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American Irish Newsletter - August 1989

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 14, Number 8

August 1989

URGENT APPEAL TO US CONGRESS, NEWS MEDIA & PEC MEMBERS

What are you doing about the Administration's efforts to subvert our system of justice in the case of Joseph Doherty? He has been held in prison in New York City for over six years without charge at the request of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Remember! The British merchant marine fleet delivered more supplies to North Vietnam during the Vietnam War than any other nation, second only to Russia - 55,000 American boys died there. Remember! It was a British company with close ties to Prime Minister Thatcher that constructed the air strip in Grenada that prompted an American invasion - 15 American boys died there. Remember! Irish nationalists never harmed our country or its citizens.

US CONGRESS - Protest the Thornburgh decision; demand that the Administration accept the decisions of our courts and co-sponsor House Resolution #62, sponsored by Congressman Thomas Manton. **NEWS MEDIA** - Make an issue of this injustice. **PEC MEMBERS** - Write to President George Bush (The White House, Washington, DC 20500) expressing your outrage over the Thornburgh decision and urge that he abide by the decisions of the US Courts in the case of Joe Doherty. Also, contact your US Senators and Congressman (at their local office) protesting the Thornburgh decision and request that they co-sponsor House Resolution 62 sponsored by Congressman Thomas Manton. Listed below are the members of the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs who have not signed House Resolution #62.

Douglas Applegate (D-Ohio)
Chester G. Atkins (D-Mass)
Jim Bates (D-Cal)
Howard Berman (D-Cal)
Joseph E. Brennan (D-Maine)
George E. Brown, Jr (D-Cal)
Beverly B. Byron (D-MD)
Thomas R. Carper (D-Del)
William L. Clay (D-Missouri)
Silvio O. Conte (R-Mass)
John Conyers, Jr (D-Mich)
Jerry F. Costello (D-Illinois)
Lawrence Coughlin (R-PA)
William J. Coyne (D-PA)

Bernard J. Dwyer (D-NJ)
Edward F. Feighan (D-Ohio)
Floyd Flake (D-NY) *
Barney Frank (D-Mass)
Robert Garcia (D-NY)
Joseph M. Gaydos (D-PA)
William H. Gray, III (D-PA)
Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Cal)
Frank Horton (R-NY)
William J. Hughes (D-NJ)
Paul E. Kanjorski (D-PA)
Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio)
Joseph P. Kennedy (D-Mass)
Peter H. Kostmayer (D-PA)
John J. LaFalce (D-NY)
Thomas Lantos (D-Cal)
Jerry Lewis (R-Cal)
Edward R. Madigan (R-Illinois)
Edward J. Markey (D-Mass)

David O'B Martin (R-NY)
Matthew G. Martinez (D-Cal)
Joseph M. McDade (R-PA)
Matthew F. McHugh (D-NY)
George Miller (D-Cal)
Norman Y. Mineta (D-Cal)
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John P. Murtha, Jr (D-PA)
Mary Rose Oakar (D-Ohio) *
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Nick J. Rahall, Jr (D-W VA)
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Charles E. Schumer (D-NY)
E. Clay Shaw, Jr (R-Florida)
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Louis Stokes (D-Ohio)
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Robert Lindsay Thomas (D-Ga)
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Bruce F. Vento (D-Minn)
Doug Walgren (D-Pa)
Pat Williams (D-Montana)
Howard Wolpe (D-Michigan)
Gus Yatron (D-Pa)
Pat Schroeder (D-Colorado)

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE APPEARS
ON PAGE 6 JUST BELOW YOUR ADDRESS
LABEL.**

NEWS BITS

by Kathy Regan

Three college students visiting the US from Northern Ireland were asked if any changes had resulted from the Anglo-Irish Accord. They noted only two changes: more Catholics were being shot and it was no longer illegal to fly the tricolor (Irish flag). (AIN-PEC)...Twelve hours of documentaries are being prepared to commemorate Mrs. Thatcher's tenth anniversary in office. Among them will be examinations of: "Thatcher's Children", the generation that has known no other prime minister; the labor movement under Thatcher; and the future of Thatcherism. (The Wall Street Journal, 4/28/89) If one were to apply the same ideas to Ireland, one would have: "Thatcher's Children", the generation that has known no peace; labor under Thatcher, continuous and increasing unemployment and discrimination; and, the future under Thatcher, additional infringement of human and civil rights.

"The arrest [in England] of three...Irish brothers was sensationally reported by the tabloids in the context of Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing. They were released sixty hours later, having been charged with nothing. The release merited nothing but a few lines in the same newspapers, although their respective homes were vandalized by police. Even their neighbors were evacuated--some at gunpoint...They were released without explanation or apology. All the chief officer could offer was, "Due to the circumstances surrounding the arrest and the nationality of the people involved, it was decided to treat the incident as potentially subversive." The incident in question happened to be nothing more than an altercation with a traffic warden. "Nationality" is the key word in that statement. The brothers were Irish and that was enough". (Irish Post, 6/17/89)...The European Parliament approved, without any amendments, a report by Labour MEP Christine Crawley urging that EC-member states stop strip searching and also recommending a wide range of proposals to ensure that the human rights of women prisoners in Ireland, Britain, and elsewhere are not violated. (Irish Post, 6/17/89)

Four Northern Ireland cases have been cited in a United Nations report dealing with complaints of ill-treatment while in police custody...The Fair Employment Agency [FEA] announced that it will be seeking the recruitment of more Protestants to its workforce after a report showed an imbalance in its operation staff...Kevin McNamara [member of Parliament] called advertisements for posts with the FEA, which indicated that applications from Protestants would be particularly welcome, unlawful. The government, however, defended their use (Just News, Northern Ireland Civil Liberties Council, March/April 1989)

In the United States, integration of schools is generally normal, and the Catholic Church has supported equal education for all. In Northern Ireland, however, integration of schools, along religious lines rather than racial lines, is not so

Continued on page 2

* executive members of the Ad Hoc Committee

FROM THE EDITOR by John J. Finucane

Joe Doherty remains a political prisoner of the Bush Administration because of American Irish complacency, our failure to organize as a powerful political influence, and the fact that most of us, including our members, just won't write letters. We don't have political influence. This is the reason Britain remains in Ireland today. You can be sure that most foreign policy decisions made by our government are effected by influence and public opinion. It was public opinion that brought about the turn-around by our government regarding South Africa. Our elected officials and their party's leadership are more concerned with votes than they are with issues. Remember! They are only human and, generally speaking, will react to protect their own interests, their political careers.

The British government remains a major influence in Washington, DC simply because we American Irish are not yet organized and influential enough to counter them. I was told this by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Kissinger did not say that our government supports Britain because her position in Ireland is right. It is strictly a matter of influence when it comes to British presence in Ireland. Slowly, but surely, we are building our influence in the nation's capital. Think about it - 3 million voters out of 43 million American Irish writing just 10 letters each a year = 30,000,000 letters; 3 million American Irish donating just 100 dollars a year = \$300,000,000 - that's political and economic influence. Such funds could be used to establish a professional public relations and lobbying effort in Washington and elsewhere and to conduct massive membership-by-mail campaigns.

You can help build this influence by: becoming a letter writer; sending a generous donation in response to our next fund-raising appeal; and by recruiting a new member for the PEC.

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

National President.....John J. Finucane
 Vice-President.....Albert Doyle
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 Recording Secretary.....Kathy Regan
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National Headquarters: Malloy Building
 Stony Point, N.Y. 10980, (914) 947-2726

WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Dr. Roger Mc Grath, 1311 Rancho Lane, Thousand Oaks, CALIFORNIA 91362-(805) 497-6407.

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LABOR LIASON: 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, 20 Court Street, New Haven CONNECTICUT, 06510-(203)789-0070

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The PEC Telephone Hotline will give preference to Joe Doherty's case for the near future. It is URGENT that you use the Hotline. The final decision on Joe Doherty which may come very soon, will depend a lot on public opinion. Your letters through the Hotline will make a difference. Give the number to all concerned and distribute at meetings - (914) 429-7849.

**CONGRESSWOMAN PAT SCHOREDER
 APOLOGIZES**

In the last issue of the *American Irish Newsletter* we asked you to write to Congresswoman Pat Schroeder to protest her remark recently on the Larry King Show (CNN-TV). We are happy to announce that the Congresswoman has apologized to our members who contacted her and directly to the American Irish PEC. Her apology addressed to John Finucane, National President, is as follows: "I understand that the July 1989 American Irish Newsletter made reference to an unfortunate and inadvertent remark I made several weeks ago. I want to share with you the apology I made to people who wrote to me about the matter: 'You are right. It was a stupid thing to say, I regret saying it, and I apologize for any offense I have caused...'"

Our campaign to Hallmark and Recycled Paper Products continues. We are happy to announce that many influential bodies have joined in including "Morality in the Media". We will soon commence a large scale campaign which is sure to intensify the pressure.

Be sure to use the PEC Telephone Hotline (914) 429-7849.

News Bits continued from page 1

easily accepted. Catholic Church opposition was evidenced by a bishop's refusal to confirm Catholic children attending state [public] schools. In 1981, Lagan College was founded as an alternative to segregated schools. "[This school] and the movement for integrated education provoked strong reactions. Charges of pro-ecumenism have come from both Protestant and Catholic clergy, and among Catholic clergy there is the fear of losing control of their own parochial schools. 'At the extreme end,' says Noel MacAdam, education writer for the Belfast Telegraph, 'some individual priests have said that Catholic children who go to integrated schools would no longer be Catholics.'" (Insight, 6/5/89)

During the 'Freedom of Information' conference in London, recently opened by Margaret Thatcher, Warsaw Pact states were criticized for not having complete press and broadcasting freedom. Ironically, this criticism came from the British and Irish governments which currently impose undemocratic censorship restrictions aimed at gagging legitimate nationalist demands for British withdrawal from Northern Ireland and self-determination for the Irish people as a whole...The Creggan area of Derry was recently the scene of search-and-seal operations during which the main arteries into the area were sealed off and extensive damage was done to private homes. The elderly were stopped and forced to remove their coats, school children were ordered to empty their pockets, and workmen were told to take off their shoes in the street. The pretext of such actions was a weapons search (In children's pockets? In workmen's shoes?)...Margaret Thatcher's astounding hypocrisy was once again displayed during her visit to Morocco. In a sanctimonious lecture to King Hussein on the subject of political dialogue, she declared, "Nothing was ever lost by exploring the views of one's opponents...that is an example Israel can learn." It is also an example England can learn but, in order to do that, censorship laws would have to be repealed and all legitimate representatives of the people would have to be invited to participate in such exchanges. There is little likelihood of that happening under Mrs. Thatcher's government. (AIN-PEC)

FROM THE NORTH

by Fr. Des Wilson, Belfast Correspondent

A series of meetings organized by groups such as Time to Go, Troops Out and others, took place this June in Britain.

The themes of all of these meetings were similar: That British public opinion has recently increased pressure on the government. One of the reasons for this pressure is that the British Labor Party has among its members some who firmly believe that their interests and the interests of the Irish people are the same: the erosion of freedom has reached such a dangerous level that all are facing the same possibility of a one party police state. There always have been people in Britain who had a conscience and goodwill towards Ireland. They have been mobilizing public opinion both inside and outside the Labor Party and some of the trade unions.

At one meeting in Manchester, a lawyer showed how the Prevention of Terrorism Act was being used ruthlessly and would be used more and more against ethnic and other minorities in Britain. The Irish, he said, were simply the convenient marginalized people on whose backs such legislation could be built up. It appears more and more clearly that what has been done against the Irish in Ireland is not only a matter of colonial arrogance and greed, but also a matter of ensuring that all necessary repressive laws and procedures will be ready at home when required. The Thatcher government will breed its own discontents.

In June and July there will be meetings, conferences, demonstrations, and discussions in Britain. The British Labor Party will be urged to adopt a more realistic attitude to the British government's activities in Ireland. It seems that even the British government itself realizes that the game is up, for it is now setting in place the political successors it would hope to have in any soon-to-be-abandoned territory: the Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP) is being elevated to the status of a progressive, moderate, dependable sharer of power; the

Catholic Church is being given control not only of 50 percent of education at primary and secondary levels, but also vast (by Irish standards) sums of money with which to control whatever economic activity there may be in West Belfast and other impoverished nationalist areas; loyalists and unionists are being brought to heel by economic sanctions--that is, by the threat of privatization of Belfast Shipyard and sackings at Short; and the enormous sum of nearly 800 million pounds is cheerfully paid out to enable Bombardier to buy Shorts while 40,000 pounds is refused to native enterprise in Belfast in which people are creating their own work.

When the British government leaves, as leave it must, it will leave behind a subservient and dependent nationalist party and an equally dependent church. It will also, in all probability, try to leave behind a civil war. From this, it follows that public opinion internal to the British state must ensure withdrawal, while public opinion internationally must ensure that such withdrawal is not done in such a way as to create chaos in Ireland. (Ed. Note: How reunification without civil war can be accomplished is spelled out in *Northern Ireland: The Political Economy of Conflict* by Bob Rowthorn & Naomi Wayne available through the PEC \$22.95 + \$2.50 P&H.)

What is most likely now is that military oppression and the politics of public insult will become more and more pronounced in the north of Ireland while Britain tries to beat everyone and all parties into a fit state of subservience to accept whatever solution it proposes for Ireland. The reaction of the government in Dublin is unknown, chiefly because the reason for the British hold on the government in Ireland is unknown. Is it purely financial? Is it blackmail of some of the government's leading figures? Is it threats of "immediate and terrible war"? Or is it, and this seems the most likely reason, the Dublin government's knowledge that, in certain circumstances, a coup d'etat is not at all impossible. And that if such a coup did take place, British guns would be there for the asking as was the case in the Irish civil war.

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE

Joe O'Neill and Brian Blake inform us that on June 26 the California State Assembly passed the MacBride Principles Bill by a vote of 42 to 20. At the time of this writing the vote in the Senate was scheduled for July 17....Sandy Carlson, Meryl Moorehead and Frank O'Day advised that on June 20 the MacBride Principles were formally adopted by New Haven, Connecticut....Also on June 20 we had the MacBride Principles adopted by the City Council of Yonkers, New York by a vote of 7 to 0. Yonkers has a population of almost 200,000.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT BILL CHALLENGED

Oliver Kearney, executive secretary of the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Trust informs us: "The most recent amendments introduced by the British government to the new Fair Employment Bill during its 3rd Reading in the House of Lords, represent a belated acceptance of the unsuitability of the Northern Ireland Civil Service to control anti-discrimination legislation. In response to opposition pressure, the Government have reluctantly conceded that the appointment of the chairperson of the proposed Fair Employment Tribunal must be reserved to the Lord Chancellor's office, and cannot be left in the hands of the Department of Economic Development (DED) because of the inherent bias of the DED, and the need to preserve the integrity of the Tribunal. There is a fundamental contradiction between, on the one hand, protecting the integrity of the Tribunal by removing control from the DED; and on the other hand, permitting the department to continue to control the budget, the supplementary regulations, and the Board Membership of the Fair Employment Commission. If the integrity of the Tribunal can only be

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

The Council of Presidents of Major Irish American organizations has made steady progress in bringing together the national activist organizations that are working to end British colonialism in Ireland. It has also made great strides in promoting our issues.

The Council which works through US Congress and the Administration, consist of organizations such as; American Irish Congress, American Irish PEC, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Brehon Law Society, Irish American Labor Coalition, Irish American Unity Conference and Irish Northern Aid.

In 1989 we have met with the executive committee of the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs to discuss their agenda for this year. The Council also presented testimony at the recent House Sub-Committee on Europe and the Middle East hearings regarding the International Fund For Ireland. This was a very significant feat. It also was represented at the recent Yonkers, New York City Council meeting when the MacBride Principles were adopted.

The Council is currently working to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Bush Administration and the US State Department. This meeting in which the State Department has indicated interest, would be for the purpose of exchanging views concerning issues related to Northern Ireland.

(Ed. Note: The Action Request in Volume 14 (1989), No. 1 asked our members to write to President George Bush requesting such a meeting.)

secured by removing control from the DED - it follows logically that the integrity of the Commission must be critically damaged by permitting it to continue as a surrogate of the Department....The DED has been permitted to retain control of all economic policy-making institutions including the Industrial Development Board, Local Enterprise Development Unit, and the International Fund for Ireland. The consequences are clearly apparent in the systematic de-industrialization of nationalist areas from Strabane to West Belfast; in the subversion of the International Fund to an 'Old Boys' slush fund; and in the enrollment of Catholic churchmen as agents of economic and social control, in return for services rendered...The Government has now acknowledged that the N. I. Civil Service and in particular the DED do not hold the solution to the problem - they are the origin of the problem.

THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT: "DEVOLUTION"

by Albert Doyle

After a long waiting period, the British and Irish governments have completed their review of the 1985 Hillsborough Agreement. Putting aside the rhetorical flourishes, the result is "more of the same". It is clear that the parties have no new ideas and, despite some rather obvious propaganda, have little to show in the area the Agreement was supposed to improve--except for Irish government cooperation on security matters.

There is an old idea from the original Agreement that is being actively promoted by both sides: "devolution"-- an often used but seldom defined concept. Generally speaking, devolution is usually taken to mean the granting of some government powers to local Northern Ireland political bodies --powers which have been held only by the British since they prorogued Stormont.

It is interesting to read exactly what the Agreement has to say about devolution. Article II(b) reads as follows:

"The United Kingdom Government accept that the Irish Government will put forward views and proposals on matters relating to Northern Ireland within the field of activity of the Conference in so far as those matters are not the responsibility of a devolved administration in Northern Ireland." Article II(b). (emphasis supplied).

Thus, the Agreement says in plain words that when "devolution" comes - - and assuming it relates to the defined subject matters of the Agreement (for example, political, security, legal, administration of justice and cross-border cooperation matters) [Article II]--then the Irish government can no longer even "put forward views and proposals" on these matters. If this language is susceptible to some other meaning, we would like to know what it is. Unfortunately, those other provisions of the Agreement, in which the Irish government has conceded the legitimacy of partition of their own country, (Article I.) do not terminate on the "coming of devolution."

On the basis of the above must one conclude that the Irish Government officials who negotiated this deal were incompetent? Maybe...but maybe not.

Devolution is not defined in the Agreement. However, the concept is also referred to in the Agreement's declaration of **United Kingdom policy** that "certain matters" should be devolved, that is turned over to local control [Article IV(b)]. What these matters may be is left open.

But, wait, there is a clue! Article X(3) says that the only matters to be devolved will be some relating to "economic, social and cultural matters". In other words, not the important subjects (political, security, and so on) but only some innocuous ones such as those presently granted to local government bodies--"bins, graveyards and street signs", as they say in Northern Ireland. If this is what is meant by the vaunted "devolution", then devolution is only a shell game to get the loyalists and the SDLP into the same room while Sinn Fein stays outside, of course.

Does all of this sound like poor judgment on the the part of the Irish government--are they either incompetent or devious? Well, we suppose devious would be better. It is certainly more in character with the Irish government, coming as it does from people who opposed the Agreement when out of office but support it now that they are in office. The appalling dilemma of the Irish government is that it already conceded its strongest moral point when they conceded in the Agreement the legitimacy of partition--that is, that Northern Ireland is to be viewed as a separate political entity, rather than preserving its position that the North must be treated as part of an all-Ireland solution. Of course, we know that the British would not have agreed to that. That is not the point. Many nations have national goals which are not necessarily attainable at present. If small nations such

as Ireland are to be taken seriously, they must hold to their principles and always state their position. The British certainly do this, as seen in their reserving on administration of justice reforms in this latest review of the Agreement.

The ending of partition was always assumed to be an Irish fundamental national goal, although one is entitled to speculate whether this is still the case. It is only in stating this goal clearly that Ireland would deserve to be treated seriously in the world community and to be entitled to support from other governments--a very important point in the case of an economically and militarily weak country such as Ireland. Could it be that the ending of partition is no longer a basic goal of the Irish government? They certainly avoid mentioning it at every opportunity.

The PEC had misgivings about the Agreement when it was signed. Despite the claims to the contrary by Speaker of the House Tom Foley at the recent Congressional hearings on the International Fund ancillary to the Agreement, this was not because we want no "progress" in Northern Ireland, but because our perspective is different from that of many who supported it. We are not content with appearing to do something when in fact we are doing nothing. This only supports British policy of diverting attention from Northern Ireland. Such attention was getting uncomfortable for the Thatcher Government.

We do support policies which would lead to a united, democratic and peaceful Ireland and which would improve the lives of the long oppressed nationalist-Catholic minority in the North while protecting the rights of all Irish people - north and south, loyalists and nationalist. Bearing in mind that the price paid by the Irish government for the Agreement, which gave them no substantive rights they did not have before, was their concession of the permanence of partition of their country--it may be useful to repeat the comment we made in 1985. We said,

"If the Agreement were neutral on the issue of reunification, which it is not, the only possible justification for it would be if it improved the position of the oppressed nationalist community in Northern Ireland. Whether it will do so depends on the actual implementation of the Agreement. The British-loyalist record is such that hopes for progress on this score seem dubious...."

We stand by that comment. What has been accomplished? Has employment improved for the minority? No; statistics show that it is worse now than then. Have democratic rights been extended? No; the media has been muzzled by new legal restrictions (with no complaint from the Irish government); the long cherished legal right to maintain silence in court has been curtailed; the Diplock Court system remains intact; violent house searches have increased; the abuse of the International Fund by the Northern Ireland establishment in not directing assistance to those most in need is well documented; prejudicial treatment of Irish defendants in English courts has become more pronounced (see, for example, the Winchester trial).

From our perspective we ask ourselves if our objective of a united, democratic Ireland has been advanced by the Agreement in these four years, or whether British hegemony in Ireland (north and south) has been advanced? We say the answer is clearly the latter. The Irish government bureaucrats who attend the many Agreement-related meetings can bask in the glow of recognition by Her Majesty's counterparts and the clever drafting of high-sounding and often false reports. But have the victims, the nationalist people of the North, benefited? Not noticeably. Maybe that was not the intention of the Agreement for either side. Maybe the intention was only to give the appearance of doing something about the problems while diverting attention from the failure of Britain's colonial regime, a regime which was being increasingly seen as an undemocratic, repressive anachronism having more in common with South Africa than modern Europe.

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**PEC 8TH ANNUAL
IRISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

Sunday, August 27, 1989
Marian Shrine, West Haverstraw, NY

Entertainment will include the Tommy Mulvihill Band, John Egan & the Irish Tradewinds, Jimmy McPhail and the Regals, Ceili Dancing, One-Act Play, Children's Magic Show, Irish Fashion Show, Irish Step Dancing, Bagpipers, and more. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 am by Fr. Des Wilson, a special guest from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Admission: \$6 per adult (accompanying children under 12 free); \$4 senior citizens; plenty of Free parking. Soda, food, beer and wine will be available on premises. Gates will open at 10:00 am and close a 7:00 pm. For complete details write the PEC or call (914) 947-2726.

**ENGLAND'S ILLEGAL PARTITION OF
IRELAND: The Minority Becomes A Majority**

by Thomas Garvey

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

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

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

In the words of Sir James Craig, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, 1921-1940, "I have always said I am an Orangeman first and a politician and member of this parliament afterwards--all I boast is that we are a Protestant parliament and a Protestant state." Sir Basil Brooke, Prime Minister, 1943-1963, stated, "There were a great number of Protestants and Orangemen who employed Roman Catholics." He felt he could speak freely on this subject as he had not a Catholic about his own place. He would appeal to loyalists, wherever possible, to employ good Protestant lads and lassies. Every prime minister since has echoed the same sentiments.

Today's loyalist masses are kept in continual fear of Catholicism by the Rev. Ian Paisley's passionate crusade. His hushed listeners are told that all men are not children of God--some

BOOKS AND VIDEOS, ETC.

Make checks payable to American Irish Awareness Comm.

**MOTHER IRELAND (VIDEO)
Produced by Derry Film & Video**

Women, with very few exceptions, have been written out of the national struggle in Ireland. We talk to many women, young and old republican women who fought for Mother Ireland, an historian dealing with the role of women in the nationalist struggle in Ireland, and several Irish women who apply a strong feminist perspective to their lives and work.

Mother Ireland explores the development and use of images and music which personify Ireland as a woman in Irish culture and nationalism.

We highlight how these cultivated and stereotyped images of Ireland as a woman influence the idealized model of womanhood demanded by Irish society e.g. the archetypal Irish colleen or the devoted mother.

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few are elected to be saved - that Roman Catholicism is the Anti-Christ, Greatest of all Heresies, Mother of Harlots., Whore of Babylon, Enemy of Godliness and Freedom. His religious oratory is without charity, moderation, or ideas--a fierce blast of 17th century righteousness and emotion. In response to incitements from their leaders, they vented their feelings on the then defenseless Catholics by burning out whole sections of nationalist areas and leaving hundreds dead, injured, and homeless.

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

ACTION REQUEST

The news coverage on the recent Joe Doherty rally in New York was very fair and indeed supportive. The coverage made it very clear that Joe Doherty was an American political prisoner and that he is in prison without charge for over six years. Directly due to this accurate and fair coverage, many people (non-Irish) have become sumpathizers, if not active supporters, of Doherty.

There is no doubt that the same would happen concerning the colonial war in the North if the media provided continuous fair and accurate coverage which it has not yet done. Almost immediately public opposition to British colonial rule and state terrorism would increase and pressure would mount on our government Administration to discontinue its support for PM Margaret Thatcher's undemocratic policies. This is exactly what happened with regard to South Africa shortly after the news media made it an issue.

Therefore, we the American public must bring pressure to bear on our news media to provide appropriate coverage. It is better to concentrate on a few media magnates than to scatter ourselves in all directions. This pressure should be ongoing. Repeat letters to the same people is certainly OK and recommended. You should use the Hotline (914) 429-7849 in conjunction with Action Requests.

COURSE OF ACTION: Write the letter below, preferably in your own words, to both: Mr. Dan Rather, CBS, 524 W 57 St., New York, NY 10019 and Mr. Robert C. Wright, President, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112. Please don't forget to include your return address and date:

Dear _____:

I urge that you make a media issue of Joe Doherty and the whole issue of British colonialism and oppression in Northern Ireland. Please address the issues that cause violence by the nationalist minority. Public discussion and political debate is desperately needed to resolve this age-old tragedy. I look forward to your response on this urgent matter.

Respectfully yours,
signature

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