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## American Irish Newsletter - May 1989

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 14, Number 5

May 1989

## HOW U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IS MADE

by Albert Doyle

We know that our views on Irish reunification have been ignored by the Reagan Administration, to put it mildly. The U.S. Northern Ireland policy was turned over to a foreign power--Thatcher Britain--during the Reagan years. The Reagan Administration showed its contempt for American Irish views by open admission--i.e., the "foreign policy" excuses used in the Joe Doherty case to rationalize why they denied the court decisions in Joe's favor. Ireland in general and Northern Ireland in particular are also considered Britain's turf by the State Department bureaucrats who remain in place while administrations come and go. Thus, Americans who favor Irish reunification are considered enemies by the Thatcher Tories and have been treated as enemies by our own government.

The reasons for all of this are not difficult to see: preoccupation with Cold War politics and military strategy (Northern Ireland bases are good; Irish neutrality is bad), historic State Department antipathy to Irish independence based on resentment of the DeValera non-involvement policy in World War II, and good old Country Club Anglophilia in "high" places in our country. Our protests against these biases usually are drowned out in a blast of anti-terrorism rhetoric by many who should know better, such as Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. It seems that no one wants to talk about the issues of discrimination, unjust legal procedures, government violence, etc. Of course, you--the Action Irish--know these things only too well. But it is not often that a window is opened which allows us to peer, even briefly, into the behind the scenes activities which reveal the shameful depths of ignorance and prejudice which inform our high-level policy makers. One such window is Bob Woodward's recent book, *Veil*, about the C.I.A. and Director William Casey. (Casey, like most members of the Reagan Administration, is an American Tory, a died-in-the-wool British worshipper--like "Lord" Weinberger--which shows us again that having an Irish name is no sign of Irishness.)

Two startling illustrations of our point appear in the book. Director Casey happened to read Claire Sterling's book, *The Terrorist Network*, which fits nicely into his own preconceived notion that there is a worldwide, Russian-directed network of "terrorist" groups--including the I.R.A. Secretary of State Al Haig liked this notion, too. Casey's own C.I.A. experts told Casey that, unfortunately, Claire Sterling's thesis was off base. The Sterling book was full of inaccuracies, based on interpretations of newspaper stories, etc.--one of the most damaging being the "feedback" of a false story in the Italian press planted by the... C.I.A.! But the book filled the bill for Casey, so he and Al Haig just squashed the internal analysis by their own experts. So much for objectivity.

Another revelation of Administrative ignorance was the misidentification by the White House staff of Mauritania, a country in Northwest Africa, deliberately leaked to the White House as being the target of a covert political fund support operation (like the one helping John Hume in Northern Ireland); while the real target was Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean. Needless to say, this upset the folks in Mauritius, but who are they anyway? Just another little foreign country. I hope all of this makes you feel better about being ignored.

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

## PEC CONFERENCE - May 6, 1989

The American Irish PEC will conduct its Northeast Regional Conference on May 6, 1989. The one-day conference will take place at Bishops in Tappan, New York.

The Conference is designed to provide the attendees with sufficient background on how to implement PEC programs. The centerpiece of the Conference will be the new PEC *American Irish Guide To Action* which will be supplied to each attendee. The purpose of the guide is to enable members to implement PEC programs at the grass-roots level in their own communities. The Guide is a comprehensive, step-by-step, easy-to-read, publication filled with pertinent information on how to organize and lobby to win support for our objectives. It is planned that conferences will take place every few months in different areas of the United States. We are looking for volunteers to organize conferences in their states.

According to Brian McGrath, conference chairperson, "the guest speakers are all experts in their topics and have been actively involved in initiating the various campaigns which range from MacBride Principles legislation to countering negative stereotyping of the American Irish image".

Guest speakers include Congressman Benjamin Gilman, Senior Minority Member of the House Foreign Relations Committee; Paul E. Keating, Associate Editor, *Newsweek*; John Finucane and Albert Doyle, national president and vice president, American Irish PEC; Leah Curtin, PEC State Director for Minnesota; Tom O'Flaherty, PEC State Director for New Hampshire; Kathy Regan, PEC State Director for New York; Shannon Eaton, PEC State Director for Maine; Kevin Murphy, PEC State Director for Massachusetts; and Sandy Carlson, PEC Student Activities Coordinator, Connecticut.

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION IMMEDIATELY BY PHONE** as time and space are running out. Reservations are \$25 per person and include Continental Breakfast, Luncheon and a Cocktail Reception. Call (914) 947-2726.

## NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

"That the British should have anything to say about the Ayatollah Khomeini threatening author Rushdie over his book is further proof that they are the most hypocritical, vile people on the face of the earth." (Jimmy Breslin, *Newsday*, 3/89)...The British government plans to introduce a new plastic bullet...At the same time as plastic bullets are banned from use on the British mainland as being too dangerous, "The new weapon being considered for use is more deadly than the bullets currently issued as it travels at 150 mph, can kill at a range of 45 feet and causes serious injury at up to 100 yards.

Continued on page 5

**FROM THE EDITOR** *By John J. Finucane*

*Obviously, Britain will never again rule the North of Ireland without violence and repression. Colonialism and its inherent injustices which keeps Britain there, is no longer acceptable; not to many of the North's citizens, not to Western society, and not to its own citizens as witnessed by the success to date of Britain's "Time To Go" program, a made-in-Britain movement for withdrawal. Time is running out for Thatcher and her private war with the IRA. She just cannot go on denying people equal rights and dignity under the guise of combatting terrorism and defending democracy. The cost in human life and suffering and her steady erosion of democracy, is too great a sacrifice. Thatcher's hypocritical and brutal policies in the North are becoming more and more of an embarrassment not only to Britain, but also to her allies. No one takes seriously her condemnations of the same brutal policies practiced by other nations.*

*To prolong Britain's presence in Ireland is to prolong the injustice, killing and suffering of all the people in the North. Individuals, institutions and governments - including our own State Department - that continue to support and encourage Britain are wrong and must assume the responsibility for much of the tragedy in the North. Most of those who seek an impossible internal solution do so for personal gain and not for the sake of justice.*

*It is time for Thatcher to respect the wishes of Britain's majority and declare her intent to withdraw. It is time for Thatcher to talk to all parties including Sinn Fein and the IRA, just as she is now urging Israel to talk to the PLO. It is time for Thatcher to rise above bigotry and hatred.*

**The American Irish PEC**  
founded 1975

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

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.

**STATE DIRECTORS**

Jack O'Brien, 11109 Belton Street, Upper Marlboro, MARYLAND 20772-(301)336-5167; Leah Curtin, Hibernian Life, 790 Cleveland Avenue, Suite 221, St. Paul, MINNESOTA 55116-(612)690-3888; Kathy Regan, 3045 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NEW YORK (212) 365-0213; Tom O'Flaherty, Good Time Farm, RFD #6, Box 153, Laconia, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03246-(603)528-5733; Shannon Eaton 73 Brackett Street, Portland, MAINE 04102; Frank O'Day, 21 Pierce Lane, Madison, CONNECTICUT 06443-(203)245-4739; Kevin P. Murphy, 29 Zolla Circle, Revere, MASSACHUSETTS 02151-(617)284-0723; Bob West, 683 Walnut Road, Wauconda, ILLINOIS 60084-(312)526-6520; Terry Deem Reilly, 1123 Clarkson, Denver, COLORADO 80218-(303)873-9443; Joe O'Neill 1376 21st Avenue, San Francisco, CALIFORNIA 94122-(415)681-8734; Kevin Murphy, 9685 Sunny Isle Cir., Boca Raton, FLORIDA 33428-(305)488-1526; Ned A. Delaney, 10940 W. 100 N., Kokomo, INDIANA 46901-(317)566-3824; Larry Doyle, 46 B 2007 Betz Road, Bellevue, NEBRASKA 68005-(402)292-5291

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 Sybil Avenue, Branford, CONNECTICUT, 06504-(203) 488-3770

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**MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE.** - The New Hampshire House of Representatives and Senate have approved with strong support the MacBride Principles legislation. At the time of this writing we are awaiting the Governor Judd Gregg to sign the bill. We want to congratulate all involved in the New Hampshire MacBride Movement. We also acknowledge our members: PEC State Director Tom O'Flaherty; Kevin Mulligan, who first introduced the bill in 1987, Dave Burke and Rep. Vincent Palumbo, House Majority Leader and the Irish Action Coalition whose joint efforts in lobbying, education and organizing was key to this major success in a Republican conservative controlled Legislature. We also congratulate all our members in New Hampshire who helped in this campaign. Last year the bill was overwhelmingly defeated in the House. We repeat Tom O'Flaherty's statement at that time which is appropriate today. "In October 1987, there was no such thing as an American Irish movement in New Hampshire. Today there is a viable organization working for the bill's adoption. Hence, we have another full year to educate the citizens of New Hampshire...the longer it takes to pass the bill, the greater will be the number of Americans informed on the true nature of British colonialism in Ireland. Either way, we win"...**CALIFORNIA** - On March 20 the San Francisco City Council adopted MacBride Principles legislation by a vote of 9 to 2 after stiff opposition from the British government. The bill was introduced by Supervisor Harry Britt at the request of the San Francisco American Irish PEC under the leadership of California PEC State Director Joe O'Neill and PEC members Sean Prendiville and Mike Killeen (also representing the Irish American Labor Coalition). Joe O'Neill also informs us that MacBride Principles legislation has been reintroduced in the California State Legislature by Rep. John Burton of San Francisco which now has 10 sponsors in the Assembly and 2 in the Senate. MacBride legislation was originally introduced in California in 1987 by Rep. Tom Hayden at the request of PEC Western Regional Director Roger McGrath. This progress is the result of the ongoing efforts of the American Irish PEC and the Southern California MaBride Principles Committee. **VERMONT** - Graham Clark of the Vermont Irish Coalition informs us that on March 17 the Vermont House voted 66 to 31 for MacBride Legislation. As of this writing the bill has passed in committee in the Senate and is awaiting a full Senate vote. **INDIANA** - Ned Delaney, PEC State Director and organizer of the Indiana MacBride Coalition, informs us that the bill introduced by Rep. Brad Bayliff died in committee as the legislative session ended. Since that time the Coalition has expanded and the Indiana National Council of Churches has joined the effort. Sounds like New Hampshire all over. **NEBRASKA** - Larry Doyle, PEC State Director and MacBride Principles Coalition Organizer informed us that hearings were held with no vote being taken. It appears that the bill will be kept alive for the 1990 session. He also informed us that the PR firm hired by the British government did not register as a foreign agent which he brought to the attention of state officials. **COLORADO** - Terry Deem Reilly informs us that an official "Friends of MacBride" committee has been formed to begin organizing for the introduction of MacBride legislation. Committee members include representatives of the PEC, AOH and political activists. **MISSOURI** - Phil Chaney, PEC State Director informs us that the House Bill passed in committee and is awaiting a full House vote. Phil noted that since the introduction of the MacBride Principles Bill a great deal of organizing has been underway.

**ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO CONTACT THEIR STATE DIRECTORS AND OFFER THEIR ASSISTANCE. ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS ARE FOUND ON THIS PAGE IN THE ORGANIZATION BOX.**

## FROM THE NORTH

by Fr. Des Wilson, Belfast Correspondent

The combined British government, SDLP and Catholic Church offensive against Sinn Fein has intensified in the run up to the elections of 1989. Two sets of elections are seen as having crucial importance - John Hume has to win the European election and Sinn Fein has to be prevented at all costs from winning up to 50% of the seats in elections for local councils.

The military and police offensive is clearly the main thrust of British efforts to destroy opposition. In January 1989 a Sinn Fein election worker, John Rush, was shot and injured. On January 17 an assassination squad just missed Sinn Fein representative Joe O'Donnell in East Belfast. January 24 a Sinn Fein councillor was kicked and beaten by a British soldier in Duggannon. February 7 the brother of a Sinn Fein councillor in County Tyrone narrowly escaped death by tackling his would be assassins. February 14, Sinn Fein councillor John Davey was murdered by an assassination squad in County Derry, having stopped at what he believed to be a military checkpoint. On February 17, a Sinn Fein election worker survived a murder bid outside his home.

In Sinn Fein strongholds such as West Belfast where the SDLP is at its weakest, with the help of British and International Fund money, the Catholic Church, SDLP and Catholic businessmen have set up business enterprises and advice centers. Their purpose is to undermine and to destroy long-established Sinn Fein Advice Centers. This joint effort with the British government is also designed to eliminate privately operated self-help programs that cater to citizens affairs and create work. With the help of British money, the Catholic Church now has a tighter control over education in the Catholic sector than at any time in Irish history.

The end result of this, so runs government thinking, is that Sinn Fein will be frightened and depleted in numbers while people will be too dispirited to vote for them. They will see, hopes the government, that the only hope of social, economic and political progress lies with the church and the SDLP.

The church is firmly wedded to the idea of a unified Europe with the Vatican as the chief spiritual and moral power, with Britain, Germany and France the main movers, and a military alliance against what it sees as the communist menace. This means that church leaders see a common interest in making alliances with the British government rather than with Sinn Fein. There is no guarantee that Sinn Fein will allow the churchmen control of education as the British have done. There is no guarantee either that money from the United States (International Fund), under a republican government, would flow directly into the hands of churchmen.

There is now no doubt that the church, allied to SDLP and the British government, is determined upon an internal Northern Ireland settlement. This means that the pro-British lobby, small as it is in relation to Ireland as a whole, has only to sit tight and wait and all will fall into place; that is, if the present policies of beating down opposition and enticing potential friends succeed. Hume, Mallon and other SDLP leaders are fully committed to an internal six-county settlement in which they will have some power, the republicans none. Such an internal settlement would leave 35-40% of the Catholic population without a voice in government which, the SDLP believes, is a distinct advance on the situation in 1968 when the whole Catholic population was without a voice! It would be left to the next generation to make further advances, say in the direction of having only 25% without a voice by the year 2000.

It remains to be seen whether the military, police, economic and political offensive against Sinn Fein will succeed or not. In the long term it probably will convert more and more people to the republican point of view. In the short term it could either hold Sinn Fein votes to the existing level or reduce them.

## OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts

As reported in this column, several Webster's Collegiate dictionaries describe Irish writers, poets, political figures, etc. as being British. I am pleased to report that Boston based Houghton Mifflin Company who publishes several dictionaries including Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary now and has for the past several years done an accurate job in describing Irish figures as being Irish. Members from throughout the United States received responses from *Houghton Mifflin's* President Harold Miller and Executive Editor Anne Hayes Soukhanov clarifying the situation. Executive Editor Ms Hayes Soukhanov stated that, "As an American of Irish descent and the executive editor of our reference department, I am pleased to report that the language you find objectionable does not appear in our books...I enclose photocopies of our entries so that you can see how exactly we characterize these writers (of Irish descent)."

It is a positive development that Houghton Mifflin, America's largest distributor of school books is aware and conscious of Irish contributions to culture. They are to be congratulated. It should be noted that on St. Patrick's Day an Irish tri-color flew at Houghton Mifflin's Headquarters here in Boston. Thanks to our members, corporate America is fast becoming aware of the American Irish community.

New York's "Trendy" *Spy Magazine* described St. Patrick's Day in its March edition as "Block Associations for streets intersecting Fifth Avenue regret a too-hasty decision not to install partosans on every corner this year". In other words *Spy Magazine* feels that the Irish are unkempt and unable to act like civilized individuals. **SEND A LETTER OF PROTEST TO:** *Spy Magazine*, The Puck Building, 295 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012. A century ago anti-Irish editorial cartoonist Thomas Nast worked in the Puck Building. So its ugly tradition of intolerance lives on.

On St. Patrick's Day many American Irish politicians play the "Irish Card" before the media. Many of them come out of the woodwork to emphasize their Irishness to play to American Irish voters. Most of them are as plastic, when it comes to Irish issues, as the plastic shamrocks they wear on St. Patrick's Day. The next day they are right back to the apathetic "assimilation" act. To these kinds of self-serving politicians, the American Irish are a huge voter block to draw votes from, but to give nothing in return. To them Northern Ireland is something to be swept under the rug, for they lack the moral fiber to stand up for justice. They fear upsetting the pro-Anglo establishment. This is why they will speak out about human rights abuses around the world, but not in Northern Ireland.

It is time that this kind of politician be "swept under the rug". It is refreshing to see politicians who are aggressively outspoken on injustice in the North such as Joe Kennedy in Massachusetts, and Harrison Goldin and Tom Manton in New York. These figures represent a new wave of aggressive pols who are emerging through the MacBride Principles Campaign, many of who are not of Irish heritage. We are happy to say that the PEC, through its members, is responsible for much of this awareness and activity in political circles.

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

People tend to back what they see as winners.

On the other hand - and this is what will probably count most of all - there is a level of rage against British cruelty which is probably higher than it ever has been. That rage will win out, and most of us will be very surprised indeed if it does not show itself in the results of the 1989 European and local elections.

## IRISH IN THE CONFEDERACY

By Margaret Fitzgerald - Professor, Historian, Consultant-Genetologist for Irish, American Irish, Canadian Irish

Since history is written by victors, people are aware of the Irish contribution to the Union in the American Civil War. Not so well known is the equal contribution of the Irish to the Confederacy.

Five southern generals were born in Ireland: Patrick Cleburne, Joseph Finnegan, James Hagan, Walter Lane, and Patrick Moore. Others were sons of Irish immigrants. Like Robert E. Lee, many officers and men had a full or partial Irish heritage.

Although the South preferred to mix native and foreign born, all the Confederate states had Irish units. The first company to volunteer for the war was the Irish Volunteers of South Carolina. The 17th Virginia had an Irish father and son fife-and-drum team. Company I of the 8th Alabama had 104 Irish-born out of 109 men who wore dark green uniforms and flew a banner with Confederate emblems on one side and the harp and shamrock on the other.

When Kentucky fell to the Union, the 4th Kentucky "Orphan Brigade" with its many Irish remained with the South. The eleven-year-old bugler, "Little Oirish," was a hero at the bloody battle of Shiloh. Jumping over dead and wounded, "Little Oirish" retrieved the Orphans' banner from a captured cannon, waved it high, and gave Irish Rebel yells to rouse his comrades to charge again.

Almost every Louisiana regiment had several Irish units. The Irish had rushed to enlist when Governor Thomas Moore asked for volunteers. Called to head the New Orleans Irish Brigade was Colonel Charles de Choiseul, descendant of a commander of the original Wild Geese. Colonel Seymour's 6th Louisiana Regiment of almost all Irish laborers from New Orleans fought alongside Colonel Kelly's 8th Regiment of Irish and Acadians.

Irish military companies were incorporated into regiments under their familiar names, no problem for the Emmet Guards and the Montgomery Guards. The Meagher Rifles had to rename themselves the Mitchel Guards. John Mitchel, a leader of the United Irishmen, who, like Thomas Meagher, had escaped to America from an Australian penal colony, was imprisoned after the War for siding with the Confederacy. Two of Mitchel's sons died for the South, one at Gettysburg, one at Fort Sumter.

Louisiana also had the Sarsfield Guards under Captain O'Hara, the Southern Celts under Captain O'Leary, and the Pikemen of '61. Home Guard companies were led by wealthy New Orleans Irishmen P.B. O'Brien and W. J. Castell.

Irish faced Irish in deadly engagements. Confederate Irish repulsed Union Irish at Marye's Hill; Union repulsed Confederate in Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. Like the Irish in the North, the Irish in the South were noted for valor in battle and for heavy casualties. In 1865, Company A of the Louisiana Irish Brigade (Captain James Hanlon) had only three men and one officer left out of ninety; Company B (Captain William Monagan) had only one left out of one hundred.

General Richard Taylor, son of President Zachary Taylor, credited his Irish troops with breaking the Union line at Port Republic in the Valley Campaign. Taylor's Louisiana Irish, facing Union Irish under Irish-born General James Shields, murmured "Shields' boys are looking for a fight". After the victory, a wounded soldier called to Generals Taylor and Stonewall Jackson (who had Irish blood) "We told you to bet on your Irish".

Irish-born James Mallett, a chemistry professor at the University of Alabama, enlisted in the infantry, then moved to ordinance to use his talents to rehabilitate the South's ancient equipment. Captain Leander McNally, son of Irish immigrants and later co-founder of the Texas Rangers, was decorated ten

times for heroism.

The Irish were on the sea as well as on land. Irish-born John Maglenn was engineer of the ADVANCE, a North Carolina ship that ran the Union blockade several times. Richard King, son of Irish immigrants and founder of the King Ranch in Texas, used the vessels he built to trade cotton for needed Confederate arms and supplies. Matt O'Brien was an engineer on Raphael Semmes' ALABAMA that went down off Cherbourg in the famous battle with the Kearsarge.

The Irish also were active with pen and tongue. Vincentian Father Abram J. Ryan of Irish immigrant parents was a Confederate Army chaplain and "Poet of the Confederacy." His best known patriotic poems are "The Sword of Robert E. Lee" and "The Conquered Banner". Monaghan-born Bishop Patrick Lynch of Charleston, as Special Commissioner for the Confederacy, went to Rome to plead the Southern cause in hope of peace. Bishop Lynch's brother was killed in Confederate service. As Union troops sacked and burned Atlanta, another Patrick Lynch organized slaves to fight the fires and saved many buildings.

Henry McCarthy of New Orleans wrote "The Bonnie Blue Flag" to the tune of the old Irish song, "The Jaunting Car." Captain Tiernan Brien, along with world-known Sam Sweeney, performed in minstrels that General J.E.B. Stuart organized to relax his troops. Carlton McCarthy of the Richmond Howitzers kept a journal that preserved the best account of the life of an ordinary Confederate soldier. John Dooley also kept a record of Confederate Army life. Confederate cabinet minister John Reagan and General Patrick Cleburne kept many valuable records.

The Civil War between American brothers was also a tragic war between Irish brothers.

### NEWS BITS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The CS gas tip explodes on impact, causing choking and temporary blindness...The Labour Committee on Ireland stated, 'Instead of seeking a just and lasting solution to the war in Ireland, the British government seems bent on escalating repression. We believe that the government has leaked this story that they are under pressure from police chiefs to use this lethal weapon because the relevant departments of state have already taken the decision to use it.' (Irish Post, 2/11/89)

"Britain is demanding significant changes in the operation of the 1987 Extradition Act. They include: the removal of the Irish Attorney General's power to vet extradition applications; an elaborate procedure for the Garda to detain persons whose extradition is being sought - including the person being held in custody in the event of an appeal to a higher court; designation of a special court in Dublin to hear all extradition cases-so as to ensure that the bench is familiar with extradition law...In this entire business of extradition Britain is demanding of the Republic what no sovereign state could possibly entertain-namely the making subservient of its judiciary to the politicians of another country...It's now 32 years since the European Convention on Extradition was established. The Republic of Ireland ratified in 1965. Britain has yet to do so. Why? Because down the years Britain has insisted on remaining a most difficult country from which to extradite. Meanwhile, Britain has continued to insist that the Republic extradite on demand. Irish judges who find British warrants to be faulty are denounced as incompetent or worse. When glaring errors in warrants are pointed out it is said that these 'minor technicalities' should have been overlooked!" (Irish Post, 2/18/89)...Lord Hylton, a non-party hereditary peer, believes that Irish prisoners in British jails must be repatriated on humanitarian grounds to halt the 'intolerable suffering' of their families back in Ireland. (Irish Post, 2/18/89)...At the launch of the Time To Go campaign in northeast

Continued next page

## HOW THE PEC WORKS

It is important that you know how the American Irish PEC works - what makes it effective. We are a nation-wide organization of people doing things together to make things happen.

The key to success is member participation. It is critical that all members participate in our letter-writing campaigns which appear in our Newsletter and that they use the Telephone Hotline (914) 429-7849. It is also important that all members follow-up on their communications. Whether or not you receive a reply from the individual, contact them again even if just to ask for a progress report. This activity keeps the issue alive and lets them know that your are serious and will not go away. Communications build an issue.

Pressure on an issue must continue to grow. More and more people must become involved in our letter-writing campaigns which will demonstrate growing interest in our issues. That means we must continually seek new members (letter writers) for the American Irish PEC. Remember; 1 letter to a national figure concerning a national issue equals the views of 1000 Americans - 10,000 letters equals 10,000,000 views and so on. This is why we urge you always to be on the lookout for new members. Drop us a note and we will send you membership kits.

We also educate the public. One very important educational activity that we can all be involved in is the MacBride Principles Campaign. Everyone should be distributing information on this issue. Our goal is not just to have MacBride legislation passed at the state level, but also on the Federal Government. We need resolutions adopted by colleges and universities, corporations, organizations, town councils, etc. For this purpose we have available two very effective brochures at \$.10 each - the *Think About It* brochure which has just been updated and the *MacBride Principles Testimony of Oliver Kearney*. To help educate the public, members can also reproduce for distribution articles from our *American Irish Newsletter*.

There are many public events where distributions can take place; meetings, festivals, concerts, etc. The general public is usually interested and can be very helpful. **WHY NOT START YOUR MEMBERSHIP/EDUCATION WORK TODAY?**

## NEWS BITS CONTINUED

England a local MP said, "One has only to look at the amount of young, unemployed men from this area who have died or been injured fighting with the British army in the Six Counties to realize that this is very much a British problem. The history of the last twenty years shows that there will never be peace in Ireland until the British leave." (Irish Post, 3/4/89)

"On a visit to Gaza, British Foreign Office Minister William Waldergrave held up a handful of Israeli rubber bullets and stated, 'That is not going to produce a solution here' and went on to refer to 'the impossibility of continuing this military occupation'...All of this is what people have been saying about the north of Ireland: the killing of people with plastic bullets; the continuing military occupation; and the logic that it can't go on. There has to be a political solution-which is what the British government now insists on for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Britain now wants Israel to talk to the PLO and argues that without the PLO being included there won't be any lasting solution." (Irish Post, 3/11/89) "Britain imprisons proportionately more people than any other major West European country and now holds more than 55,000 people." (Daily News, 3/10/89)

## BOOKS AND VIDEOS, ETC.

### IRISH MAGIC: IRISH MUSIC - VIDEO

#### Ireland in All Her Beauty

Take an unforgettable journey through the history of Irish music. Join host Sean McGraw as he visits some of Ireland's most captivating landscapes...from the shores of Galway Bay to the banks of the River Liffey...and the people they've so deeply inspired. Enjoy the breathtaking photography of Ireland with such award-winning artists as: Louis Browne - performing such classics as Galway Bay, Rose of Tralee, Danny Boy and Ireland Mother Ireland...and James Galway and the Chieftains. Enjoy traditional set-dancing and music, beautifully played on harp and Uilleann pipes by artists Roseen McCauley and Noreen O'Dowd.

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#### TWENTY YEARS Edited by Michael Farrell

20 years ago TV stations worldwide carried for the first time filmed reports of violence on the streets of Northern Ireland, as police attacked civil rights marchers in Derry. Here nine people involved in the civil rights movement then and now look back over their participation or experiences during the intervening years, including vivid personal reflections. The book covers fresh perspectives on the turmoil and tragedy of Northern Ireland. Chapters by Jerry Adams, Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, Geoffrey Bell, Margaret Ward and five others. Paperback, 160 pages.

Order # B902.....\$ 9.95

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**EVERY MEMBER SHOULD OWN A PERSONAL COPY OF THE ITEMS BELOW. THEY ARE THE ULTIMATE TOOLS FOR EDUCATING FRIENDS, FAMILY, GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS.**

### OFF OUR KNEES - A NEW VIDEO RELEASE

Written and narrated by Bernadette Devlin McAliskey

1988 marked the 20th anniversary of the continuous mass struggle in the North since the formation of the Civil Rights Movement in Ireland.

This video represents the views of those who were there at the beginning, who have continued and grown with the struggle and who are determined to carry on until civil rights, justice and freedom have been attained.

Off Our Knees celebrates the stories and aspirations of the people involved - political activists, working people, human rights campaigners - and demonstrates how and why the basic demands of the Civil Rights Movement, for votes, jobs, housing, and an end to the Special Powers Act have developed into the demand for a United Ireland - without which true civil rights cannot be won.

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Based on unimpeachable sources - such as British Protestant historians Lecky, Crozier and Gough - this study presents Northern Ireland's current situation in its historical context, recounting British oppression in Ireland from the Norman conquest in the 12th century to the Gibraltar killings in 1988.

The introduction is by Paul O'Dwyer, Irish born New York based attorney and life-long champion of Irish causes. Paperback, 220 pages.

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**ACTION REQUEST**

On February 21, 1989 Congressman Thomas Manton introduced House Concurrent Resolution No. 62 which calls for Attorney General Richard Thornburgh to approve Joe Doherty's request for asylum, and to release him on bail pending a review of his request. According to Staff Assistant Elaine Simek, the resolution now has 28 co-sponsors, up from the original 21.

We urge all members to write to their Congressperson and US Senators, even if you have already done so in response to our Telephone Hotline request. If your representative is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs and is not a co-sponsor, ask him or her why. You might consider a personal meeting with your representative for the purpose of making this request. **GET AS MANY FRIENDS, RELATIVES, ETC.** to write letters and to attend the meeting.

Below we provide a sample letter for you to use as a guide or to simply rewrite:

Your address & date

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

It is most important to me that you co-sponsor and vigorously promote House Concurrent Resolution No. 62 introduced by Congressman Thomas Manton. The resolution asks Attorney General Richard Thornburgh to release Joe Doherty on bail pending consideration of his application for asylum.

Please advise me of your decision on this urgent matter.

Sincerely  
signature

**PEC TELEPHONE HOTLINE -- (914) 429-7849**

The Telephone Hotline is our most effective weapon for building an issue. It is a simple request for you to write a short letter in support of our issues. The message which is repeated, includes a short comment on an issue and a sample letter and takes less than 3 minutes. The Hotline is in service 24 hours a day. The message changes once a week on Sunday nights. Have pen and paper ready! **PLEASE USE IT TODAY!**

. Don't forget to make your reservations for the American Irish PEC Northeast Regional Conference!!! Details on Page one.

. Don't forget to write your letters.

. Don't forget to renew your membership on time. If you are overdue or would like to renew in advance, use Multi-purpose coupon. Renewals are \$20.

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