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American Irish Newsletter - October - November 1982

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 7, No. 5

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1982

THE IRISH ARE RATS SAID THE BOSTON GLOBE

(see Boston Globe Protest 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

Most Rev. Edward Daly, Bishop of Derry, has called upon England to withdraw from Northern Ireland: "The artificial political entity that is Northern Ireland has been a disaster for Ireland and for Britain...It has not worked and cannot work". (Catholic New York 9/5/82)... "The Jewish, Asian and Polish communities have themselves organized and have their shows on the road. WHY are we still standing around singing rebel songs and crying into our beer? Why aren't we out there in the political arena with our fingers on the pressure points, arguing our case and fighting for our rights?" — from a scathing attack on the failure of the Irish community in Britain to organize politically by the chairperson of the Liberal Friends of Ireland, Frank Filgale. (Sunday Press 8/22/82)... "Huge blue cranes began loading a Soviet ship today with British made components for the natural gas pipeline...It is the second such shipment from Europe in defiance of Pres. Reagan's attempt to block western technology for the project." The company was ordered to make delivery by PM Thatcher despite her "friendship" with the Press. (NY Times 9/1/82).

Bishop Edw. Daly of Derry has expressed dismay at the decision not to issue charges over the killing of Stephen McConomy,

11, last April. "More than ten people have died as a result of being struck by plastic bullets, many others seriously injured. To date, to the best of my knowledge, nobody has been charged with firing these missiles. In many cases, it appears to me, that there has been a clear breach of the Army's own regulations with regard to the use of these plastic bullets." Bishop Daly added that it was a "matter of public concern that if the police or Army break the law they must be answerable like any other citizen." (Irish Times 8/21/82)... The British army has told an inquest into the death of Danny Barrett (killed 7/9/81 at age 15 while sitting on a wall talking to his father) that the army has accepted that the youth was an "innocent" victim, he was neither rioter or gunman. A decision has also been made not to prosecute the soldier who killed the boy. (Irish Post 8/28/82)... Conor Campbell, 18, was seriously injured after being hit by a plastic bullet. Local people claim that he was shot at point blank range and the police were accused of firing indiscriminately into crowds. (Irish Times 8/16/82).

The new Prior plan for a N.I. assembly ignores the Irish dimension and denies power sharing to the Nationalist community according to a report by the London based Irish Information Partnership. The assessment concludes that the plan does "not break the historical mold of the UK's traditional view of its function in Ulster — that of protecting the institutions of the Unionist ascendancy". (Irish Post 7/17/82)... It appears that the British Unilever Corp. has not been doing very well in the U.S. Profits from North America were only 11% of the total, less than their share in 1930. The main U.S. subsidiary, Lever Bros. (Lux, Dove, Pepsodent, Imperial Magarine, Aim, etc.) lost a total of \$85 million in 1978-81. (Economist 8/7/82). **Could the boycott be having an effect?**

VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND: Structure and Response

by Anthony Bartlett

(Professor of Law, Pace University and former Belfast resident)

The American public has recently been delivered a mass of British-controlled information stressing the horrifying consequences which sometimes follow isolated acts of violence on the part of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (I.R.A.). Thus Americans of all ethnic backgrounds were treated to the ghastly sight of maimed and dying horses injured by the activities of apparently mindless Irish thugs bent on wanton and reckless violence. The fact that the unfortunate horses were part of the ceremonial procedure of an Army which continues to occupy the Northeastern part of Ireland was conveniently glossed over. As the I.R.A. lack access to the mass media their side of the case went unheard and the British were able to chalk up yet another propaganda victory. Like other moderate Americans, this writer is distressed that the infliction of violence should be necessary at all; be it upon a British soldier, an I.R.A. volunteer, or an innocent animal. But this should not obscure the fact that those who set in motion a structure of violence, as the British have done in

Northern Ireland, are ultimately responsible for all of the consequences which follow; in short, the British initiate violence and the I.R.A. respond with counter-violence.

If the actions of the security forces in Northern Ireland were divorced from the context in which they arise they would fare much worse than the I.R.A. in terms of adverse publicity. The slaughter of thirteen civil rights demonstrators in Derry by British paratroopers on "Bloody Sunday" comes immediately to mind; these deaths, and those of other civilians since then, are explained away as the inevitable unfortunate by-product of an anti-terrorist campaign. The British obviously wish to benefit from acceptance of the adage that one cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs, but they deny a similar justification to the I.R.A. Instead, succeeding British administrations have stressed guerrilla activities in which bystanders have been killed or injured, often because of the inability or unwillingness of the security forces to communicate warnings conveyed to them, while omitting to mention that in the overwhelming number of I.R.A. active service operations sufficient warning is given and civilian deaths and injuries are accordingly minimized.

Britain established the groundwork for the present conflict in

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Northern Ireland by separating politically the six Northeastern counties from the rest of the Island. This artificial jurisdiction carried with it a tremendous potential for bloodshed from its founding in 1921 to the present day. With the acquiescence of Westminster the Protestant majority in the North created a culture of repression under which the Catholic minority were regarded as second class citizens and treated as such. The agencies created for the work of repression were the Royal Ulster Constabulary (R.U.C.), a paramilitary force, and the 'B' Special Constabulary, nominally an auxiliary body to assist the R.U.C., but in reality a Protestant landed army of questionable legality, given that the government of Ireland Act, 1920, expressly reserved any military role exclusively for the London government. Catholics were also exposed to a more subtle form of violence in the shape of the gerrymander, which denied them adequate representation at Stormont through the rigging of electoral boundaries, and discrimination in employment and housing allocation, which forced many thousands to emigrate from the Protestant state. These measures ensured a resigned despair, a crushing of the spirit; the R.U.C. and 'B' Specials were entrusted with crushing the body. Even today the British maintain a selective response to violence in that the Protestant Ulster Defense Association remains legal, even though many of its members perpetrate acts of murder, torture and brutality upon the Catholic minority, while the I.R.A. is a proscribed organization.

Whenever Irish men and women rose in revolt, as in 1798 and 1916, the British were quick to brand them as criminals and to treat them as such, a tradition which they continue to the present day with the denial of special category status to the prisoners in Long Kesh and Armagh. They pursue this "criminalization" objective by reporting, through the media, guerrilla operations as discrete acts of violence devoid of political context. This indicates the importance that the British attach to their "propaganda war" in Ireland and elsewhere. Americans of Irish descent should decisively reject this "decontextualization" initiative and treat it in the same manner as they treat the British military occupation of Northern Ireland.

OUR GREATEST ALLY

by Morgan Strong

(Candidate for Congress [New 21st C.D.-N.Y.] — Coordinator National Veterans Coalition, Reporter on Middle East and Latin America)

England has once again displayed its' unique arrogance. The invasion of the Falklands was successful as a result of American support. That support took the form of internationally voiced approval and more importantly the logistic support necessary to carry out the invasion, including intelligence information provided by our satellite system. The United States in providing this support demonstrated its' continual naivete in dealing with the British. The history of British betrayal of American interests most recently extends from its' dealings with Cuba despite clearly stated objection by this country, to trading with the Communist Government of N. Vietnam during America's war in Viet Nam.

The interests of the United States has been compromised for decades by the British in the Middle East. The latest failure to support our interests has been in refusal to consider sanctions against the building of the Soviet pipeline. To even consider some form of display of unity, the British were strident in defiantly rejecting even an appearance of support. The merits of the building of the pipeline or sanctions are not of issue here. The

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

Editor John J. Finucane
Assistant Editor Mary Prior

BOSTON GLOBE PROTEST

by Kevin Murphy
(PEC Region 7 Director)

On July 27, 1982 the Boston Globe published an editorial cartoon which depicted the Irish race as sewer rats. The cartoon titled The Leprechaun which was drawn-up by the Chicago Tribune's syndicated cartoonist Jeff McNelly depicted a rat dressed in Irish attire pressing an explosive detonator. This racist and un-American gesture sparked an ongoing protest against the Globe which was organized by Kevin Murphy on behalf of the National Political Education Committee. The protest which has the support of many organizations and individuals from the Boston area consisted of weekly demonstrations, telephone, letter-writing and petition campaigns (more than 50 thousand names were gathered in the first 2 weeks).

On September 4th, after 6 weeks of protest, a meeting was held between respected Irish-American leaders and Globe spokespersons Mr. Martin Nolan and a Mr. Kerstead in the former's office at the Globe plant. It should be noted that the walls in Nolan's office were adorned with cartoon characterizations from the past that depicted the Irish race as ape-like creatures. (Ed. Note: We would be fools to think that this bitter contempt for grass roots Irish-Americans is not prevalent amongst those so-called "elitists" (Anglophiles) that run our country and its most powerful institutions).

A spokesperson for the Irish-American gentlemen expressed the hurt and insult felt by the self-respecting members of our community and asked for a simple apology or clarification by the Globe. Both Nolan and Kerstead responded with insults to our community. Also, that the cartoon was an accurate portrayal of the Irish Republican Movement. Nolan further stated that the Globe will never, ever apologize. He did offer that someone write up an Op-Ed letter that he refused to promise would be printed. Seeing through this cheap effort to silence us, the members of the Protest Committee voted to accept only an apology or a clarification. It should be noted that when I handed Nolan copies of letters sent by the National PEC to the paper's major advertisers, he said they were unimportant and threw them in a trash can.

Such blatant and racist displays of disregard and disrespect for our community which undoubtedly have a negative effect on our children can only happen because we are not united.

SPECIAL UAP REQUEST

The National PEC fully supports the Boston protest and has the highest regard and respect for all those fine people who are participating. Over the past two months we have conducted several letter writing campaigns to the Globe and its major advertisers asking that they discontinue advertising in the Globe. We are asking all PEC Regional Directors, PEC chairmen and all our subscribers (UAP) to support our people in Boston by writing the following letter. We further ask that you have friends and family write using the letter below as a guide. **Let us all do our share.**

address & date

Sears, Roebuck and Co.
Civic Affairs
Sears Tower
Chicago, Ill. 60684

Dear Sir:

I am outraged with the Boston Globe's July 27th cartoon characterization of Irish-Americans as sewer rats. As a customer of Sears, I urge your company to discontinue advertising in the Globe. I am not asking that you attempt to influence their editorial policy. We Americans should in no way support such un-American behavior.

Sincerely,
signature

FROM THE EDITOR

Once again there is an increase in media coverage concerning the situation in northeastern Ireland. This is good in that it keeps the issue alive. What is not good is that much of the coverage leads the uninformed to believe that if in any way they support the reunification of Ireland they are supporting terrorism, socialism, communism, or what-have-you. This is pure English propaganda and it is successful in keeping many concerned people from taking any part in this noble endeavor and in some cases, it has well-intentioned people working against justice.

I would like to reaffirm that your PEC through its education/action (UAP) programs seeks 1) an English declaration of intent to withdraw from Ireland 2) the reunification of Ireland, that is a United Ireland. The reunification of Ireland is not only the objective of the Irish government, but the declared will of the majority of American citizens. William P. Clarke, National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan, when in Ireland in December, 1981 publicly stated that the American people support the reunification of Ireland. It is totally lawful and indeed honorable to support the work for this end — a United Ireland.

English propaganda, however, and certain pro-English elements (Britishers in American suits) both in our government and in the news media, would have us believe that the cause of the suffering in Ireland is the IRA and that only the IRA seeks a United Ireland. The murder and torture of innocent people by the English Army, RUC, UDR and UDA, like the violence of the nationalist IRA, are all symptoms of a disease, the cause of which is England's **illegal**, colonial occupation of a part of Ireland. **Never forget** the inhumanity, the deceitfulness, nor the treachery of the English government in its dealings with Ireland. **Never forget** what history teaches us, that to maintain its Colonial Empire in the heyday of their colonial power, the English slaughtered **tens of millions** of innocent men, women and children, up to 9 million of whom were Irish. What's more they are still playing the colonial game in Ireland.

OUR GREATEST ALLY (Continued from Page 2)

British fresh from the invasion where they desperately and at enormous expense clung to that faded empire in total anachronistic fashion peculiar to them and having accomplished this only through the efforts of the United States imperiously ignored any suggestion of cooperation. They were the first to do so, and the most vocal. Margaret Thatcher simply told our government to not dare attempt to influence British policy. Curious, how long will it take for the United States to understand that the British Government or rather the hereditary ruling elite of England, are concerned only with their interests.

The result of supporting the British Government in South America has proven to be of great detriment to our concerns in South America. Years of careful work were shattered and only for the interests of a declining nation unable to even maintain itself, but with the perverse delusion of Empire. It is extraordinary to consider that we chose to allow Britain to proceed with this act and even more extraordinary to consider that their response is unmitigated disregard for the wishes of the Americans. In Ireland as well the issue is clear, to demonstrate total disregard in maintaining a repressive regime against the wishes of the majority of the people of that country. Now it should become apparent to all but the most insensitive of Americans exactly what the British are and where their interests lie and where our interests must be directed.

To consider that this country allows this blackmail so that we may maintain our military bases in England is far to high a price to pay for English interest. The military bases in that country do not equate with the damage done by the British through us for their own gain.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

**FOR A NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AND A DONATION OF \$6.00 TO:
National PEC, P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923.**

UNITED ACTION PROGRAM

by John J. Finucane

Since its official inception in March, 1982, the United Action Program (UAP) has gained another one thousand members making our active membership over four thousand in 34 states. A lot of the credit is due to our newsletter subscribers who took the time to send the PEC the names and addresses of potential members and our limited advertising campaigns.

It should be noted that each letter to a national figure such as President Reagan represents the views of one thousand people (4 thousand letters equal the views of 4 million people). Ten thousand UAP members writing letters would equal ten million and fifty thousand members would equal 50 million. Fifty thousand members is not impossible when you consider that according to the 1980 Federal census, 44 million Americans claimed Irish heritage.

We have set our immediate goal for 10 thousand members. To achieve this is a matter of making the Irish-American community aware of UAP's existence. To help us in publicizing UAP we have units in 14 states. Obviously, this is not enough. The most effective way to sell UAP is by word of mouth. Here is where we need your help. We need each of you to make contact with concerned people. Make them aware of UAP and its great potential or send us their names and we will contact them. You can even give them gift subscriptions which are still only \$6.00. Remember! UAP membership does not conflict with any other organization nor does the individual have to be a member of any organization. Remember also, UAP is not limited to the issue of Irish reunification. It has already served our community in other issues such as the offensive St. Patrick's Day cards.

UAP unites Irish-American men and women from across the land and gives us a great opportunity to work together for our community's benefit. **Only you can make UAP work!** Please! Give it a chance.

To help you get started just drop us a line indicating your interest. We will send you UAP membership solicitation cards and the updated UAP letter of explanation. These solicitation cards can also be distributed at any Irish-American function or given out on a personal basis. Also, if you would like us to contact certain people or you would like to give a gift UAP membership to someone, please send their names and addresses on the coupons below to the National PEC, P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, NY 10923.

List names below

For _____
Print name of an individual only (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.)

Street _____

City _____ State/Province _____ County _____ Zip or Postal Code _____

GIFT MEMBERSHIP WITH DUES ENCLOSED

SEND GIFT CARD SIGNED _____

NOMINATION ONLY. (Not a gift. We will send membership information and an invitation to join UAP.)

For _____
Print name of an individual only (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.)

Street _____

City _____ State/Province _____ County _____ Zip or Postal Code _____

GIFT MEMBERSHIP WITH DUES ENCLOSED

SEND GIFT CARD SIGNED _____

NOMINATION ONLY. (Not a gift. We will send membership information and an invitation to join UAP.)

THE CANDIDATES

The Rockland County, N.Y. PEC wishes to thank the following elected officials for their continuing efforts on behalf of a united Ireland: Congressman **BENJAMIN GILMAN**; N.Y.S. Assemblyman **THOMAS MORAHAN**; N.Y.S. SENATOR **LINDA WINIKOW**; Assemblyman **GENE LEVY**.

N.Y.S. Assemblyman SEAN PATRICK WALSH (77th AD). In the N.Y.S. Legislature, he is our most knowledgeable and outspoken leader. Sean led the successful campaign that killed the Grand Metropolitan Bill. This is perhaps, the primary reason his Assembly District was reapportioned.

N.Y.S. Assemblywoman FLORENCE SULLIVAN — candidate for the office of U.S. Senator which is presently held by Daniel Moynihan. **It should be noted that Moynihan**, to obtain the endorsement of the Irish-American community when he first ran for U.S. Senate, promised to work for the reunification of Ireland and to maintain a liaison with our community through its organizations. He kept neither promise.

Mrs. Sullivan is a member of the Irish Legislator's Association and an unyielding supporter of the efforts of Sean Patrick Walsh in the New York State Assembly. Florence Sullivan co-sponsored numerous resolutions calling on President Reagan to petition Margaret Thatcher to reconsider her outrageous policies toward the north of Ireland. Among her other efforts on behalf of the Irish community were her legislation commemorating Commodore Barry in New York State, and her staunch opposition to the legislation which would have given the Grand Metropolitan, which practices systematic discrimination and bigotry in the north of Ireland, tax breaks in the United States to which other conglomerates are not entitled.

Mrs. Sullivan has formed a Committee on Irish Affairs, which she will expand after her election to serve the needs of the community to which she feels indebted, and to which she has contributed significantly.

IRISH SOLIDARITY DAY

The second annual Irish Solidarity Day rally will be held Sunday, October 17th from 2 to 4 p.m. at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 1st Avenue and 47th Street in New York City.

Sponsoring organizations include: the Irish-American Labor Coalition, the Emerald Society of the NYC Fire Department, the National Political Education Committee, the Grand Council of the Emerald Societies and others.

Invited speakers include many high ranking political, labor

UAP ACTION LETTER

By A. R. Doyle

Our Action Letter this month is again directed to our U.S. political leaders to convince them that Americans want a redirection of U.S. policy from the present support of British policy in Northern Ireland to one of actively favoring the ultimate ending of partition. British influence in our government on this subject has been enormous. In the minds of many of our own elected officials, support for the reunification of Ireland has become synonymous with support of violence. We must speak out to focus attention on the real problem — the unjust system in Northern Ireland and the intransigence of the British Government. Please write or type your own letter along the lines suggested below. If you wish, you may simply copy our letter(s), as is, on your own stationery.

WRITE NOW.....GET FRIENDS TO WRITE!

(Address and Date)

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Honorable Edward Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President (or Senator):

I believe that you are out of touch with the Irish-American community at the grass-roots level with regard to Britain's colonial occupation of "Northern Ireland". I urge you to spend less time denouncing violence (which, by the way, is not solely attributed to nationalists as some apparently assume) and devote more attention to seeking a solution to the causes of violence. The principal cause is continued British refusal to seek an end to the partition of Ireland. I urge you to meet with leaders of the National Political Education Committee to discuss this subject since they are very knowledgeable and well known in the Irish-American community.

Sincerely,
(Signature)

Editor's Note: At the meeting requested above we would expect to include such experts as Professor David Lowry, Assemblyman Sean P. Walsh, and other PEC leaders representing the different regions of the U.S.

and religious leaders. Entertainment will be provided by Dermot Henry and Emerald Society Bag Pipe Bands.

(Rockland County; for information on buses call (914) 359-5357

DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT EVENT

**NATIONAL
POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

P. O. BOX 16
GARNERVILLE, N.Y. 10923

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