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American Irish Newsletter - November 1989

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 14, Number 11

November 1989

NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

In an interview with MP Ken Livingstone, Albert Baker, a convicted Protestant assassin, has made detailed allegations of direct involvement by the RUC and British intelligence in sectarian murders in Northern Ireland in the early seventies. He alleges that the vice-chairman of the UDA Tommy Herron was directly contacted through a "cut out" by a senior army intelligence officer codenamed "Bunty"...He details incidents in which RUC officers allege providing weapons to the UDA [a pro-British para-military organization alleged to be responsible for the murders of almost 700 nationalists] for assassins, driving weapons through army checkpoints on behalf of assassins, tipping off the UDA about raids on members houses and hiding weapons for the organization...An RUC officer handed out files, complete with photographs, of known Republicans to the UDA. (Sunday Observer, 8/20/89)...On another occasion, Albert Baker stated, "I am quite prepared...to furnish the Anglo-Irish Conference meeting with names of those RUC officers I knew in 1972-73 and identify photos of members of the nationalist community whom the security forces believe to be in the IRA...It may very well be the case that it is the same RUC officers I knew to be corrupt [who are responsible for this recent security leak]. (Irish News, 9/8/89)

A [Ulster Defense Regiment] UDR sergeant said that low grade intelligence passed to security forces led to the death of Loughlinn Maginn. Names of innocent people are issued to patrols because they may have been seen with suspected IRA men or might have wandered into places frequented by them. (Sunday World, 9/3/89)...Several days after being challenged by Sinn Fein to explain why it hadn't contacted those people named on a UDA/UFF hit list, the RUC reluctantly contacted Sinn Fein South Down spokesperson Sean Fitzpatrick and others to tell them that they are among those listed as targets. (Irish News, 9/6/89)

Upon returning from his recent tour of Northern Ireland, Congressman Eliot Engel commented, "My trip convinced me that the only way peace is going to come to Ireland is if the British leave...My car was stopped five times, with guns pointed at passengers...Projects approved for funds from the International Fund for Ireland often appeared connected to the "establishment" and did not appear to reach the most seriously depressed areas...The acceptance of projects was clearly based on political thinking. One project appeared to be quickly funded "because of our trip" to demonstrate an approved project in a deprived area." Engle vows to raise these issues in the Halls of Congress. "Britain can't have this kind of say. A vast majority of the American public knows nothing about this...If the public at large knew the truth about what's going on in Northern Ireland, they'd feel differently...If

Continued on page 3

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

VOLUNTEERS TO LOBBY CONGRESS

The PEC wants to organize a select group of men and women for the purpose of lobbying our issues in the nation's capitol. Occasionally, they will travel to Washington, DC to meet with our Congressional representatives or their staff. These PEC member-volunteers will be representing the American Irish PEC.

We are looking for volunteers who live within a reasonable commuting distance from Washington, DC (1 to 2 hours). If you would like to volunteer for this vital effort, please contact the PEC by phone (914) 947-2726 or mail at AIPEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980.

Attention Pennsylvania Residents !!!

Pennsylvania members are asked to **immediately** contact Senator Gibson Armstrong, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee, as well as Senators Jubelirer, Loper, Tighlman and Rocks, c/o Senate Post Office, Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pa 17120 or call (717) 787-5920. Urge that they support the MacBride Principles legislation, immediately call for a vote on it by the Finance Committee, and bring it out to the Senate Floor for a full vote.

Hearings were conducted on the bill by the Finance Committee on September 19. The bill is supported by the Governor of Pennsylvania. Senator Armstrong has been sitting on the bill.

On September 26, California Governor George Deukmejian, vetoed MacBride Principles legislation which had been overwhelmingly endorsed by the State's Assembly and Senate.

Governor Deukmejian offered as one of the principal reasons for perverting the democratic process the fact that "This legislation is opposed by the British government and the predominantly Catholic Social Democratic and Labor Party [SDLP] of Northern Ireland [who] believes it's enactment would create a roadblock against the free flow of investment to Northern Ireland"

"The Fair Employment Trust", according to its Executive Secretary Oliver Kearney, "is fully aware of the covert efforts by senior members of the SDLP leadership to campaign against the MacBride Principles on behalf of the British government." The Trust has challenged the SDLP leadership to "come clean" publicly on its position on the MacBride Principles which it supports in the North and opposes in the United States.

ACTION REQUEST #2

OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS

by Kevin P. Murphy

Thanks to concerned PEC members the ongoing protest against **Hallmark Greeting Card Company and Recycled Paper Products** is growing. These two American corporations are feeling the pressure of the American Irish community who are saying enough to bigoted stereotypes. More and more people are becoming aware and sensitive to the effects of such degradations as witnessed by the response to our recent Membership-By-Mail campaign (9/29/89). We will continue this campaign.

Recycled Paper Products has been responding to people that they intended to remove **only one card** from their 1990 line. They are now considering removing other cards at the request of our national office, but have made no commitments. Our current campaign to Recycled Paper, organized last April, asks that they remove all St. Patrick's Day greeting cards that depict American Irish as drunken fools; make reference to alcohol, make vulgar sexual connotations or degrade our religions. We cannot accept anything less. If we do, **Recycled Paper Products** will continue to degrade our heritage.

We must again write to Recycled Paper Products and insist

that they remove all offensive cards. We must also continue to refrain from purchasing any of their products and those of **Hallmark** until these disputes are resolved.

Course of Action: Write the letter below to: **Recycled Paper Products, 3636 North Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613.**

Dear Sir:

Many of your St. Patrick's Day greeting cards are offensive to the American Irish. My request is that you remove from your St. Patrick's Day line all cards that depict the American Irish as drunken fools or that make reference to alcohol, and cards that make vulgar sexual connotations or that degrade our religions. I do appreciate humor, but not at the expense of my heritage.

Sincerely,
signature

ALL OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO KEVIN P. MURPHY, PO BOX 8895, J F KENNEDY STATION, BOSTON, MA 02114.

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ARE EFFECTIVE!
WON'T YOU JOIN WITH US
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The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

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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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FROM THE EDITOR

David Dinkins impressive win over Mayor Ed Koch in the recent NYC Democratic Party Primary, according to some political analyst, was due in part to New York City's American Irish community. Many American Irish voted for Dinkin's because of his strong public support for Northern Ireland-related issues including that of Joe Doherty, and because of Mayor Koch's misguided statements about British colonialism in Ireland in 1988. When campaigning Dinkins does not limit his discussion of Irish issues, including Joe Doherty, to Irish audiences. This is something that Joe Hynes, candidate for Brooklyn District Attorney, has been doing for a long time. Joe Hynes was also very successful in his primary bid.

It is time that we Americans took into account a candidate's position on Northern Ireland -related issues when deciding who to vote for. If he or she has no positions, demand to know why. This is our right as Americans.

This trend has also surfaced in San Francisco where an American Irish political organization has been formed to unseat Bill Maher, a San Francisco supervisor who opposed San Francisco's recently adopted MacBride Principles legislation.

What we have to do is set the example. We must get out, work for and vote for the candidates who support our issues. We are quite capable of making our own decisions. If David Dinkins is elected as Mayor of New York City, and Bill Maher is dumped in San Francisco, we will have sent a clear message to the political establishment. More and more victories will follow as more and more candidates will take up our issues. But it's all up to you!

FROM THE NORTH

by Fr. Des Wilson, *Belfast correspondent and Director of Conway Mill*

Sitting in a room somewhere in the United States with Senators or Congressmen, talking, exchanging views and information, asking how we can help each other, is a new experience for me. I can't do that kind of thing in my own country the North of Ireland.

I asked to meet with the British minister responsible for industry in the North -- a Englishman called Rhodes Boyson - - to discuss a project for 200 jobs in an area of over 50% unemployment. He refused to meet with me. Could I, then, I asked, meet with some of his officials? No, he replied. I could not.

So I asked to meet with the British minister responsible for education, Brian Mawhinny, an Ulsterman by birth, to discuss a project in which we had over 400 adult students. He refused. Could I meet any of his officials? No, he replied, I could not.

So I asked to meet with the local Catholic Bishop, Dr. Cahal Daly, to discuss a project in which people were trying to create work, education, leisure and mutual help, most of them Catholics. He refused to meet with me. Could I meet with one of his officials? Yes. I could meet with his secretary. What a breakthrough.

Since things were still not moving at breakneck speed I wrote to a Catholic church agency asking for financial help for an area which had about 80% unemployment. They never answered my letter.

Meanwhile, I attended numerous meetings in different parts of Ireland where people were discussing emigration, extradition, shoot-to-kill policies and many other important matters. At each of these meetings we were assured that all local politicians had been invited to attend. Most of them just did not bother to attend. They did not have to, because Ireland is that kind of country.

You understand then why it is that sitting at a table facing congressmen, senators, bishops even, is an invigorating experience for me. We just don't do much of that kind of thing in Ireland, north or south.

There are exceptions of course. Cardinal O'Fiaich will meet with anybody who wants to meet with him, and if you try long and hard enough and have some political clout, you can meet with John Hume and have a conversation which is courteous, helpful and even enjoyable. Gerry Adams you can of course meet with anytime.

But then Gerry is not a powerful man and John Hume's powers are limited by the British Administration's policy of promising him a lot and giving him nothing. Meeting with the really powerful guys with money and influence is difficult for some and impossible for most.

You send an application for a grant to the International Fund For Ireland which is supposed to encourage enterprise in poor areas. You get a refusal without anyone even coming to see what you are talking about. At the same time other projects, already well funded and sympathetic to the Government, are approached by officials with offers of money even though they did not bother to ask for it in the first place.

So it comes as no surprise when officials, ministers and lackies curtly refuse to sit at the same table and talk to you. We are after all a subject people. If it becomes necessary for officials and politicians to explain why you cannot be heard, then charges are made against you. You are, of course, denied all knowledge of the reason or the evidence for the charges. London has spoken! The matter is finished.

It would be nice if churchmen would feel suitably appalled by all this and realize that one of the most dangerous things you can do to people is make them feel so utterly powerless. Church procedures, however, are much the same as those of the state. One copies the other's injustices.

It seems that if you colonize a people you've got to colonize them right through and all over.

They've done it before and there still at it.

NEWS BITS continued from page 1

our government put pressure on the Thatcher government, it would have to respond." (AIN-PEC)

The troops have been there for 20 years and it's time for something different to happen -- the troops are no solution at all. They are there supporting a sectarian State and, if you remove them, I think it will crumble. The speaker was Duncan Melville a former British Army NCO who served...in Northern Ireland and is now an active member of the British movement calling for the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland headed by British MP Claire Short known as the "Time To Go" movement. (The Northern Standard, 7/13/89)...An American family waiting for a traffic light in Newry noticed that several young boys (about 13 years-old) with bicycles were on a bridge also waiting for the light to change. British soldiers nearby sighted the boys with their rifles, lowered the rifles and re-sighted the boys again. They did this several times and the Americans were upset by this threat to innocent children. Upon telling their relatives, the Americans were told that this is not what happened. Soldiers would not point their rifles at children. One went so far as to say that she had once seen the same

thing and, upon going to the police to complain, was told that she had not seen what she thought. She chose to believe that the police version was the correct one despite the evidence of her own eyes. (AIN-PEC)

Britain is in a quandry over whether or not to extradite Jens Soering, currently in a London jail, who admitted being an accessory to murder in Virginia and is now fighting extradition to the United States. On July 7, the European Court of Human Rights decided that Soering must not be extradited because, if convicted, he might spend years on Death Row awaiting execution. That would violate his human rights...If Britain abides by the ruling, it will violate its 1972 extradition treaty with the United States. An official of the [British] Home Office stated, "Our practice is to abide by the rulings of the European Court." (Rockland Journal News, 7/28/89) Obviously, abiding by European Court decisions only applies in cases where Irish people are not involved. Britain has been condemned on many occasions by this court and has totally ignored its recommendations. Britain has also never hesitated to condemn United States court decisions which went against her wishes and does not hesitate to manipulate the extradition treaty with the U.S.

IRISH IN THE CONSTITUTION: Pierce Butler

by J. Robert Lunny, Esquire

Pierce Butler was the third son of Sir Richard Butler, the fifth baronet of Cloughgrenan and a member of the Irish parliament. Traditionally, British aristocrats directed younger sons into the military or the church and Butler's father was no exception. In the honored fashion of the times, he bought his son a commission in the infantry. His regiment came to North America in 1758 to participate in the French and Indian War and he served in the campaigns that resulted in the capture of Canada from the French. He returned to Ireland in 1762.

To occupy Canada and other new lands, parliament for the first time, ordered the permanent stationing of large British garrisons in North America. Because the government had incurred heavy war debts, parliament chose to support these troops by levying new taxes on the colonists. Americans generally disagreed with parliament over the need for garrisons, arguing that their local militias could handle the defense of the colonies. They also opposed the new taxes that began with the Stamp Act of 1765.

In 1768 the intensity of protests over parliament's taxes in Massachusetts led London to order Butler to Boston to maintain the King's peace. In fact, a detachment from his infantry unit fired the shots in the "Boston Massacre" of 1770, thereby dramatically intensifying the confrontation between the colonies and England. In 1771, the year after the "massacre", Butler, now a major, married Mary Middleton, the daughter of a wealthy South Carolina planter and colonial leader. Marriage led him to seek new directions, for when he received orders to return to England in 1773, he decided to leave the army. He sold his commission and used the proceeds to purchase a plantation in South Carolina.

When war broke out in 1775, Butler joined several other former British officers in casting his lot with the American cause.

In early 1779 Governor John Rutledge turned to the former redcoat to help organize South Carolina's defenses. Butler assumed the post of the state's Adjutant General, a position that carried the rank of Brigadier General.

Tactics he developed involved considerable expense and personal risk for Butler who, as a former royal officer, remained a special target for the British occupation forces. Several times he barely avoided capture. Throughout the closing phases of the war he personally contributed cash and supplies to help sustain the American forces and also assisted in the administration of prisoner of war facilities.

After the war he returned home, where he became an especially outspoken advocate of reconciliation with former loyalists and equal representation for the residents of the backcountry. Testifying to his growing political influence, the South Carolina legislature asked Butler to represent the state at the Constitutional Convention.

Butler's experiences as a soldier, planter and legislator influenced his forceful support for a strong union of the states at the convention. As a military leader during the campaigns in the south, he had come to appreciate the need for a national approach to defense. As a planter and merchant, he came to

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I read your editorial in the September 1989 Newsletter about the need for a moderate alternative in the "Free State". I think that your observation about hidden public opinion on the Northeast in the 26 counties is indicative of a timid, neo-colonial mentality that pervades the south. It is the result of government repression, media manipulation, academic dishonesty, the silence of the church and apathy.

Most people in the south are ignorant of the facts concerning the six counties but are quite willing to criticize those who do understand the true nature of the situation. However, southerners have no trouble supporting such "radical" causes as US out of Central America, the Anti-Nuclear Movement and the Anti-Apartheid movement. Ireland is a little country with a small population. If the "people" wanted to pressure the government into a more progressive stand on the Northeast it would be easy. Massive pressure to repeal Section 31 and to stop spending their tax money maintaining a border that Ireland did not create would shake the very foundation of parliament.

If Section 31 did not exist a more balanced view could be presented to the Irish people, so they could make informed choices. If Britain had to maintain the border on its own, the British will to remain in Ireland would crumble.

Sinn Fein's views are not extreme, they are humane and politically correct. The IRA's methods may be extreme for some but their demands are rational, just and long overdue. The IRA is a symptom not the cause of the unjust situation in the North.

You refer to the use of the "republic's" democratic process, there is no democracy in the 26 counties. Democracy means more than simply voting every so often. How can a democracy refuse to allow alternative opinions on television? How can a democracy raid the homes of political activists, arrest people for possessing political posters and imprison people for speaking out in public. How can a democracy co-operate militarily and politically with a neighbor state that condones the murder of civilians and the perversion of the judicial process? The key leaders of the 26 county state are incompetent, neo-colonial lackeys who behave as surrogates rather than the representatives of an independent nation.

People around the world pressure for the change of unjust conditions in the face of monumental government repression ...What the silent majority in the "republic" of Ireland needs is some people like yourself with backbone and a true commitment to social justice, not another political organization.

Prof. Seamus Mettress, Toledo, Ohio

(Ed. Note: The PEC is calling for the formation in Ireland of a of a national membership organization and not another political organization.)

understand that economic growth and international respect depended upon a strong central government. At the same time, he energetically supported the special interests of his region.

Later, he would serve three terms in the United States Senate.

Butler retired from politics in 1805 but he continued his business ventures, becoming one of the wealthiest men in America with huge land holdings in several states.

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by Francis Forster M.D.

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The author, who practiced medicine in Santa Barbara, California, the home of former President Ronald Reagan, has long been an outspoken proponent of Irish Republicanism. In his efforts to promote the cause of Irish unity, Dr. Forster more than held his own against formidable opponents. But, he paid a price for his daring.

UNDUE PROCESS is a sad book, a disturbing book, a book that will endure. It is a reflection of the sorry present state of the principles on which our nation was founded. Dr. Forster's story should be read by every American who values his freedom. Paperback, 177 pages.

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By Meda Ryan

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Here is an exciting and suspenseful narrative which reconstructed, in minute-by-minute detail, the last four days of Michael Collins' life and follows, mile-by-mile, his fatal journey through his home county of Cork. Paperback, 192 pp.

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By Jack O'Brien

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The Roots Of Anti-Irish Racism

by Liz Curtis - author of Ireland The Propaganda War

People who laugh at anti-Irish jokes probably don't realize just how long they've been around. Anti-Irish prejudice is deeply embedded in English culture. Successive waves of conquerors have tried to justify their ruthless ambitions by denigrating the Irish, native Americans, Africans, Indians, the Chinese, and women.

British imperial conceit has been fostered over eight centuries by writers such as the Norman Gerald of Wales, the Elizabethan poet Edmund Spenser, the eighteenth century philosopher David Hume, and the Victorians Carlyle and Kingsley. This tradition, continued today by politicians, journalists, cartoonists and TV comedians, helps to obscure the truth of Britain's role in Ireland and sets back the prospect of a solution. Paperback, 102 pp.

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PEC FINANCIAL APPEAL

Dear Member,

Soon, if not already, you will be receiving a request from the American Irish PEC for a donation to help us continue our important work. This request is separate from your annual renewal fee.

While we recommend a \$50 donation, we understand that some of you will not be able to afford that amount. Any donation, more or less than \$50, will be greatly appreciated. It is not expected that those of you who recently sent a donation, do so again.

You can send your donation now by using the Multi-Purpose coupon on page six being sure to check donation box. Your cooperation will save the PEC considerable work and expense.

As we become more effective in educating and uniting the American Irish, as exemplified through our successes in the MacBride Principles Campaign, so too do the efforts of our adversaries intensify. Americans of Irish descent, because of their efforts to peacefully reunite Ireland, are being attacked in the news and are being degraded by the entertainment media. This kind of bias promotes the idea that all American Irish activists who seek a united, democratic Ireland are supporters of violence -- that we are bad people -- and not to be taken seriously.

The PEC has just recently launched another membership campaign to tens of thousands of people, our largest effort to date. We included postcards to be mailed to two major news networks and two greeting card companies (Hallmark and Recycled Paper). This combined membership and action campaign is a costly but necessary step in increasing our numbers and influence. We need to bring together as many people as possible to prompt unbiased news coverage of the conflict in the north -- to end British colonialism and oppression in Ireland.

Your generous donation will help us continue this expensive campaign and all the important work that we do. Together, we are making a difference.

In American Irish unity,

John J. Finucane
National President

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE

Boston - On September 15 the Boston City Council unanimously adopted MacBride Principles legislation. The Bill which calls for contract compliance (not to purchase goods from American companies operating in Northern Ireland that do not adopt the MacBride Principles) beginning in 1990, was introduced by Councilwoman Maura Hennigan Casey. We congratulate the organizers of that campaign **Richard OhEig-iartaigh, Kevin Murphy, and Ann & Leo Cooney** who are all members of the PEC.

Grass-Roots Campaign On The Move

Stony Point, New York - On September 12 the Stony Point Town Council unanimously adopted a MacBride Principles resolution supporting shareholder resolutions and calling for contract compliance after 3 years with companies who do not adopt the MacBride Principles. The resolution was introduced by Town Supervisor **Myles Lavelle** at the request of PEC member **Kevin Malley**. **Miami** - In October, as a tribute to their recent President, the late **John Lawe**, the Transport Workers Union of America in convention has overwhelming adopted a MacBride Principles resolution calling upon all US Senators and Congressmen to adopt national MacBride Principles legislation. A resolution was also adopted calling upon the US Senate and Congress to

COLLEGE STUDENTS CAN HELP

The grass-roots MacBride Principles campaign continues as the PEC works to educate college students regarding British employment discrimination in the north of Ireland. The PEC encourages college students to propose MacBride Principles resolutions to their colleges' boards of trustees and clubs, etc.

If you would like further information regarding this campaign or would like to supply the PEC with names of college students willing to participate, contact **Sandy Carlson** at the PEC or 23 Court Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511. The PEC has an how-to information package ready to send to you if you are interested.

support Concurrent Resolution #62 in support of **Joe Doherty**. Copies of both resolutions will be sent to all members of Congress. The resolutions, written by PEC member and union member **Pete Foley**, were introduced by **Frank McCann**, executive vice-president of the TWU. **California** - **Joe O'Neill** advises us that on the day Governor **Deukmejian** vetoed the MacBride legislation, a resolution supporting the MacBride Principles was adopted by the San Francisco County Democratic Party. The same resolution will go to all Democratic Party county committees state-wide, and that Party's state platform and resolutions committees. Activists promise to make the MacBride Principles an issue in the 1990 Gubernatorial Race.

THE WINCHESTER THREE:

British Injustice In Ireland

By *Sandy Carlson*

Martina Shanahan, John McCann, and Finbar Cullen have recently begun their twenty-five year sentence for, according to the British police, conspiring in 1987 with persons unknown to murder Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King and persons unknown. They will be eligible for parole only after seventeen years.

Shanahan, McCann, and Cullen, all Dubliners in their twenties, were camping in the West of England when they were arrested on August 30, 1987. Shanahan and Cullen were arrested after Mrs. King reported to the police that she saw them near her property. McCann was later arrested at the camp site.

After searching the camp site, the police found only a list of names of British government people, a list of registration numbers from cars that had been on the King property, a wool cap, an FM radio, money, a copy of *Combat* and *Survival* magazine, driving licenses in other people's names, and a booking form for a Blackpool hotel. The police found no weapons or bombs and no evidence that would link the three campers to any Irish paramilitary organizations.

By delaying bringing charges against the three until after a ten-day detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), unofficial sources in the police force were free to spread rumors to prejudice the public against the three. In fact, the police briefed the media the day after the arrest. At this time, they informed the media they were investigating the background of the three to determine whether they had any Irish Republican Army (IRA) links. The *Daily Express* subsequently carried the headline that the "IRA Plot to Murder a Minister", and the *London Times* declared that the arrests followed "a tip off from SAS officials in Ulster that Irish terrorists were planning an attempt on the life of Tom King."

On Sept 4, 1987, the ITN broadcast Tom King stating, "I think that the IRA are scared...of the growing close relationship ...between the United Kingdom and Irish government, and the determination that we both have to wipe out terrorism." These and similar reports from the media facilitated British efforts to vilify Shanahan, McCann and Cullen.

Although one trial judge threw out the charge of conspiracy with persons unknown to murder persons unknown for lack of evidence, a different judge later allowed the prosecution to reinsert it without submitting any new evidence. The conspiracy charge allowed the authorities to bring the three to trial without substantive evidence. Under British law, the charge of conspiracy allowed the Crown to submit as evidence the list of names and addresses. This list along with the Blackpool booking form--however extraneous--were the sole bits of evidence the prosecution used to draw a picture of Irish blood-thirsty bandits. Without the

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conspiracy charges the closest substantive charge would have been attempted murder. However, such a charge would require the prosecution to prove a specific intent to kill along with proximate, not preparatory, steps toward that end. Also the conspiracy charges put the burden of proof on the defense.

Other factors aided the British in their attempt to provide an unfair trial for the Winchester Three. The trial was in Winchester, a garrison town which was the base of the army regiment from which several members were killed by an IRA bus bombing on August 20, 1987. In addition, several army regiments from Winchester have served in Northern Ireland. Also, the trial was timed to coincide with the Conservative Party convention in Brighton, where the IRA tried to murder Margaret Thatcher in 1984. Still, Judge Swinton Thomas rejected the idea that the jury would be prejudiced due to the location of the trial or by the Fleet Street headlines which often juxtaposed stories about the Conservative Party convention and the trial.

At the trial, the Three chose to exercise their common law right to silence. However, at this time, Tom King chose to abolish that centuries-old right, replacing it with law that would allow a jury to infer guilt from a defendant's silence.

Initially, the Judge insisted on a unanimous verdict from the jury, but then he required only a 10 to 2 majority. He also advised the jurors that they should allow themselves to be influenced by the majority opinion, should they find themselves in the minority. On October 28, 1988, Martina Shanahan, John McCann, and Finbar Cullen were sentenced to twenty-five years imprisonment. The jury convicted the three without ever seeing or hearing a shred of substantive evidence supporting their alleged conspiracy with persons unknown to murder persons unknown. The three are currently appealing their conviction.

We urge you to demonstrate your concern by writing to your US Senators (United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510) and Congressman (House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) with this information and urging them to demonstrate their opposition to this injustice and that they urge the Bush Administration to end its support for British government policies and presence in Ireland.

Join

**The American Irish
Political Education Committee(PEC)
*founded in 1975***

***For Membership Information Only
Call 800-777-6807 between 3pm & 9am EDT***

**Published by: American Irish PEC, Malloy Building,
Stony Point, NY 10980 - (914) 947-2726**

PLEASE READ!!!!

We apologize for the confusion we caused those members who recently received in the mail a request to join the PEC. It is unavoidable that we mail membership kits to people who are already members. Simply disregard the request and pass it on to a friend.

When we conduct Membership-By-Mail campaigns as we recently did, we use mailing lists purchased from a mailing house. We have no way of knowing if members' names are on these lists.

WHEN YOU WRITE LETTERS TO THE PEC

...and you desire an answer to your letter, please include your phone # and when you can be reached at that number. Because of the large amount of mail received at the PEC office, it is impossible to answer all letters. Inclusion of your phone # will make our tasks easier. We appreciate your cooperation.

**OFFENSIVE ST. PATRICK'S DAY GREETING CARDS
Vendor Campaign**

We continue our offensive St. Patrick's Day greeting card campaign. We ask that you visit your local merchants who sell greeting cards. They will soon be ordering their 1990 St. Patrick's Day cards and novelties. Ask that they do not order, accept or display any cards or other items that offend the American Irish image -- items that make reference to alcohol, that depict the American Irish as silly fools, sex perverts, or that degrade our religions. If the merchant tells you that he or she has no control over

ordering, ask that they contact their greeting card suppliers directly by forwarding a copy of your letter.

For your convenience we include a form letter below for you to make copies of. Mail or hand deliver it to greeting card vendors in your community as soon as possible. Be sure to include your name and address. Solicit friends, family, organizations, etc. to do the same. It is better that vendors receive more than one visit or letter. Always be cordial and business-like.

Reproduce And Distribute Letter Below

**AMERICAN IRISH
POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Dear Vendor,

There are many St. Patrick's Day greeting cards and novelties that are very offensive to some of your customers, particularly Americans of Irish heritage. These cards and novelties make reference to alcohol, depict the American Irish as silly fools, make vulgar sexual connotations, and even degrade our religions.

On behalf of the American Irish in our community, I urge you to inform your greeting card and novelty supplier of this offensive situation. Further, I urge that you inform your suppliers not to include in your St. Patrick's Day order any cards and novelties that degrade the American Irish in the above manner.

Your cooperation on this very serious matter will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

ACTION REQUEST # 1

by A. R. Doyle

Informed supporters of a united, democratic Ireland are used to the anti-Irish prejudice of the British "yellow journal" newspapers. This stems from a deep-seated, anti-Irish strain which exists in British society for historic and psychological reasons. Americans are not used to seeing these emanations in our own country, but make no mistake-they exist, perhaps less noticed now than in the "No Irish Need Apply" era, but still alive. Many influential Americans are anglophiles -- itself not a harmful disposition. But, because of their ignorance of history many do not realize that in buying into uncritical pro-British admiration they sometimes also buy into the uglier side of British thinking, including anti-Irish prejudice and an imperial outlook on the world. An example of this "adopted" prejudice recently appeared in an editorial in the *Los Angeles Times*, one of this country's leading newspapers. The editorial of September 6 opposed the California MacBride Principles legislation then pending in the Legislature. Fair enough. One can oppose MacBride. But the editorial was a masterpiece of Fleet Street bigotry and anti-Irish racism. Among other things it contained the following:

"There is something about Ireland that makes politicians, particularly Americans, take leave of their senses. Usually the results of these flights of fancy are harmless or merely vulgar. Occasionally they are mischievous and, potentially, dangerous."

The rest of the editorial expounds the now familiar argu-

ments of the British Information Service (their undoubted source) against the MacBride Principles of Fair Employment, including the suggestion that support for MacBride is limited to Sinn Fein and IRA supporters. This month's letter is to let the *Los Angeles Times* know that we recognize anti-Irish racism and British political propaganda when we see it. Please write a letter along the lines of the suggested letter below -- in your own words -- and get others to do so. **PLEASE WRITE NOW!**

Your address & date

Editor, The Los Angeles Times
Times Mirror Square
Los Angeles, Ca 90053

Dear Sir:

Your editorial of September 6 was most offensive to American Irish and others. Your discription of support for the MacBride Principles as being based on "flight of fancy" and sentiments usually "harmless or merely vulgar" - but here, "dangerous" - are insulting and racist, worthy of the worst anti-Irish British yellow journalism. In addition I do not accept that American support for legislation to reverse the admitted discriminatory employment pattern in Northern Ireland implies support for violence, etc. in Ireland. That is McCarthyism of the worst sort. As journalists you should be ashamed.

Sincerely,
signature

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