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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 25, Number 9

September 2000

'The End of Long Kesh is a Good Thing'

By Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein President (Excerpt from July 26-27 RM Dist.)

SINN Fein Leader Gerry Adams reflects on the historical, social, and political significance of Long Kesh in the Northern conflict.

[The imminent close of Long Kesh following the release of most of its prisoners] represents a historically significant step forward for the peace process. It will be welcomed, notwithstanding some misgivings, by the overwhelming majority of people on this island....The closure of Long Kesh will bring to an end a tragic, though at times heroic, chapter in Irish history.

....More than any other prison, prison camp, or prison ship, Long Kesh is inextricably bound up with the events of the past 30 years. The end of Long Kesh is a good thing.

The introduction of internment in 1971...saw the nationalist community rise up in open rebellion against the injustice and abuses of the unionist state, over which successive British governments presided.

Thousands passed through the internment cages, from the very young to the very old. Many of them were victims of a state security apparatus that saw internment as a weapon of

terror against a community. The denial of human rights and the imposition of a cruel and vindictive regime marked all internees and their families.

Internment failed, and the British government cast around for another pacification strategy. The securocrats devised the criminalization policy of the mid-70s, and this effort to politically isolate republicans saw the opening of the H-Blocks, the blanket and no-wash protests, and the hunger strikes of 1980 and 1981. Solitary confinement and vicious assaults were a daily regime for hundreds of republican prisoners from 1976 to 1981,

The strength of character of these prisoners...and their willingness to sacrifice their lives to end their comrades' nightmare existence succeeded in criminalizing the Thatcher government....That heroic prison struggle almost 20 years ago was at an enormous human cost both inside and outside the prison. Even after the hunger strikes, the struggle in Long Kesh continued. For several years, republican prisoners waged a determined campaign within the prison to secure the political recognition and conditions that were theirs by right.

That momentous struggle against great odds and the great escape of 1983 epitomized the commitment of republican prisoners to the cause of Irish freedom and their ingenuity in pursuing that, even while imprisoned. Nineteen republicans died within Long Kesh. Some died from illnesses that were treatable but for which they did not receive the proper medical care. One was shot and killed trying to escape, and 10 others died on hunger strike. It is also timely and proper to remember the seven other republican POWs who were killed or died in other prisons in Ireland and in Britain....

Nationalists and republicans are acutely conscious of the direct use of force by British forces and of those same forces' acting in collusion with loyalist paramilitaries. More than 1,000 Catholics died as a result of these actions.

Despite this, no British soldiers, no members of MI5 or MI6, no members of the FRU—the unit that ran Brian Nelson and other double agents—no members of the RIR (at least, none in uniform), no members of the RUC, and no members of the Special Branch will be released from prison this week because the state worked hard and manipulated the law and justice system to protect these organizations from the legal consequences of their illegal and deadly actions. Successive British governments, including this one, have covered-up these events and the culpability of their forces....

Long Kesh might soon be closed, but those who constructed it and devised the conveyor belt to fill it will not go away until the lid has been lifted off them, and people here and in Britain are able to see the depths to which British sunk to fight its dirty war....

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OurView:

We Can't Stand for a House Divided

PRESIDENTIAL candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush appear to be saying the right things about the peace process, but their colleagues in the House of Representatives have a long way to go before we can believe the presidential campaign platforms could become policies in the prospective administrations.

Vice-president Gore has said he will continue President Bill Clinton's policies on Ireland. Gore has told PEC members he "will remain personally committed to the process of peace and reconciliation" in Ireland.

For the first time, the Republican party's platform pays attention to Northern Ireland. It congratulates the people of the North for approving the Mitchell Agreement and calls for the full implementation of its terms. The document applauds the work of the Patten Commission and urges "complete implementation" of the Commission's recommendations.

Echoing a pledge Bush made earlier this year before he became the Republican presidential nominee, the party platform states that the next president would use the influence of the US to help the parties in Northern Ireland to achieve a lasting peace. "If necessary," it states, "he will appoint a special envoy to help facilitate the search for lasting peace, justice and reconciliation."

At the same time, however, PEC member Ed Walsh reports that only 17 out of 220 Republicans and 104 out of 215 Democrats signed onto Congressman Richard Neal's letter to Northern Secretary Peter Mandelson, in which the congressman called on Mandelson to fully implement the Patten Report (see story, Page 5). We urge you to contact your representative and urge him/her to sign on to Neal's letter (see Action Request, Page 8).

Peace Process Update

July 4

ALTHOUGH the DUP fails to remove Sinn Fein's two ministers from the North's Assembly, it gains the support of a majority of unionists at Stormont for the move, 32 of 58. UUP, SDLP, Sinn Fein, Alliance, Women's Coalition and PUP members withdraw from the chamber in a tactical move that results in the DUP's and other anti-Agreement unionists' talking to themselves.

July 6

Legislation to reform the Northern police force, in the committee stage in Westminster, incorporates the "Royal Ulster Constabulary" into the name of the proposed Northern Ireland Police Service.

July 12

As the loyalist marching season reaches its climax, loyalists murder two men and seriously injure two others in parade-related violence. The policing bill completes its House of Commons stages and passes to the House of Lords.

July 19

British army bomb disposal experts in London carry out controlled explosions on a bomb and a suspect package. Unionists threaten to bring down the Executive if the British government were to change the name of the RUC.

July 25

Britain decides to retain non-jury Diplock courts. Northern Secretary Peter Mandelson says he accepts the findings of a British-government-sponsored study that the risks of scrapping the system are too great "in view of the level of paramilitary intimidation by beatings and shootings." This week sees the release of 86 prisoners from Long Kesh in a major step toward the eventual closure of the prison. Former Northern Secretary Mo Mowlam tells a BBC entertainment show that she approved the bugging of the Ford car Sinn Fein leaders used at a critical juncture in the peace talks.

(continued on Page 8)

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From the North: *Britain is Afraid to Fulfill Patten's Recommendations*

By Robert Heatley, co-founder of the campaign for Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization, Belfast, Northern Ireland

EVENTS in Aug. suggested that Britain has realized the implications of implementing the Patten Report and is trying to convince the world that the North of Ireland should accept less than a civilian, nonsectarian police force.

As it was introduced, the policing bill bore almost no resemblance to Patten's 175 recommendations to transform the paramilitary, sectarian RUC. The whole of Ireland's national democratic spectrum (the Irish government, northern nationalism, and [most of] republicanism north and south) rose up in protest at yet another example of blatant British chicanery. The Catholic Church in Ireland joined in, as did Ireland's friends abroad—in the US, particularly.

The bill, likely to become law in the autumn, remains a mockery of Patten's proposals. Britain has been playing games with it and thereby endangering the peace process. Instead of addressing the concerns of Ireland's national democracy, it has embarked on a campaign of coercion and deceit.

First, Britain tried to suborn the White House, attempting to get President **Bill Clinton** to lean on Northern nationalists. According to press reports, Blair got a flea in his ear. Then, Northern Secretary **Peter Mandelson** had a go at misleading Congress with selected quotes from SDLP statements on the progress of the policing bill. The spin here failed miserably when the SDLP sent its corrective letter to Congress.

The British then had a very bad fortnight in the battle for the truth. On July 28, **Brendan O'Leary**, professor of political science at the London School of Economics and former advisor to ex-Northern Secretary **Mo**

Mowlam, sparked off an extended debate in Dublin's *Irish Times*.

His dissection of the policing bill alarmed the British and spurred them into action. Sir **Ivor Roberts**, the British ambassador to Ireland, sent in an undiplomatic, huffy reply. Without answering any of O'Leary's criticisms, Roberts argued that the Irish ought to be grateful for the 60 changes to the original bill that the British had introduced—though this showed just how far they had contorted Patten from its original intentions. Roberts could not deny that the elements O'Leary highlighted were conspicuous by their absence. All he could say was that the bill was unfinished—pie in the sky.

This weak response drew others into the fray. On Aug. 2, **Paddy Hillyard**, professor of social administration and policy at the University of Ulster, came in on O'Leary's side. He pointed out that "the Bill neglects a fundamental part of Patten by assigning too much power to the secretary of state and too little to the (proposed) 'Police Board,'" among other criticisms.

Next into the fray was **Alex Attwood**, the SDLP's spokesperson on policing. He said the SDLP remained dissatisfied with the bill, listed five key points for change to it, and stigmatized the ambassador's article as "the latest installment of an unseemly strategy of sell and spin now being pursued by the British government over the police bill."

On Aug. 4 came a novel intervention from the Conservative Party's shadow proconsul, **Andrew Mackay**, MP. He castigated both Ireland's national democracy and the Labor government for what he thought was too much

reforming of the RUC. He was keen to preserve as much as possible of its paramilitary, state-security role and sectarian character.

Likewise, in the letters columns of Aug. 7, **Philip Weir**, chairman of the Ulster Young Unionist Council, considered the objective of a civilian, politically neutral, nonsectarian police service to be tantamount to "discrimination against Protestants."

On the same day, there came a great surprise. The pro-British *Irish Times*'s editorial writers gently rapped Britain on its knuckles, remarking that "O'Leary probably has the *mot juste* of the argument in his article of July 28."

Three days later, reason also returned to the letters page. A letter from Prof. **John McGarry**, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, said Britain's ploy of presenting itself as mediator between nationalism and unionism was "threadbare." He said: Britain's "position should not be to split the difference between these two, but to side with Patten"—which is, after all, the compromise.

A letter from **Andrew Munro** of Bray, County Wicklow, concluded, "the article by [Mackay]... provides a convincing argument for ending British intervention in the affairs of Ireland."

In an article on Aug. 9, Sinn Fein leader **Gerry Adams** asked this question and suggested an answer. Noting that Blair had come out in favor of Patten, he wrote that perhaps the prime minister had "underestimated the resistance within his system to these recommendations or had left it to others who did not share his view--or, maybe, had changed his mind? The state apparatus that coordinated the counterinsurgency drive of the last few decades has wielded unprecedented power on a range of judicial, military, political, economic, social, and planning matters and will not easily give up that power."

Newsbits

A DISTRAUGHT relative [of a loyalist murder victim] has lashed out at the Ulster Democratic Party over its failure to have a UFF mural celebrating loyalist massacres removed from a Shankill Road wall. **John White**, a spokesman for the party that has links with the loyalist paramilitary group, last night revealed he had spoken to "some people" in the Shankill Road area with a view to having the Dover Street mural painted over, although no action had yet been taken or seemed likely. A relative of one of the victims of the 1992 James Murray bookmakers murders on Belfast's Oldpark Road pleaded with those responsible to think of the loved ones left behind who were already enduring a "horrendous time." She said her family was still in mourning and could not understand the UDP's failure to have the offensive mural removed....The chilling mural features five atrocities carried out by the Shankill Road battalion [of the UFF]....A macabre slogan painted under a list of the atrocities reads: "Wouldn't it be great if it was like this all the time!"—parodying a recent NIO TV advert [promoting the peace process]. (*Irish News* 7/20/00)

A bomb exploded in a car Saturday, leaving a Catholic civil servant with minor leg injuries. There was no warning before the explosion, and no one claimed responsibility for the attack. Suspicion has fallen on loyalist paramilitaries who were angry that Protestant Orange Order marchers were refused permission to parade through a Catholic neighborhood in Portadown for the third year in a row. The 21-year-old victim, who was not identified, was getting into his car in County Down, south of Belfast, when the device exploded, said Royal Ulster Constabulary Superintendent **Brendan McGuigan**. (*AP* 7/17/00)

The families of Carol Ann Kelly and Nora McCabe, killed by plastic bullets fired by the security forces, have called for a ban on their use in Northern Ireland. The appeal was made yesterday at the unveiling of a mural in Twinbrook in west Belfast dedicated to the nine children killed by plastic bullets during the troubles. The mother of Carol Ann Kelly...called on the British government to bring the soldier responsible for her daughter's death to justice. Kelly said she had never received an apology for her daughter's death. (*Irish News* 7/17/00)

A County Antrim priest has been shaken by an arson attack on his church, just days after loyalist protesters hijacked and burned out his car. St. Patrick's church in Derriaghy suffered scorch damage when a tire was placed against the front door and set on fire. The shocked parish priest, Fr. **Brendan McMullan**, is still expected to be able to take Mass in the church, among the oldest in Ireland, on Sunday....Twelve months ago, the church suffered extensive damage when flammable liquid was poured through the front door. (*RM Dist.* 7/13/00)

A new Irish language agency, which has just recently been set up in accordance with the terms of the [Mitchell] Agreement, is to receive a start-up package of £7.2 million. The agency, has taken over from Bord na Gaeilge, which previously had responsibility for funding Irish-language projects....Aró is an Internet company, based in Furbo—in a Gaeltacht area six miles west of Galway city—that is currently seeking new designers, programmers and marketing professionals who can speak Irish. Aró describes itself as "an e-business solutions company with a strong focus on the marketing and promotion of Web sites." It has designed web pages for Bord Fáilte and the Irish Court Hotel Group. The success of this company, and the potential for others like it, confirms that

the Irish language does have a place, not only on the island of Ireland, but also in the global economy. (*Irish News* 7/13/00)

South Armagh must be demilitarized if it is to benefit from tourism and economic investment, international observers said yesterday. Influential visitors, who were in Portadown to monitor the Drumcree dispute, travelled to south Armagh to witness the deployment of troops and military installations in the area. The delegation, which included observers from Europe, Canada and the US, spent seven hours inspecting the militarized zones that have been a source of contention among nationalists. **Toni Carragher**, spokeswoman for the South Armagh Farmers and Residents Committee, said meetings had been held with the observers to discuss the effects of militarization on farming, tourism and economic investment. "We also discussed the possible effects on one's health, given the radiation that emanates from the surveillance," she said. **John Fogarty**, of the Irish American Unity Conference, said the militarized zones in south Armagh had a negative impact on attracting industry and tourism to the region. He added that the observers were keen to study the effect of militarization on everyday life.... Fogarty said that some of the American delegation were studying the effects of the Drumcree crisis on teens in Portadown and added they would be returning to South Armagh in the future. (*RM Dist.* 7/13/00)

Catholics are being forced to flee their homes in Randalstown in County Antrim because of sectarian attacks and loyalist threats. Sinn Fein councilor **Pauline Davey Kennedy** said the situation had got so bad in the Neilsbrook estate that Catholics were unable to use public amenities.... (*RM Dist.* 7/13/00)

American Irish History: Pittsburgh's American Irish Help Grow the City

By Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts*

AMERICAN Irish citizens have long been a part of the proud history of Pittsburgh, Penn.

The first noted American Irish settler was a George Croghan, a native of County Sligo, Ireland. Croghan was a trader in the original Pittsburgh, which was a tiny frontier outpost called Fort Pitts and Duquesne in the 1700s. Croghan's son was American Colonel George Croghan, who was a hero in the War of 1812.

On what is now Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh, a Colonel James O'Hara

owned an estate around the late 1820s. O'Hara immigrated to Pennsylvania in the 1770s. He joined Washington's army during the Revolution and later became Quartermaster General. He also became influential designing streets and parks in the growing village of Pittsburgh. He started the glass works in that city.

Many Irish immigrants settled in Pittsburgh as the city grew from a tiny outpost into a large industrial city built around steel making. Their influence continues. The Rooney family who

owns the Pittsburgh Steelers football team is American Irish. They have generously supported charity in that city.

In the late 1970s, Mayor Peter Flaherty led the city in its rebuilding of the downtown area into a showplace of urban redevelopment.

Since the late 1990s, Mayor Thomas Murphy has been leading Pittsburgh into the new millennium.

Source: Library of Edward Kelley, Boston

Brits Bring Policing Battle to DC

Compiled by Sandy Carlson, *Editor*

THE BATTLE over the new shape of a Northern Ireland police force crossed the Atlantic and landed in Washington, DC, in July.

Northern Secretary **Peter Mandelson** wrote to representatives July 7, claiming the British government is tackling the policing bill issue head on in a way that reflects the Patten Report's vision for policing.

Mandelson cited "positive comments" from nationalist political leaders to support his argument. His claims won immediate, heated responses from those nationalist politicians, however.

A Sinn Fein spokesman in Washington accused the British government of seeking to deliberately mislead US political opinion about Britain's intentions in regard to the policing bill.

"US political opinion is not so naive as to believe the nonsense Peter Mandelson has written in his letter to 122 congressmen," the spokesman said.

Deputy First Minister **Seamus Mallon** of the SDLP wrote to the 122 representatives to correct what he felt was Mandelson's misleading claim that Mallon and other SDLP leaders were satisfied with the current shape of the policing bill.

Mandelson's letter to Congressman **Richard Neal** reads: "Let me reassure you that the government is totally determined to create a new beginning to policing in Northern Ireland on the basis of the recommendations in the Patten report...."

"It has to be recognized, however, as Patten did in paragraph 19.2 that 'no individual, no commission, can claim omniscience, and we do not contend that every recommendation in our report is correct in every particular (indeed we have deliberately avoided being too prescriptive on matter of detail for this reason).' That said, I have made it clear that the bill does need to be fine-tuned...."

(continued on Page 7)

**The AIEF-PEC
heartily thanks
Kevin P. Murphy
for 19 years
of support
as a PEC activist
and as a writer for
the *American Irish
Newsletter*
The AIEF-PEC
appreciates
his fine work**

(Kevin has decided to cease writing for the Newsletter. This issue of the Newsletter is the last in which his work will appear.)

Book Review:

Lethal Force is a Tool of Conflict Management

AS NORTHERN Ireland moves in fits and starts toward a permanent, just peace, there remain unanswered questions about Britain's use of lethal force to manage the conflict. Was lethal force ever necessary or justified? Was it part of Britain's counter-insurgency strategy? To what end did Britain manipulate the rule of law to protect its agents who used lethal force in the North?

Scholar **Fiónnuala Ni Aolain's** new book, *The Politics of Force, Conflict Management and State Violence in Northern Ireland* (Blackstaff Press), addresses these and related questions.

"This book starts from the premise that everyone has a right to life, and it questions whether all those killed at the hands of the security forces needed to die. The conclusion is that they did not," said **John Wadham**, director of the London-based civil liberties group Liberty.

Writing in the *Belfast Telegraph* July 17, Ni Aolain said: "When facing an internal conflict, the state has two choices, I suggest. First, the state may exercise force to quell internal discontent and violence. Second, it may utilize the structures of law and legal process to control the conflict. In the context of Northern Ireland, the UK has used both methods. The most controversial of these has been the use of force by agents of the state."

The Politics of Force seeks to focus attention on the use, transformation, and manipulation of law and force over the last 30 years. Ni Aolain's book demonstrates that lethal force in the North is not an isolated aspect of state practice to be explained away as state agents' spur-of-the-moment decisions. Rather, it is an integral part of the state's evolving policy of conflict management, along

with emergency legislation and use of legal process. The author shows how Britain has attempted to manage a protracted emergency within the framework of a democratic society.

Acknowledging that the Northern conflict cost more than 3,000 people their lives, *The Politics of Force* focuses on a subset of these deaths: the 350 deaths for which British agents were responsible. The study is a complete analysis of all these deaths.

While many high-profile lethal force incidents—such as, Bloody Sunday, Gibraltar, and the Loughall killings—have brought attention to the use of force against paramilitaries, Ni Aolain's study reveals that the majority of those killed were ordinary citizens, uninvolved in paramilitary or political activity of any kind.

Here are some of the statistics the book reveals. Eighty-five percent of all lethal force victims were Catholic; 11 percent, Protestant. Ninety-five percent of all victims were male. Slightly more than half of these victims was aged between 18 and 25. Fifty-three percent of all lethal force deaths occurred in Belfast. The author's identification of such an average victim, she says, "raises profound and serious issues about the adequacy of legal accountability for the use of lethal force in Northern Ireland."

Ni Aolain's research affirms the existence of distinctive patterns in the state's use of force in the North from 1969 to 1994. She categorizes the use of force into three phases.

The first, 1969-74, is the militarization phase. In this time, the regular army was responsible for 90 percent of the deaths. The second phase, 1975-80, is the normalization phase. Fewer people were killed in

this phase; and while the army retains much of the overall responsibility for deaths (65 percent), the specialist military SAS were responsible for 20 percent of the deaths in this phase.

The third phase of the conflict, 1981-94, is the active counter-insurgency phase. This phase was dominated by a unique form of incident leading to the use of lethal force. These were the "set-piece" incidents, which account for 40 percent of all deaths in this phase. In such planned incidents, British agents sought to eliminate a threat and shot to kill.

After examining the use of lethal force during three phases of the conflict, Ni Aolain examines the inquest procedure and then discusses the use of lethal force in the context of international law. She shows that the inquest procedure in the North is essentially useless because inquest juries often merely focus on how the deceased came to die rather than issues of criminal liability. The result is often merely a presentation of police findings.

The author says the development of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, as called for in the Mitchell Agreement, will represent "a momentous shift in thinking in terms of rights protection in a jurisdiction defined by the systematic denial of rights."

Ni Aolain, a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard Law School 1993-94, is Professor of Law at the University of Ulster. She earned her Ph.D. from Queen's University Belfast in 1997. She is formerly an Assistant Professor of Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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(continued from Page 5)

"In order to meet these concerns [about the bill], a number of significant changes have already been made, including to the report and inquiry powers of the Policing Board, to the provisions on the code of ethics, to the police oath and on the duration of the special measures enabling 50-50 recruitment of Catholics and Protestants. The government will consider further constructive changes and amendments to the bill as it progresses through parliament."

Mandelson's letter continues: "It is worth noting that our approach has led to positive comments from political leaders from the nationalist community. Seamus Mallon said last week that 'already we are making progress. The government, in response to SDLP concerns, has agreed to bring some important matters back into line with Patten.' His parliamentary colleague **Eddie McGrady** also said that "there were advances and further advances can be expected...."

In its analysis of the bill, however, Sinn Fein has complained that many of the amendments added in response to nationalist concerns are worded in too vague a fashion to draw conclusions on their effectiveness.

Of the 175 Patten proposals, Sinn Fein says that the policing bill proposes to implement 11 in full. There is insufficient information provided to judge whether another 75 of the recommendations are to be implemented, while 89 of the Patten proposals are blatantly subverted, the party's report states.

Sinn Fein is concerned about the bill's departure from Patten in key areas--such as, the powers of the Police Board and the Ombudsman; the oath; the powers and structure of local accountability mechanisms; and the legacy of the RUC, including its name, badge and symbols.

The more problematic areas include plans for merging the special branch with CID; down-sizing the force; and the strength of the cross-party police board versus the powers retained by the chief constable and the secretary of state. Further complicating matters, Britain has delayed making a decision on the future symbols of the force.

These areas go to the heart of the debate, which is exactly why one former member of the Patten Commission has said the North risks going "back to square one." As things stand, the SDLP and Sinn Fein say the whole Patten project is in danger of collapse.

Unionists say the ideal of cross-community support for new policing arrangements means their concerns cannot be ignored.

The SDLP has said in the event of its full implementation it will work with the new mechanisms and encourage young nationalists to join. The implication is that in the absence of full implementation they will not take part.

While Sinn Fein has said it will make no decision until the legislation is completed, it has described Patten as "the floor, not the ceiling" for reform.

Also in July, resolutions came before Congress and the Senate underlining the need for Britain to fully and faithfully implement the Patten recommendations.

Neal submitted a resolution that said that Northern Ireland's main nationalist parties would not participate or encourage participation in the new policing structures unless the Patten report were fully implemented.

According to Neal, only the full and speedy implementation of the Patten recommendations holds the promise of ensuring that the police service in Northern Ireland will gain the support of both nationalists and unionists. The

congressman said that policing structures and arrangements must be fair and impartial, free from partisan political control, accountable to the community it serves, representative of the society that it polices, and complies with human rights norms as mandated by the Mitchell Agreement.

International relations committee chairperson **Ben Gilman**, after a July meeting with Sinn Fein leader **Gerry Adams**, said: "We hope to see full and meaningful RUC reform happen, not the old British government/unionist politics being played with the policing issue.

"I am proud to join as an original cosponsor of the resolution introduced in the House today calling for the British government to fully and faithfully implement all of the recommendations in the Patten Report.

"When the people in the North finally see real and permanent change on the ground, such as the 'new beginning for policing' that the [Mitchell Agreement] envisioned, then we will know for sure that things have changed for the better."

President **Bill Clinton** last month said that while it was up to the people of Northern Ireland and members of parliament to address the specific proposals, "we will, consistent with US law, carefully monitor the commitment of the British and Irish governments to assist in the full implementation of the Patten report recommendations."

Mandelson thus lost his bid for US support for Britain's Northern Ireland policing bill as US politicians held fast for their calls for the full implementation of the Patten Report (*See Action Request, Page 8*).

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Action Requests

*Please take the actions recommended below.
Mention that you are a PEC member.*

Contact: **Your Representative**, 2244 Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515-3010

Message: I support Rep. Richard Neal's calling on Northern Ireland Secretary of State Peter Mandelson to fully implement the Patten Report's recommendations on policing reform in the North. Britain's draft policing bill for Northern Ireland does not adequately address the problems that beset the RUC, and the bill will not create a cross-community police service. Presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush have publicly stated they support the full implementation of the Mitchell Agreement and the Patten Commission's recommendations on police reform. Therefore, I urge you to add your name to the list of representatives who wish to see policing reforms in Northern Ireland.

Contact: **Texas Gov. George W. Bush**, P.O. Box 1902, Austin, TX 78767, Tele. 512-637-2000, Web site <http://www.georgewbush.com>

Contact: **Vice-president Al Gore**, P.O. Box 18237, Washington, DC 20036; Tele. 615-340-2000; Fax 615-340-3295; Web site <http://www.algore2000.com>

Message: Thank you for stating your support for the Irish peace process and the Patten Report's recommendations on police reform in Northern Ireland. As we move closer to Election Day, I urge you to publicly and clearly state your support for continued US involvement in these matters.

PEC Needs Financial Support

The PEC needs your continued financial support to continue providing you with the analysis, news, and action requests--in print and online--that have transformed the American Irish into a powerful political lobby over the past 25 years.

Stay with us until we see peace in Ireland. Make a donation and renew your membership today. Please.

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July 26

Mandelson announces families of the disappeared are each to receive compensation of up to £10,000.

July 27

The DUP's two ministers step down from office to protest Sinn Fein's inclusion in the Executive. DUP colleagues **Gregory Campbell** and **Maurice Morrow** will likely be nominated in their place.

July 28

Sinn Fein leader **Gerry Adams** and other party members meet Irish Prime Minister **Bertie Ahern** and Foreign Affairs Minister **Brian Cowen** to discuss the party's concern about the implementation of the Mitchell Agreement.

August 2

Around 500 million euros are to be pumped into the second batch of the European Union's peace and reconciliation projects. The EU's peace and reconciliation program has funded 12,500 projects over the last five years throughout Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic. The Orange Order blames nationalists for the violence at Drumcree, which cost £3 million.