sponsored by Congressman Hamilton Fish and Senators AID'Amato and Frank Lautenberg, and (the bill #s of legislation pending in your state).

RESOLVED: Copies of this resolution will be sent to the appropriate federal and state representatives.

NOTE: Please forward copy of resolution to American Irish PEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980.

Support Materials

. A 30 minute VHS video by Oliver Kearney, Executive Director of the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Trust: includes important background on discrimination in Northern Ireland, his own experiences, and suggestions on how to help. *Included with the video are MacBride Principles brochures. Price \$9.95.*

. MacBride Principles *ThinkAbout It* brochures: quality printed \$.10 ea., photostatic copies \$.05 ea.

. A 7 page overview on the MacBride Principles that includes important background information at \$1.

To order send check or money order payable to American Irish PEC at Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 - Phone# (914) 947-2726.

NEWS BITS continued from page 1

this case, it is the government which has made the decision and it is presumably out of the question to give any evidence 'for security reasons.' Glor na nGael has been tried and sentenced in secret session by unnamed, unelected officials without even being informed that it was on trial. The Hurd ruling on paramilitary links is a potent weapon. It could be used to close down almost any organization, school, church, etc. As long as no reasons have to be given, and no evidence published, the mandarins of Stormont can do exactly what they want, unfettered by the principles of justice and the rule of law" (Irish News, 8/31/90)....The RUC defended its decision to allow Glor na nGael to hold a city center collection by stating, "As the objective of the charity is the advancement of education, it is in accordance with the relevant legislation and within police guidelines; the application was granted" (Irish News 9/6/90). Despite its withdrawal of funds, the Northern Ireland Office has placed Glor na nGael offices in Belfast on an official itinerary for a visiting European delegation (Irish News 9/10/90)....Over two hundred Republican prisoners participated in a sponsored run to raise funds for Irish-medium education in the north. Prisoners run laps of the prison exercise yard and family and friends pledge money according to the distance covered. This year, Joe Doherty ran around the roof of the Manhattan Correctional Center as a participant in the fundraiser (AIN-PEC).

250 RUC and UDR men carried out a major operation in which nearly 30 homes in Pomeroy (Tyrone) were searched. Father Joe McVeigh said that the people of Castlederg (Fermanagh) are being subjected to a daily ritual of abuse from RUC and UDR patrols. He stated, "This sort of behavior is immoral and unacceptable, and I think the Bishop of Derry should condemn such activity in the strongest possible terms" (Irish News 9/6/90). These actions, taken with the denial of funding to Glor na nGael, demonstrate government policy to brand nationalists as the "terrorist community."

246 people from the Republic of Ireland are barred from entering the United States. Gerry Adams holds an Irish passport and has not been allowed to enter the United States, but his name is not on the list of 246. He is listed among the 4,431 UK residents prohibited from traveling to the United States (Irish News 8/8/90).

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ARE THEY REALLY SPEAKING OUT?

by Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts State Director*

In recent months we in the United States have witnessed much national and local media attention aimed at the words and actions of Irish rock stars who have gained superstar status in the U. S. music scene. Most recently, singers Sinead O'Connor and Bob Geldof created much controversy and ire among Americans through their statements. These two Dubliners are considered the two most socially aware rock performers today by many in the music industry. Dublin's U2 also has used its mega-fame to expose its political and social concerns.

However, despite having the attention of the world media and millions of fans, these Irish superstars refuse to speak out about the fact of British oppression in the northeast corner of Ireland. Sinead O'Connor made some comments about the situation, but neglects to mention the subject on U.S. TV interviews or at award ceremonies. U2's lead singer, Bono, praised the British line on Ireland several times.

Recently in New York City, Bob Geldoff, who accepted a knighthood from the Queen of England, lashed out at all Americans of Irish heritage who want an end to British tyranny in Ireland. Geldoff claimed that England is morally correct concerning Ireland and that the American Irish have no right to speak about the issue. He even claimed that we American Irish are not even Irish. This is strange, coming from a man who's roots in Ireland only go back two generations when his grandparents came to Dublin from Eastern Europe. Most American Irish roots in Ireland go back many centuries.

These self-described speakers of free speech and human rights lack the moral courage to utter a sound about the Thatcher policies of armed force and bigotry to keep Irish people, just 100 miles north of Dublin, permanently in the underclass. Are they afraid of alienating the London music industry or the Anglo-oriented U.S. media? In reality these stars are a modern version of the "stage paddy" who plays into English hands and who never says anything offensive towards the British.

The late Sean MacBride's opinion that many Irish who reach high positions do not speak out about Ireland only because they have a "slave mentality" towards the British is true. Sinead O'Connor has a hit record here on the U.S. charts called "The Emperor's New Clothes." That statement could easily describe the hypocrisy of the Irish musical superstars who are outspoken on every issue but the Irish one.

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ACTION REQUEST #1 by John Schell, Maryland

The August 1990 Newsletter asked members to write to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) regarding injustices against the Nationalist minority in Northern Ireland. In their response, CPB stated, "CPB receives federal appropriations...The corporation also supports *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*, public television's alternative to the network news, which has aired segments on Northern Ireland during its 1989 and 1990 seasons."

We must elevate our campaign relative to the publicly funded broadcasting organizations. We must gather information on the amount of time devoted by *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour* regarding the human and civil rights issues. Since CPB receives our tax money and subsequently supports *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*, we shall write to a Congressional subcommittee which holds annual appropriation hearings on the CPB. This action will continue to raise the visibility of our concerns among the publicly funded broadcasting organizations and it will further educate members of Congress about the issues.

All members are asked to write to: Hon. Edward J. Markey, Chairperson, House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. Use our letter below as a guide. You are also asked to write to your Congressional representative at the same address, if their name is listed below. The names below are the members of the House Sub Committee on Telecommunications and Finance. Let us all continue to work together as a team.

Dear Mr. Markey:

I am deeply concerned about the many reports of serious human and civil rights violations against the minority population in Northern Ireland. I want these issues exposed and analysed by the publicly funded broadcasting organizations.

Members of the American Irish PEC have written to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). CPB's response indicates they receive federal appropriations and that these funds are used in part to support *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*.

I respectfully ask you to provide me the dates and the amount of air time *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour* provided since 1988 on the following human and civil rights issues: The MacBride Principles campaign in the US; the Stevens Investigation into collusion between security forces and loyalist groups; the Stalker Investigation into a possible "shoot-to-kill" policy; the Diplock Courts; plastic bullets and the Birmingham Six. I look forward to your response on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Al Swift, D-MA | James Scheuer, D-NY |
| Cardiss Collins, D-IL | John D Dingell, D-MI |
| Mike Synar, D-OK | Matthew J Rinaldo, R-NJ |
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