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Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - December 1983 - January 1984" (1984). *American Irish Newsletter*. 161.

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POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 8, No. 6

DECEMBER 1983/JANUARY, 1984

N.Y. DAILY NEWS CENSURED

(see below)

**HELP SAVE IRISH LIVES!
WRITE YOUR UAP ACTION LETTER NOW!**

NEWS BITS *by Andy Prior*

Sunday, 25th September 1983 will be written into the page of Irish history as the day when 38 prisoners broke out of the notorious Long Kesh H-Block no. 7. Fifteen were recaptured almost immediately, close to the prison, with a further four being retaken subsequently; the remaining nineteen escapees stay free to date. Feeling among nationalists and republicans were jubilant as the escape left the "security forces" utterly humiliated. (Troops Out 11/83).

The Fair Employment Agency released two reports in September. One shows that in Derry 71% of the Catholic workforce is unemployed, 17% of Protestants. The other studied the Belfast Telegraph newspaper which employs 281 Protestants and 14 Catholics on production; 95 Protestants and 23 Catholics on the editorial staff; no Catholics in executive positions. (Troops Out 11/83) ... An inquest jury has decided that there was no evidence to suggest that the RUC had been aiming at a legitimate target when Mrs. Norah McCabe, 31 a mother of three, was struck and killed by

(Continued on Page 2)

ARE AMERICAN LEADERS DUPES OF BRITAIN?

by Howard Allen

The Grenada crisis shattered the myth of British reliability. The Reagan Administration found itself deserted by the nation they tirelessly quote as "America's closest ally" when discussing Northern Ireland.

Facts surfacing after the crisis pinpoint Grenada as a prime example of British indifference to American interests in the Caribbean. During President Reagan's March, 1983 speech on military spending, he cited the expansion of Grenada's Port Salines Airport as a potential threat to American security. After the October invasion, news organizations reported that construction at the airport was being partially supervised by the Plessy Company, a British firm subsidized by the British government.

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DAILY NEWS CENSURED BY NATIONAL NEWS COUNCIL

by Ray Quinn

At its October meeting, The National News Council censured The New York *Daily News* for making a "significant factual error in an editorial" concerning the number of deaths attributable to nationalists forces in Northern Ireland.

The New York *Daily News*, a newspaper known for its various anti-Irish views, stated in an April 9th editorial: "All murders are wrong and all the 2,000 people the IRA has killed in the last 14 years were murdered." The editorial was allegedly in response to the tragic, accidental shooting of a loyalist by the Provisional IRA.

Two weeks after the editorial's publication, The *Daily News* published a letter challenging its allegation that the IRA was responsible for all the 2,000 killings. In June, the American Irish Unity Committee complained to the National News Council that publication of the letter to the editor was not an adequate correction of what it called a serious error of fact. The *News* had failed to cite the many

(Continued on Page 2)

ROCKLAND COUNTY IRISH STAND TALL!

by John J. Finucane

The Irish-American community of Rockland County, N.Y. can certainly be proud of their highly successful entry into the democratic process. They have once again demonstrated "that there is nothing we cannot do if we work together".

During the Barclay Bank debates which took place in the Rockland County Legislature (January/February, 1983), Legislator Diane Beljean who bitterly opposed the resolution, called the Irish "a venomous few". Leaders of the Irish-American community vowed that they would remember that in November and remember they did. The Barclay Bank resolution urged the Legislature to discontinue using that bank as a depository for County funds as a protest against British policies in Northern Ireland.

In September, representatives of the Irish-American community kicked off a campaign to unseat Mrs. Beljean and to put into office or reelect candidates who had proven themselves supportive of Irish concerns. The candidates were Ed Clark (Democrat), Joe Colello (Republican), and Frank Fornario (Republican with Conservative endorsement).

(Continued on Page 3)

FREE OFFER

The PEC has just published a chapter from **PADDY'S LAMENT** by Thomas Gallagher. This excellent publication deals with the Irish Famine. If you would like a free copy, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: PEC, P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, NY 10923.

ENGLAND: FRIEND OR FOE

by Bob West (Sommerville, S.C.)

I don't know why Americans should be so shocked at our "allies" reaction to our liberation of Grenada especially England who claims to be our "truest ally, greatest friend", etc. Our "allies" actions do not agree with their pronouncements. They only support us if it does not conflict with their own interests.

Are our "true" or "trusted allies" to be trusted without reservation? Who are our friends? Judge for yourself!

In 1946, the English sold 55 jet engines to Russia, later used in MIG-15 fighters against Americans in Korea.

During the Korean War, we sent lend lease wheat to England, who resold it for cash to our enemy, North Korea; and English mortars were captured from North Korean soldiers.

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, England was the first to ignore our blockade of trade with Cuba.

During the Vietnam War, England traded with the Communist North Vietnamese, supplying arms and materials while Americans were being killed and maimed. Only Russia had more ships calling on Haiphong harbor, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines sent troops to our aid.

In 1973, during the Arab-Israeli War and Arab oil embargo, England refused to let U.S. planes refuel in England when supplying Israel with urgently needed survival supplies. Of our NATO "friends", only the Netherlands stood by us and refused to 'knuckle under' to the Arab oil cartel.

During the Iranian hostage crisis, England traded with Iran and refused to hide escaped Americans that our Canadian friends willingly concealed and smuggled to safety.

During U.S. boycott of Moscow Olympics, England sent her team.

In 1982, England ordered its firms to ignore the American ban against selling high-technological equipment to Russia to build its trans-Siberian natural gas pipeline.

Of course the U.S. should cooperate with countries we have treaties with, like NATO, but our unreserved cooperation should only be within the context of those treaties. All "allies" should be treated equally but observed with a wary eye, for after all they are not Americans. Actions on our behalf, not pronouncements, reveal best friends. No foreign country should have an inordinate amount of in-

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Political Education Committee National Newsletter founded in 1976

Published by: The American-Irish National Political Education Committee, with the support of the Emerald Society, Fire Department, City of New York.

P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923

Editor John J. Finucane

DAILY NEWS

(Continued from Page 1)

British army and Royal Ulster Constabulary murders of Irish Nationalists. In the past the paper has ignored requests to publish editorials speaking out against England's shoot-to-kill policy. The *News* has likewise refused to condemn the use of lethal plastic bullets by the British occupation forces against Irish children.

In its finding the National News Council ruled:

"There is no dispute that the 2,000 figure includes people killed by both British forces and by the volunteer organizations that are the "loyalist" counterparts of the "nationalist" IRA. Therefore, the factual statement in the *News* editorial is wrong.

"The News Council does not normally accept complaints about editorials, because it believes that a broad range of interpretation of facts is essential to a vigorous competition of ideas. However, the Council does recognize that some factual statements fall outside an acceptable range of interpretations; they are just plain wrong. Unless such statements are corrected, they mislead the reader and give an unfair advantage to the idea the editorial writer is expressing.

"The statement that the IRA killed 2,000 people over 14 years is such a wrong statement, and it was not enough for the *News* to publish a letter challenging the figures ... *News* readers would have been better served if the *News* had published a correction when the error was called to its attention, or, at the very least, if the newspaper had published an editor's note with the letter acknowledging that its editorial statement had been wrong."

The *Daily News* censure is the latest in a series of victories against the American media vis-a-vis their Northern Ireland coverage. The censures are seen as a move to embarrass the media into recognizing that English propaganda on the North is simply not the truth. Concerned individuals are encouraged to cite the News Council decisions in their letters to the broadcast and print media.

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

a baton round fired from a police land rover on July 8, 1981. The jury termed Mrs. McCabe an "innocent victim." (Irish Times 11/5/83).

Britain's Liberal Party has adopted a new policy on NI. In addition to calling for Irish unity and the withdrawal of the British army, it advocates the creation of an all-Ireland council and "a strong defense of human rights" in the North. It opposes all forms of violence and seeks "full and open coverage" of the NI conflict in the British media. Finally, it urges all Liberal MP's to support a vigorous defense of free speech on the subject of NI. (Irish Post 11/12/83).

"I regard Ian Paisley as an evil man. There is no point in talking to a man whose sole object is to sow hate." Thus recently spoke Red Ritchie, Irish member of the European Parliament. Britian, Ritchie went on, had a great deal to answer for when it allowed "This political monster" to emerge in NI as a Unionist leader. (Sunday Press 10/30/83) ... "Cordial relations between the Dublin and London governments were formerly restored on 11/7/83 when Thatcher played host to Fitzgerald. But other than that, it was the least remarkable Anglo-Irish summit since such meetings began on a regular basis in 1980. (Irish Post 11/12/83).

FROM THE EDITOR

The Irish American Unity Conference's (IAUC) continuing success in uniting Irish Americans across the United States comes as no great surprise. Since the tragic hunger strike, Irish American awareness has increased enormously. Concerned people have been looking for ways to help. It seems that the IAUC is meeting this need.

What makes the IAUC attractive is its approach. This is both political and economic. Some see its chairman James Delaney, the successful land developer from Texas as another John Wayne.

The PEC's UAP ACTION LETTER (see last page of newsletter), with relatively few participants, considering the fact that there are over 43 million Americans claiming Irish heritage, has proven extremely effective. Since our last UAP Action Letter directed to the Republican Committee, we have been hearing reports that the Republican Party may be considering positive action concerning a British withdrawal. Of course, nothing is positive until we hear and see it publicly stated in the news media. Think of how effective the Action Letter program will be with a very large participation!

The Irish American Unity Conference, by adopting a UAP Action Letter-type program, will provide us with the necessary numbers — read voters — to have that all-important political clout every politician understands.

The success of the IAUC is not up to one individual. It is up to every single one of us. **We must act now!**

We urge all Irish Americans to join the IAUC! To be successful it must have your support.

FOR IAUC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION WRITE:

Irish American Unity Conference
2 North Liberty Drive
Stony Point, N.Y. 10980
OR CALL: (914) 947-2726

**We Wish You
A Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

Join the action and information flow. Subscribe to the bi-monthly Political Education Committee National Newsletter. Send your name and address and a check for \$8.00 to: National PEC, PO Box 16, Garnerville, NY 10923.

YES, please enroll me the following name person for a one year subscription of the bi-monthly PEC National Newsletter. Enclosed, please find my check for \$_____ Date _____

Signature _____

Name (print) _____

Address _____

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP: PASSPO

by Honorable Sean Patrick Walsh
(Reprinted from Vol. 6, No. 2 - PEC National Newsletter)

The ostensible purpose of the celebrated Rhodes Scholarship is to provide a year of advanced study at Oxford University for a select group of accomplished scholars chosen, for the most part, from among the inhabitants of former British colonies. The actual and chief effect of the Rhodes Scholarship program is to instill in these hand-picked students an exceptionally high regard for things English and to encourage their adoption of the Anglo-Saxon manner.

While foreign travel and study abroad are mind-enriching and an ennobling experience, one must distinguish between programs that foster an appreciation for another culture and those which press assimilation into that culture. There can be no doubt that the Rhodes Scholarship is an example of an assimilationist program, one that bears especially careful scrutiny by Irish-Americans.

Cecil John Rhodes, the man after whom Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) was named, was an imperialist **par excellence**. He devoted a significant part of his career to swindling black Africans out of their rights to land rich in diamonds and, upon his death, left an estate worth more than 30 million dollars. In his will, he directed that the bulk of this money be used to finance what we know as the famous Rhodes Scholarships.

Each year, thirty-two "lucky" American college graduates receive this highly coveted prize for which thousands competed. Then, after an enjoyable year of study in England, the thirty-two return, invariably flushed with enthusiasm for British institutions and probably just the slightest bit sorry that George Washington was so successful. Moreover, since these freshly dubbed Oxford scholars are

ROCKLAND COUNTY (Continued from Page 1)

A letter was sent to all Irish-American households in her district. The letter pointed out Mrs. Beljean's consistent anti-Irish Human Rights record and urged them to vote for those candidates who had been approved by the representatives of our community. This was followed-up by an extensive telephone campaign. The campaign was a complete success.

The following are excerpts from Rockland's popular JOURNAL NEWS:

"The chairwoman of Orangetown's Conservative Party, Mrs. Beljean, the top voter-getter in 1979, fell out of favor with many town voters of Irish descent over her opposition to a move by the Legislature last January to stop depositing funds in British-owned Barclay Bank ... The resolution was intended to show support for a unified Ireland."

"Mrs. Beljean said her vote against the Barclays Bank resolution played a role in her defeat ... There was a strong *get out the Irish* vote against me."

If Irish Americans across the nation unite in this kind of democratic action for the 1984 Presidential Election and Primaries, Britain will soon be forced to leave Ireland. The Irish American Unity Conference presents us with a golden opportunity to hasten this long-awaited for event. **START ORGANIZING NOW!**

RT TO ANGLOTOPIA

high achievers, they take their newly found, or in some cases rekindled, Anglophilia with them as they climb the ladder to success as doctors, lawyers, or corporate chiefs. Some of them find a ready berth in the **U.S. State Department** where an abiding affection for the English crown is a prerequisite for aspiring American diplomats.

For Irish-Americans the consequences of all this are devastating. The flower of American scholarship judges itself by English standards and the leadership of the American government is predisposed by cultural and educational ties to favor the English point of view, sometimes to the serious detriment of the national interest of the United States. (see, England: Friend or Foe, Page 2). Since the Rhodes Scholarship has no German, French, or other counterpart to equal its prestige, generation after generation of Americans since 1902 has heard English propaganda with an American accent from the lips of some of America's brightest young men and women. Moreover, one need only listen to the affectations of a William F. Buckley, Jr. (who only went to Yale for God's sake!) to realize that you do not have to be a Rhodes scholar to be a lickspittle of the English.

With all this in mind, it is easy to understand why the cause of Irish freedom has so few allies in the United States. Anti-Catholicism and anti-Irish racial bigotry are the twin obstacles, not only in England, but here in America, as well. Sad to say, many Americans possess an unwarranted reverence for England that not only occludes their comprehension of Irish affairs, but biases them against the French, the Spanish, the Italians or any other national group that was ever at odds with the English.

Until Americans come to grips with this insidious Anglo-American connection and learn to cultivate an independent national identity, the United States is destined to remain in 1984 just as John Quincy Adams described her in 1824: "a cockboat in the wake of a British man of war."

DUPES

(Continued from Page 1)

Still unexplained is the behavior of Sir Paul Scoon, the British governor-general of Grenada. Scoon appealed to the United States for military intervention rather than his own country. As citizens of the Commonwealth, Grenadians are entitled to the full protection of the Crown.

Although the British failed to intervene on behalf of their own citizens, they wasted no time in reasserting their authority over Grenada. After 18 Americans lost their lives securing the island, the New York Daily News reported on November 5 that British authorities forced 27 soldiers of the 82nd Airborne to take an oath of allegiance to the Queen.

Grenada isn't the only Caribbean locale where the British hold American vital interests a hostage. In October, syndicated columnist Jack Anderson reported President Reagan "infuriated" by Margaret Thatcher's "diplomatic blackmail" during their last Washington summit. The subject of her coercion was Belize, a former British colony bordering Mexico. The President considers the British security force in Belize indispensable in preventing the flow of weapons from Cuba to Mexican revolutionaries. Thatcher, still obsessed with the Falkland Islands, threatened to withdraw the force if the President lifted the arms embargo to Argentina.

IRISH WHO MADE AMERICA GREAT

by Michael McCabe (Connecticut)

We should be proud to note that our "President's Palace", the White House, was not only designed by an Irishman, James Hoban, but that its plan was based on a grand building in Dublin.

James Hoban's birthdate is uncertain; it is estimated to be between 1758 and 1762. He hailed from County Kilkenny, and was educated at the University of Dublin. He trained as an artisan and architect, and emigrated to the United States sometime around the Revolution. He settled in Charleston, South Carolina and designed, among other buildings, the State House, burned during the Civil War.

In 1792 Hoban moved to Washington, D.C. In March of that year the Commissioners of the Federal City, Thomas Johnson, Daniel Carroll, and David Stuart, established two architectural competitions, one for the design of the Capitol and another for the President's House. Six people entered the competition for the latter, including Thomas Jefferson, and three Irishmen: Andrew Carshore, James Diamond, of Somerset County, Maryland, and Hoban. In July the Commissioners awarded \$500, including a gold medal worth 10 guineas (\$46), to Hoban for his design.

As did the rejected plans, Hoban's design drew in the main on the Palladian architecture of mid-18th century Europe. This accounts for its similarity to Leinster House in Dublin, to which it is often compared. The main difference between the two buildings is that Leinster House has three stories above ground level, while the White House has two.

Winning the White House contest brought Hoban an appointment to superintend construction. A year later the Capitol became his responsibility, too. With but one interlude, he held the position until 1802, though his assistant Stephen Hallet for a time took rather free reign.

Hoban rebuilt the White House after it was burned by the British in 1814. He was active in government building until his death in Washington in 1831. Yet, many of our most famous buildings still stand in tribute to their architect, James Hoban, one of the Irish who made America great.

FRIEND OR FOE

(Continued from Page 2)

fluence in the U.S. and be singled out for special treatment.

The information media has told us so often that England is our best friend, most Americans believe it. This media, with the exception of the Christian Science Monitor and few others, have 'bent' international news in England's favor even to the detriment of the facts in trying to persuade us of England's friendship and righteousness.

At the early outset of the Falklands/Malvinas crisis, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the American Ambassador to the United Nations, commented on the extent of English influence in this country by suggesting the U.S. State Dept. could be disbanded in lieu of the dictates of the British Home Office!

The U.S. jeopardized its relations with South America when it sided with England during the Falklands/Malvinas crisis, in contravention of the Monroe Doctrine and O.A.S. treaties.

We support our "allies" but they do not support us unless it is in their own interest to do so. We saved England's 'bacon' in World Wars I and II and in the Falklands/Malvinas and what do we get from them, 'the bad end of the stick'?

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

A Little History of Ireland
by Seamus MacCall

This book is a birds-eye view of the Irish past which brings the reader right up to the 20th century. A comprehensive and easy to read book of 61 pages it is recommended for everyone not in possession of a full knowledge of Irish history. Give your friends and your children the knowledge of their heritage that so many of us were denied. Give them the gift of American Irish Awareness.

For a copy, send your check or money order for \$4.95 to: National PEC, PO Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923. Attn: Books. If you would like to give a gift of this book to someone, please include their name and address.

POWER OF THE PEN

(another UAP Action Letter victory)

by John J. Finucane

In the last issue of the PEC NATIONAL NEWSLETTER, we reported an offensive situation concerning the membership application of The Bradbury Club of San Francisco. The application called for the exclusion of "women with loose morals and the Irish". We called upon our subscribers to write to the Bradbury Club.

We are happy to announce that the Bradbury Club has since published an apology. The apology is as follows:

"We have many Irish members in the Bradbury Clubs. Some of the main founding members in 1970 were Irish and they thought it was humorous to make the phony exclusion. In California the Irish are loved as happy fun people with rich folklore.

Further, it is illegal to discriminate because of sex, race or creed, so the authors of the application included the exclusions to be totally absurd. No one has ever before taken the application seriously in its eight years of publication.

We have become more informed of the difficulties in Ireland and can now better understand the misunderstanding.

Our apologies to those who thought we were serious and the application has been changed.

Also an apology has been printed in our October and November Bradbury Books".

We wish to thank those proud Irish-Americans who took the time to write to the Bradbury Club. It is their efforts that make the PEC's UAP Action Letter program a success.

(Ed. Note: In the apology the Irish are noted as a "happy fun people." All well and good, but its about time we be taken seriously and that is happening.)

"THE ONLY LASTING HOPE FOR PEACE IS FOR THE BRITISH TO GET OUT OF IRELAND."

Thomas Cardinal O'Fiaich
Premate of All Ireland

THE DEARIE RESOLUTION

by Andy Prior

A New York State Assemblyman, John C. Dearie (D-Bx) has been able to elevate the issue of a U.S. appointed special envoy to N.I. from a local petition drive to a national subject of discussion. Dearie feels that a special envoy would shed light on the plight of N.I. and could act as a catalyst for peace in a diplomatic shuttle mission between Belfast, Dublin and London.

Responding to the call for an envoy, the seven Democratic presidential hopefuls and Pres. Reagan's answers fell into four categories. Former V.P. Walter Mondale and Sens. Gary Hart of Colorado and Ernest Hollings of So. Carolina committed themselves to naming an envoy.

Reagan, Sen. George McGovern of So. Dakota and former Florida Gov. Reubin Askew said they would not. Sen. John Glenn said "possibly". Sen. Alan Cranston of Calif. said "probably not". Reagan, through the State Dept., said that the naming of an envoy "would serve no useful purpose".

Hart said he would name an envoy and "frankly, I don't think we should be particularly concerned about British reaction." Mondale said "If the appointment of an emissary could help, of course we should do it."

In October a resolution promoting the special envoy was introduced in the US Senate by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass), Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn) and Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-NY).

Gov. Mario Cuomo (D-NY) has publicly announced his support for the Senate resolution. Cuomo stated that, "The denial anywhere of the ideals this nation has pledged to foster and defend, the political rights and democratic processes that our Constitution claims belong to all peoples, must concern us all."

Also, recently, Rep. James F. McNulty (D-Ariz) has introduced legislation into the House of Representatives calling on the President to appoint a special envoy.

Assemblyman Dearie hopes that the special envoy proposal will give the 43 million Irish-Americans a particular Irish focus. A focus that was lacking three short years ago in the 1980 presidential election when not one candidate out of a field of eleven ever mentioned the Northern Ireland issue during the entire twenty-two month campaign.

According to Dearie "now, the widespread and continuing support for the US to appoint a special envoy ... will force them (the politicians) into the Northern Ireland issue and not to ignore it".

UAP ACTION LETTER

by Albert Doyle

IMPORTANT REQUEST. In the October/November 1983 edition of the Newsletter we suggested a letter to the Chairman of the Republican National Committee with regard to the stated policy of that Committee to treat the Northern Ireland situation as a non-issue for U.S. purposes. It is recognized that this policy of benign neglect (or rather contempt) is not the exclusive property of the Republican Party. Accordingly, we are now suggesting a letter to the Democratic National Committee to focus their attention on the issue. This letter is even more important because of the support being generated for New York Assemblyman Dearie's resolution to attempt to reach a solution to the Northern Ireland problem by the appointment of a special ambassador.

We ask you to write or type your own letter along the lines of the letter below. If for any reason you cannot personalize such a letter, simply rewrite the letter below on your own stationery. Please urge all organizations of which you are a member to do the same. IN VIEW OF THE 1984 ELECTIONS THIS LETTER CAN BE VERY IMPORTANT.

(Address and date)

Mr. Charles P. Manatt
Chairman, Democratic National Committee
1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Manatt:

The Reagan Administration has taken a position adverse to the wishes of millions of Irish Americans with regard to the situation in Northern Ireland. They consider that situation to be an internal matter to be dealt with by the British government. That response is not acceptable to a substantial group of American voters who are concerned with the sixty year-old illegal British regime in Northern Ireland which has been based on sectarian division. There are over forty million

UNITY CONFERENCE UPDATE

IAUC national headquarters is now operating full-time at its modern and fully-equipped offices. The office is located in the Rand Development Corporation office complex in San Antonio, Texas. Presently, the staff consists of four full-time paid workers. The work force will increase over the next few months to keep-up with the ever increasing demands ... James Delaney and several members of the Board of Directors recently conducted a fact-finding mission to the Irish Republic and the north. There were numerous meetings with political, religious (Catholic and Protestant), and business leaders from the north and south. The delegation received extensive front page news coverage ... Thousands of request for membership information have been received. Membership kits are now ready and are being mailed out ... Delaney has attended five more regional conferences in New York, Minnesota, California, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. There are now 15 regional offices in operation. At least 4 more conferences are planned for the near future ... The IAUC will be very active in making the Irish Question a major issue in the upcoming campaigns for the Presidency and House of Representatives. It is fast becoming recognized as a major political force.

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION WRITE:

IAUC, Membership Promotion,
2 North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980
or call: 914-947-2726

Americans claiming Irish heritage. The Democratic Party could establish a favorable position with a large number of these voters by seeking publicly to end British rule in Northern Ireland at the earliest practical date.

Sincerely,
(signature)

**NATIONAL
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