



1-1983

American Irish Newsletter - December 1982 - January 1983

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - December 1982 - January 1983" (1983). *American Irish Newsletter*. 167.

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POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 7, No. 6

DECEMBER, 1982/JANUARY, 1983

BOSTON GLOBE: NOT SO TOUGH AFTER ALL

(see Boston Globe Succumbs on Page 2)

**WRITE YOUR UAP ACTION LETTERS NOW!
REMEMBER! AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT AND BIG BUSINESS YOUR PERSONAL LETTER REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF ONE THOUSAND AMERICANS.**

NEWS BITS

by Andy Prior

In the coverage of the Falklands-clash, the European press completely overlooks the historical interrelations. The press also did not report the fact Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's husband Dennis Thatcher is the main shareholder of the Falkland Company (Europa Korrespondenz 6/82). How many young men were killed?

ENGLAND — Stunned British Ministers and enraged officials in M16 and the intelligence community are this weekend counting the cost of failure in the most high-powered and determined effort yet to break the American pipeline of arms to the IRA. The acquittal of five Irish-Americans in New York on Friday on charges of masterminding a huge gun-running operation for the terrorists in N.I. has shattered a two-year plan to destroy the IRA's main suppliers. The view in intelligence circles now is that in spite of cooperation directly between Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and President Reagan, the IRA has been guaranteed an uninterrupted supply of weapons (Sunday Express 11/7/82). *President Reagan's conspiracy with England against American citizens makes it very clear, justice is not his priority.*

The N.I. Assembly election has "bestowed a legitimacy and credibility upon the Provisional IRA that will surprise and shock many in this country, Britain and abroad. The conventional wisdom that the Provos represented and received support from only a tiny minority of the Catholic population has now been proved to be largely groundless. The 10% of the electorate — just over 35% of those Catholics who voted for Nationalist politics last Wednesday — surely knew who and what they were voting for." (Irish Times 10/23/82)...*(This vote will obviously come as a surprise to all Americans who depend on the American news media for the news)*...The British gov. "must now be prepared to talk to the Republican movement

through it's elected representatives" as part of a new initiative to end the N.I. conflict according to Britain's Young Liberals. (Irish Post 10/30/82)...After Sinn Fein's successes in the N.I. Assembly election, there are early indications that the Provisional IRA will soon step up its level of attacks on the security forces in the North. It appears that promises made to IRA hardliners by its leadership that the organization's military operations would increase after the election will be kept. (Irish Times 10/23/82)...*"The future of any community should not depend on the whim of whoever is in the position of Secretary of State"* — John Hume, SDLP leader, on Prior's Assembly. (Irish Times 10/16/82).

The resolution of the N.I. conflict is hindered by "irrational anti-Irish prejudice," according to a statement issued on racism in Britain by the Irish in Britain Representation Group. The statement expresses the group's concern "at the prevalence of anti-Irish attitudes in the British media and among large sections of British society. These attitudes are shown in the portrayal of the Irish as a backward race of low intelligence, the barrage of anti-Irish jokes and the misrepresentation of events in Ireland." The Irish in Britain, the statement continues, have, like every other ethnic group, a right to preserve and pass on to their children distinctive features of their own cultural heritage. This right is being undermined by the constant derision of things Irish by the British media. (Irish Post 10/30/82)...Edward Koch, N.Y.C. mayor, while on a visit to Ireland, stated, that Ireland should be re-united peacefully and that Britain should ultimately leave N.I. In a new Ireland, the rights of Catholics and Protestants would be protected. (Irish Post 10/30/82).

"A group of London-based journalists were invited over to N.I. to see a different side of the North — the good side, that is. They were entertained at a dinner in a hotel with local representatives of trade and industry. There was no trouble on the shop floors, the businessmen assured the visiting correspondents, the work forces got on well together. "My Protestant and Catholic workers are on the best of terms", one said. "Just as a matter of interest, how many of you are Protestants and how many are Catholics?" asked one of the reporters, innocently. There was an embarrassed pause, a bit of reddening in the faces, and silence. There were no Catholics there." (Irish Times 10/16/82).

CHAPTER OF IRISH CHARITY IN THANKSGIVING HISTORY

by Bob West (PEC South Carolina)

Each November, our President reminds us the season has again arrived for giving thanks for God's blessings of the preceding year. Upon inquiry of the origin of *Thanksgiving Day*, newspapers usually reply that it originated with New England Puritans in the 17th century after a period of great distress, from crop failure. Some say *Thanksgiving Day* happened a few years after the Pilgrims landed in 1620 (Mayflower), and others

say it was at the time of the Indian War, 1675-76. The exact year the feast began is not known, although there is no doubt the origin was to celebrate the fact that the people's distresses were relieved.

FIRSTLY, In 1736, in Boston, a work for Rev. Thomas Prince was published entitled *A Chronological History of New England in the Form of Annals*. The New England Historic-Genealogical Society says: "No man that has ever lived in New England can be said to have done more for its history than the Rev. Thomas Prince; his literary labors were constant for nearly

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half a century and his greatest literary work was his incomparable New England Chronology, which, for extreme accuracy, was probably never exceeded by any author in any similar work."

Under Annals of the Year 1631 Prince relates the distress in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay during winter 1630-31, and said: "As the winter came on provisions are very scarce (in the Massachusetts Bay), and people necessitated to feed on clams and mussels and ground nuts and acorns, and those were got with much difficulty in the winter season. Upon which people grow tired and discouraged, especially when they hear that the governor himself has his last batch of bread in the oven. And many are the fears of the people that *Mr. Pierce, who was sent to Ireland for provisions*, is either cast away or taken by the pirates. Upon this a day of fasting and prayer to God for relief is appointed (to be on the 6th of February). But God, who delights to appear in the greatest straits, works marvelously at this time; for on February 5, the very day before the appointed fast, *in comes the ship, Lion, Mr. William Pierce, master, now arriving at Nantasket laden with provisions*. Upon which joyful occasion the day is changed and ordered to be kept (on the 22nd) as a day of *Thanksgiving*..."

It seems curious that the Puritans did not call upon the "mother country" for the much needed provisions. *Ireland* apparently was the only country in the world which sent relief to the suffering Colonists only eleven years after the Pilgrims landed. Michael O'Brien, author, submits this as the earliest record of a celebration of *Thanksgiving Day* in America.

SECONDLY, In 1675-76, the War with King Philip, Chief of the Narragansett Indians, was bloody and devastating in the extreme. The New England Historic-Genealogical Society in 1848 said: "The Colonies suffered more in proportion to their numbers and strength than was experienced during the (American) Revolutionary struggle..." *Ireland* promptly provided relief to the sufferers, which event is known in New England Annals as "*The Irish Donation*". No other country but *Ireland* is recorded as coming to the rescue of the famished Colonists, and whether or not the fact that natives of *Ireland* were resident in the ravaged districts may have been the incentive to their humane action does not appear, but the question of nationality or religion did not interfere with the proper distribution of the charity. The ship, *Katherine*, that sailed from *Dublin, Ireland, August 17, 1676* and arrived in Boston about *10 weeks later, probably in November*, brought the relief. A grateful acknowledgement of the event published by the New England Historic-Genealogical Society said: "One hundred and seventy-one years after this time the people of Massachusetts had an opportunity of reciprocating the gift of benevolence wafted to these shores by the good ship *Katherine of Dublin* when they organized a fund for the relief of the distressed people of *Ireland* suffering from the effects of the famine of 1847." Thus we see that *Thanksgiving Day, probably in November, in 1676* was an especially joyous one in New England.

Political Education Committee National Newsletter
founded in 1976

Published by: The National Political Education Committee, and the Emerald Society, Fire Department, City of New York.

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

Editor..... John J. Finucane
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BOSTON GLOBE SUCCUMBS

The Boston Globe, sometimes referred to as the Voice of England in America, has succumbed to pressure from the American Irish community. On July 27, 1982 the Globe published a degrading editorial cartoon captioned *The Leprechaun* which depicted as "sewer rats" all people of Irish extraction. Immediately, a multi-phased protest campaign was organized by PEC Region 7 Director, Kevin Murphy. The Boston phase of the protest drew support from many individuals and local units of Irish Northern Aid, the Irish National Caucus and the Committee for a United Ireland.

After 6 weeks of demonstrations and other protest activities, prominent members of the American Irish community met with representatives of the Boston Globe. After a heated meeting, the Globe reps made it clear, there would be no apology, no clarification. The protest then became national in scope, via the United Action Program.

On November 15th, after almost 4 months of protest the Globe printed a lengthy clarification written by Robert Kierstead, a participant in the above meeting. A victory for American Irish unity.

BRITAIN'S OTHER ARMY

by Anthony Bartlett
(Professor of Law, Pace University)

The Ulster Defense Association (U.D.A.) is the largest paramilitary organization actively operating in Northern Ireland. It is reliably estimated that its members have been responsible for over 600 of the 2,000 civilian deaths in the Province since 1972 to the present. Since its inception many of its personnel have been found guilty of committing acts of murder, torture, and brutality upon the Catholic minority — yet the organization itself remains entirely legal. In addition its members have on many occasions paraded in paramilitary uniforms, issued orders in military fashion, and worn insignia indicating differences in rank. Despite the fact that these activities are clearly in breach of express statutory provisions no action of any kind has been taken by the security forces, while the Republican paramilitary groups — the biggest of which is the provisional I.R.A. — are banned organizations and the full resources of the law are marshalled against them.

The British had full warning that the U.D.A. was setting itself up as a Protestant army to replace the discredited 'B' Specials. In 1969 various Protestant neighborhood vigilante groups met and formed a loose association, calling itself by the above name. It organized and trained rigorously and had become a cohesive body by late 1971, when it took the leadership of the so-called "Protestant backlash", its approximate membership being 50,000. The avowed aim of the Loyalist paramilitaries was to carry the fight to the Republican enemy rather than leave the defense of their Protestant state to the normal security forces. In this regard their strategy has been less than heroic; instead of tackling the active service units of the I.R.A. they concentrated instead on the easier, and cowardly, task of killing any member of the Catholic community unfortunate enough to be easily available.

The selective responses of the British to both the I.R.A. and the U.D.A. is instructive. Internment was used against Republicans from August, 1971, but was not employed against Loyalists until February, 1973. Arms searches are an everyday fact of life in Catholic areas but not in Protestant ones, despite the fact that U.D.A. leaders have publicly stated that the

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FROM THE EDITOR

Who ever thought the powerful and influential Boston Globe would respond positively to pressure from the American Irish community? Well, they did and contrary to their earlier adamant position — no apology, no clarification. They judged us wrong never foreseeing a national effort such as the United Action Program (UAP). They didn't know that when you offend one of us, you offend all of us.

The victory, a direct result of a national effort organized by the National Political Education Committee, is credited to you the letter-writer (UAP) and all those fine brothers and sisters in Massachusetts who led the way.

Mr. Robert Kierstead, Globe ombudsman who participated in the September 4th meeting, contacted Kevin Murphy, PEC Region 7 Director, and protest organizer, on November 7th informing him of the Globe's decision to publish a clarification on November 15th regarding the editorial cartoon, *The Leprechaun*. Kierstead told Murphy that he had obtained the Oct./Nov. issue of the PEC National Newsletter. Obviously referring to the Action Letter request to Sears, Roebuck and Company, he asked, "Why are you (PEC) picking on the Globe?" Murphy asked him if the Globe was being pressured by Sears. Kierstead would not answer this question, but volunteered that they were receiving letters of complaint from around the country. The day before the clarification Kierstead again called Murphy, hoping that he will be satisfied and if not, to please call him. This victory is significant — a major institution responded to pressure from the American Irish community. Also, many other newspapers whose editors were quoted in the article, were made aware of our unity of action. We did it alone, without the help of our political and religious "leaders" who turned a deaf ear.

We must all recognize that for the first time, through the United Action Program, we now have a vehicle by which we can unite in action. UAP's membership of over 4 thousand is a mere drop in the bucket when we consider that there are at least 44 million Americans of Irish extraction (according to 1980 Federal census). We must also recognize UAP's great potential as our membership grows. With sufficient numbers we can unite Ireland. **A UNITED IRELAND THROUGH A UNITED AMERICAN IRISH COMMUNITY.** Won't you recruit a new member today! Give UAP a chance!

**WE WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS,
SUBSCRIBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES,
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

ATTENTION ACTION IRISH

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 \$6.00 to: National PEC, PO Box 16, Garnerville, NY 10923.

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

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NECESSARY READING

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.

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organization is in possession of arms. The security forces maintain intensive patrolling, searches, and interrogation of inhabitants of Catholic areas while leaving Protestant areas relatively untouched. To be sure, arrests of Protestant assassins have been undertaken and the smaller Loyalist groups, the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Freedom Fighters, have been banned. Yet the U.D.A. remains intact in the eyes of the law in plain disregard of its open military structure and the pronouncements of its leadership indicating that some of its members have been involved in murders.

The British maintain that it is better to leave the U.D.A. "above ground" where it can at least be observed, and to render it illegal would drive its more militant factions underground where they would only add to the current problems of the security forces. A more sinister perspective, however, is provided by Brigadier Frank Kitson. In his book "Low Intensity Operations" he paraphrases the late Mao Tse-Tung in comparing the population in which guerillas operate to the water in which a fish swims, and continues: "Fish vary...in accordance with the sort of water in which they are designed to live, and the same can be said of subversive organizations..."; if rod and net can't catch the fish, says Kitson: "...it may be necessary to do something to the water which will force the fish into a position where it can be caught." Perhaps this explains the British reluctance to move against the U.D.A. Why ban an organization which is carrying out the dirtier side of the anti-I.R.A. struggle? In terrorizing the Catholic minority the U.D.A. is controlling, for the British, the "water" in which the Republican "fish" swim.

EDUCATE A FRIEND

If you would like to educate someone on the truth about the troubles in Ireland, forward their name and we will send them the PEC Information Package. **PLEASE USE COUPON BELOW.** Mail to: National PEC, PO Box 16, Garnerville, NY 10923.

Dear Sir:

Please send the free PEC Information Package and complimentary copy of the National Newsletter to the following:

Name _____

(print)

Address _____

UAP ACTION LETTER

by Al Doyle

In the February/March Newsletter we suggested a letter to William P. Clark, one of President Reagan's closest advisors, congratulating him for saying publicly that Americans hoped for a united Ireland. Since then there has been no indication of support for that policy on the part of our government; in fact, just the opposite has occurred. We have seen revealed a clear pattern of U.S. support for the intransigent policies of Mrs. Thatcher. This support has taken the form of British promoted prosecutions of Americans, legal and illegal harassment of Irish Americans and their press, jailing without trial of Irish nationalists accused of minor offenses (such as overstaying a visa), illegal break-ins and intimidation of witnesses by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies (although we are glad to say that many of the officers involved are ashamed of their duty-required participation in these dirty, British-policy-serving actions). We must continue to speak up to let those responsible know that we are aware of what is going on and that they will pay a political price for their secret war against Irish unity. For this reason we are returning to Mr. Clark in the expectation that he will get the message across to the politicians and faceless bureaucrats responsible for these policies. As usual, the letter below is a suggested format only. The most effective letters are individual ones. But if you feel more comfortable simply copying this letter on your own stationary please do so — because the important thing is to write and to get others to write! This letter can also be adapted, of course, to be sent to any other government officials whom you, the ACTION IRISH, deem likely targets for our message.

(address & date)

The Honorable William P. Clark
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
National Security Council
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Clark,

Last year, you said that most Americans looked forward to the reunification of Ireland. Since then Americans have seen no supportive action whatsoever by our government; in fact, what we have seen is a step-up in the "made in England" policy with respect to Northern Ireland. The policy of our government seems to be to harass and intimidate Americans who favor ultimate British withdrawal from Ireland. This often takes the form of the British-inspired propaganda line that support for the cause of reunification is somehow support for violence — while avoiding examination of the causes of violence or the violence of the British forces. But no amount of "anti-terrorism" rhetoric can conceal the support of British

policy by our own government. This support takes the form of the massive and unwarranted use of U.S. law enforcement agencies (including illegal actions such as break-ins and intimidation of witnesses) in the selective prosecution of Irish Americans, the holding of individuals in prison for long periods "pending trial" and many other forms of harassment. Please look into these policies in support of a foreign power. We who support a united Ireland demand that our voice be heard by our own government. As you said last year, we believe that this is a cause which has the support of most Americans.

Sincerely yours,

**IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT
YOU WRITE ALL ACTION LETTERS**

OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS

by John J. Finucane

We have received a number of complaints from UAP members regarding offensive situations which we pass on to you. The PEC has been in contact with each of the following: *St. Martin's Press* (175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010) has published a hard-back, *Brace Yourself Bridit! The Official Irish Sex Manual*. We have been informed that the book contains many blank pages and some religious slurs. It does not serve to improve our image. *Maggie's Irish Imports*, (372 Virginia St., Crystal Lake, Ill. 60014) yes one of our own, distributes a catalog of Irish goods for sale which includes, "A Mother's Letter". According to our source, "it is a racist, and blatantly anti-Irish attempt at humor". We have been in touch with the management from whom we have had no reply. We urge you to write for the catalog and see for yourself. If you agree that it is in poor taste, drop them a line of protest. **(For N.Y.S. Residents)** *Freihofer's Baking Co.* (522 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12203) is promoting a new product — Paddy's Irish bread. The choice of Paddy's is in poor taste. Paddy is a word from the early 20th century used in the negative such as: "Paddy Wagon" it was commonly used to belittle the American Irish. We informed Freihofer's of our displeasure and suggested they replace the word Paddy's with Patrick's. Their answer was, No! Freihofer's sell their products throughout New York State. May we suggest that you drop them a line expressing your displeasure with the word Paddy's and suggest the use of Patrick's. Also, advise them that if they continue to use the word, you will discontinue buying Freihofer's products. *Keeping the stereotype alive.* (Nutshell 10/82) — PADDY, WE HARDLY NEW YE (AND WE'RE NOT SURE WE WOULD HAVE WANTED TO). Every other year, Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the University of Kansas runs a series of outrageous ads in the school paper detailing the escape and demise of a demented SAE drunk named Paddy Murphy.

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