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## American Irish Newsletter - July 1995

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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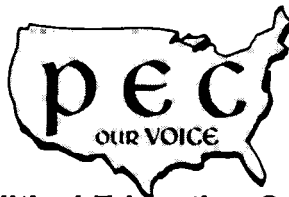
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### Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - July 1995" (1995). *American Irish Newsletter*. Paper 190. [http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish\\_ainews/190](http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews/190)

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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 20, Number 7

July 1995

## Financial Crisis Update

Emergency fund raising activities are well underway. We realize that it will take time before the bulk of the donations come in. The different organizations we have been contacting must await their monthly meeting before they can vote on whether or not to send a donation and how much to send.

We have also begun reaching out to American Irish business people. We need some financially well-off individuals to help underwrite some of our overhead: rent, phone bills, etc. The response so far, including donations from our members, has been encouraging.

**Please immediately purchase the enclosed book of raffle tickets, and if you can afford it send a little extra, to help assure our long-term survival.** It would also be very helpful if you would pay your annual dues as soon as you receive your dues notice in the mail. You can also use the coupon on page six for renewing.

## The White House Conference

President Bill Clinton's White House Conference was indeed historic. It brought together under one roof, all shades of community, political and religious opinion from divided Ireland. The conference, like his meeting with Gerry Adams on St. Patrick's Day, was a great popularity boost for the President within the American Irish community. And why not! President Clinton is the first US President to recognize the American Irish community's legitimate concerns about British colonialism in Ireland. Certainly, **if we keep the pressure on him**, he will keep our concerns in the forefront. His growing popularity is also of great concern to the 1995 Presidential candidates.

There were many important people at the conference along with President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and conference chairperson, Senator George Mitchell. Other important leaders present included Cabinet members Warren Christopher, Ron Brown and Tony Lake, Ireland's Tanaiste Dick Spring and Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland Secretary, Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Fein, Loyalist leaders David Irvine and Gary MacMichael, DUP leader Peter Robinson, John Hume, Rev. Des Wilson and Oliver Kearney.

In attendance also was PEC President, John Finucane, and the leaders of ANIA, AOH, Irish American Labor Coalition, IAUC, and INC, the organizations that were largely responsible for the President's involvement. More than 1200 people were present, including many American business people.

**The highlight of the conference** for Finucane was the mingling of grassroots leaders from the two communities which included a late-night Irish sing song. These competent and articulate people are the future and they must play the major role in determining their destiny, without interference from old-line political and religious leaders who would keep them divided for their own gain.

One loyalist community leader told Finucane that after hearing Sir Patrick Mayhew speak, he realized that Mayhew was a foreigner and not one of them. He also stated that he experienced a resentment to British colonialism.

## Newsbits by Kathy Regan

An Industrial Development Board decision to locate 250 new jobs at Carrickfergus -- despite record jobless levels in West Belfast -- has been slammed by community and civil rights activists. . . The structural discrimination in infra-structural development, services and industrial location, has been as endemic, pervasive and carefully calculated as direct discrimination. Both have been a feature of the [British Northern Ireland] administration since its inception. The denudation of West Belfast of industry is clear evidence of the persistent economic engineering engaged in by the architects of apartheid. (*Andersonstown News* 5/20/95)

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The conference on "Reconciliation and Community" heard how issues such as the demobilization of combatants, the decommissioning of arms, prisoners and policing are being tackled in such arenas as South Africa, the Middle East and El Salvador. Ms. Anna Guadalupe Martinez, vice-president of the national assembly in El Salvador, and a former FMLN guerilla, said that in her country the surrender of arms was a complicated issue dealt with gradually. The first arms handed

*con't on page 4*

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## OUR VIEW

*If the British government persists in its controversial demand that the Irish Republican Army surrender before there are all-party talks, they will wreck the peace process. IRA, who the British did not defeat, will not surrender. The decommissioning of arms demand will spell disaster for the peace process and the British know that very well. The British are again playing with Irish lives, probably stalling to await the outcome of the 1996 US Presidential election.*

*The Brits have something else working in their favor, the hype believed by many American Irish, particularly business people who are ill-informed about the conflict, that jobs is the solution. This erroneous belief is of great concern to many activist, the people responsible for President Bill Clinton's involvement. Their ignorance can harm the resolution of the real issues of democracy and self-determination.*

*We cannot allow that to happen. These issues of injustice are still prevalent and must be addressed so that a permanent solution will be had. One issue that must be resolved before new jobs materialize is employment discrimination. Effective equal employment opportunities must be in place so that all new jobs will be distributed equally. This is why we must intensify the MacBride Principles campaign.*

*Something else in Britain's favor is the misconception held by many American Irish that organizations like PEC are no longer needed. It is exactly this misconception that has brought on PEC's serious financial crisis. They just don't understand that nothing has changed with the exception that armed struggle has been replaced with public relations. We must all stay involved until a permanent solution has been found, which is still a long way off.*

**Send Offensive Situations to:** Paul Newman,  
9 Deltic Road, New City, NY 10956



*Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, left, and PEC President John Finucane, at Washington Conference.*

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## **Americans Fear Government**

American citizens still tell us they are afraid to communicate to our government leaders their opposition to British injustice in Ireland -- that they are still afraid to join wholly democratic organizations such as PEC-AIEF. And the further away they live from the northeastern states, the greater is that fear. These good Americans fear **RETRIBUTION** from branches of government. What is it about our government that terrorizes law-abiding citizens?

To make things worse for these good Americans, narrow minded legislators like New Yorkers Senator **Ald'Amato** and Representative **Charles Schumer** are pushing extremely repressive and unnecessary anti-terrorism legislation. Draconian legislation that could silence all American supporters of a democratic, united Ireland.

PEC has never been harassed by government branches for its activities, nor have we ever received reports of members being harassed because they carried out PEC activities.

## From the North

by Robert Heatley, *Co-founder of Ireland's Campaign for Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization*

As PEC Vice President Albert Doyle recently stated in this newsletter, the Framework Document contained sections that were heartening to Irish republicans, nationalists and other Irish democrats, and their supporters in the US and elsewhere.

Then came the Washington conference designed to interest American business in economic cooperation with Ireland to help facilitate the peace process. These efforts are good, but it would be disastrous, at this stage, to think that developments such as these indicate that a solution to the Anglo-Irish conflict is all but in the bag.

First of all, the positive elements of the Framework Document were inserted at the insistence of the Irish government of Albert Reynolds, the SDLP and Sinn Féin. The British side watered down these pan-Irish demands and the other negative elements of the Document, such as Unionism's veto on progress towards a solution, were similarly the handiwork of the British.

While President Clinton's Washington conference may prove to be very worthwhile in securing more prosperity and jobs for deprived communities in Ireland, its **political** significance in terms of solution finding ought not to be over-rated. It was not the purpose of the conference to put on trial the British government for its continued interference in the affairs of Ireland. Its representatives left the conference with their policies and attitudes intact. The Northern Ireland Unionists were no less unionist at its finish than at its beginning.

The fact that every participant in the conflict was represented cannot be regarded as a significant step towards a democratic settlement: Who in Ireland would oppose securing American business dollars for Ireland? Nor does it follow from this that the peace process has been cemented.

The problem is still English colonial rule in Northern Ireland and the fact that nine months after the ceasefire, a whole host of civil, human and democratic rights remains to be adequately addressed by the British government: political prisoners, policing, law reform, equality of treatment for cultural and political categories and the replacement of anti-democratic structures of government.

However, it is increasingly apparent that the fault for the lack of substantial progress does not lie only with the British or inadequacies in the agenda of Ireland's international supporters. There has always been in Ireland, including the North, a species of politician who, while masquerading as nationalist, has regretted the 26 counties severance from England. These types can easily go along with events such as the Washington conference hoping, that if sufficient American dollars can be obtained for the north, then the nationalist and republican population there will be quiet and reconciled to British rule for the foreseeable future. This would enable false nationalists to put the problem of English colonial rule in the North out of their minds for several more decades.

This tendency is encouraged by two aspects of a mode of thinking which probably has its origin in European Community developments:

1. If enough jobs can be created in the North so that Catholic opportunities (**without MacBride**) can be balanced proportionally with those of Protestants, then 'sectarian antagonisms will die' and eventually the border will be seen to be nonsensical and it will just sort of go away while nobody is looking. This is almost a certainty because, by that time, the border between the 26 county Republic and the United Kingdom will also have become irrelevant. (Among the many 'ifs' in this position is the enormous assumption that the UK itself will still be intact by that time eg. Scotland will still not have gained its freedom.)

2. Therefore, since the matter of national sovereignties inside the European Union will have become out dated, there is no need now to discomfit the British by raking up old hostilities or pressuring them too much (more than American-Irish input forces us to do) over their anti-democratic colonialist hold on the North. Be nice to the upholders of that system, stand idly by, and hope for better days. Recent happenings have illustrated the growing extent of this cop-out. Attempts are being made to rewrite the history of English colonialist rule in Ireland. The Great Starvation, 'Famine' as the English call it, was in their estimation over hyped and the English administrators were not really all that culpable. It is quite in order to propose toasts to the present Queen of England and to invite the Colonel in Chief of the British Army's Parachute Regiment to Dublin while that power still continues to occupy and partition our country, having killed its unarmed civil rights demonstrators in the process.

This show of 'Irish' deference has surprised even the English news-media. The reputable *Guardian* has upbraided the Taoiseach, Mr. Bruton, who claimed that the prince's "courage in visiting Ireland had done more than any other event in his (Bruton's) lifetime to sweep away the legacy of fear and suspicion between the British and Irish." The *Guardian's* dry comment was: "More than any other event in his lifetime? Mr. Bruton is 48 and otherwise in splendid command of his senses, but can he really believe that the prince's visit justifies an extravagantly nonsensical attitude?" The *Guardian* could understand British public figures being "needlessly sycophantic" towards the royal family, but it deplored a growing tendency for international figures to do so and, mistaking Mr. Bruton for all the Irish, it regretted that, "the Irish of all people had caught the hyperbole bug."

For democrats in the North who, during the past 25 years particularly, have held fast to the goal of achieving Ireland's national rights to reunification and self-determination, the real problem with the foregoing brand of thinking, (which has nothing in common with **traditional** nationalism), is that it can induce politicians to adopt some very erroneous stances. Thus they can be prepared to swap, in the correct interpretation of ex-Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, British **institutional** changes affecting the North, and regard such a take-on as a balanced settlement. (**See Action Requests #2.**)

What a pity that the British (read English hegemonists) do not also regard sovereignties to be old hat in an EU context. Otherwise they would insist that the remaining vestige of the 1801 Act of Union, the 1920 Government of Ireland Act and the recently up-dated constitutional attachments, all be tabled for reconsideration. But this subject must remain a topic for future issues of the *American Irish Newsletter*.

## Newsbits *con't from page 1*

over were "no good to anybody." There was a major restructuring of the police, with 20 percent of paramilitaries being recruited to a new force. It was also vital, from her experience, that employment opportunities were provided for former guerrillas to ensure they did not re-engage in conflict or crime. (*Irish News* 6/8/95)

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Bringing capital into a country will not of itself solve our problems . . . The call by Equality to make sure the demand for justice is never separated from the discussion of economic development is timely and necessary. In the rush for business there can be a willingness to leave the demand for justice aside . . . I.E., you cannot have fair employment until you have enough jobs for all. The assumption is that once you have more jobs you automatically have a more just distribution of them . . . If we allow capital to flow into this country without the demand that there be justice in the way it is used, we are going to make our situation worse. With justice, we not only can use capital wisely we can make this part of Ireland an efficient business place . . . Justice, efficiency, capital -- in that order, nothing less. (*Andersonstown News* 5/20/95)

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The Ulster Unionist MP for Strangford, Mr. John Taylor, has urged unionists to take issue with those who advocate political compromise in the interests of the peace process . . . Mr. Taylor maintained that there was a continuing policy to undermine the North's constitutional position with the UK. He said: "Unionists must be resolute in their opposition to those community and church leaders who lend their support to the dissolution of the Union by their compromise with opponents of the Union in the interests of the peace process." (*Irish Times* 6/7/95)

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The release of paramilitaries by increasing remission time is likely in the near future. (*AIN-PEC* 6/7/95)

## Oklahoma Thanks President Clinton

On Saturday, May 13, 1995, the Oklahoma State Democratic Party passed unanimously and approved for review and consideration by the National Democratic Party a resolution thanking President Bill Clinton for his efforts to bring peace with justice to Northern Ireland and urging the President to appoint a special peace envoy to Northern Ireland. Hal Cousins, PEC Oklahoma State Director and Democratic Precinct Chairman, introduced the resolution.

"Oklahomans are good and fair-minded people," Cousins said. Cousins praised those leaders responsible for the success of the resolution: Representative Gary Bastin, 1st Assistant Majority Floor Leader, Oklahoma House of Representatives; Mary Jac Rauh, 6th Congressional District Chairwoman; and Cody Graves, Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner and Chairman of the State Democratic Resolutions Committee.

The three State Democratic Party officials signed a copy of the resolution, wishing Gerry Adams good luck on his peace mission. Cousins presented the resolution to Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams when he met him in Kansas City, Missouri.

When Peter Hitchens of the *London Times*, the nagging English reporter that appears at every press conference held by Adams, tried to tie together Gerry Adams and the bombing in Oklahoma, Adams held up for the public to see the Oklahoma Democratic Party's resolution, which was signed by leaders of Oklahoma's Democratic Party leaders, wishing Mr. Adams good luck on his mission of peace.

According to Hal, "Another Oklahoman present at the press conference was outraged that Hitchens, an English reporter working for an English newspaper, would use Oklahoma's terrible tragedy for political gain."

PEC national president John Finucane stated, "The significance of the Oklahoma resolution cannot be underestimated. At a time when British officials, such as former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, are trying to undermine the work of President Clinton and Gerry Adams to find a permanent solution to the conflict by somehow associating them with the Oklahoma bombing, the people of Oklahoma expressed their support for the efforts for peace to both President Clinton and Adams."

## House Passes First Ever MacBride Mandate

WASHINGTON, DC -- On June 8, 1995 the US House of Representatives passed by a vote of 222 to 192 the first ever federal MacBride Principles as part of its increased foreign aid package for Northern Ireland. If the bill becomes law, IFI funding will be increased for the year 1996 to \$29.6 million as requested by President Bill Clinton.

Under the proposal, recipients of US funding to the IFI must agree in writing to abide by "principles of economic justice," which are modeled after the MacBride Principles.

**Rep. Benjamin Gilman**, chairman of the House International Relations Committee and sponsor of the bill, said: "The historic endorsement of the MacBride Principles by the House of Representatives as part of the US contribution to the IFI is a major victory for all those concerned about economic justice in the north of Ireland. It is a powerful statement that discrimination in the north, especially against the Catholic minority, remains a matter of serious concern to the US."

Gilman thanked the PEC and all involved organizations who helped bring about passage of this bill. Gilman's office gave special praise to the PEC *National Telephone Chain*.

(Ed. Note: PEC congratulates all members and supporters who wrote the letters or made the calls in support of Rep. Gilman's bill as requested in our Action Requests and especially through our Telephone Hotline (914) 429-7849.

# How Do You COMMEMORATE A FAMINE?

by Frank Morris, Jr., PEC Great Hunger Awareness Campaign Coordinator

How do you commemorate a famine? That's the question John Kelly asks in a recent *Irish Echo* article. A famine (Great Hunger) commemoration can't be a one-day event, he notes, especially when it spans more than five years of deplorable history. Certainly, the PEC has not been promoting awareness of the commemoration of the Great Hunger since 1982 for a one-day event. "Let none of us never dare to forget just how terrible it was. Within five years, from 1845 to 1850, as many as half a million people died, one million more immigrated." (Ed. Note: According to Thomas Gallagher in his classic, *Paddy's Lament*, upwards to 2,000,000 died.)

Kelly recounts a census official's report: "Starving people lived upon the carcasses of diseased cattle, upon dogs and dead horses, but principally on the herbs of the field, nettle tops, wild mustard and watercress, and even in some places dead bodies were found with grass in their mouths. Along the coast, every description of sea-weed was greedily devoured often with fatal consequences. . . In parts of the country, the local population was

reduced by as much as four-fifths through starvation affecting mainly the young, and the old by 1856. Cholera, dysentery and emigration took care of the rest."

How do you commemorate a famine? Each American Irish person should ask himself/herself that question. How we do it is up to us. A man recently wrote to the *New York Times* about the Holocaust: "Remembrance is painful but

## YOU CAN HELP

### Commemorate The Great Hunger!

**Educate:** Both yourself, your family and others. The people who starved are your kin. Read *Paddy's Lament* by Thomas Gallagher or *The Great Hunger* by Cecil Woodham-Smith, or see the video, *When Ireland Starved*. You can educate others by donating copies of these books and the video to your local library and school libraries. You can purchase these items through the PEC. See below.

**Communicate:** Having learned the facts, speak out. Spread the word. Contact your local newspaper urging coverage of the 150th commemoration. Do the same with your local TV station or network affiliate. Encourage school teachers and clergy to show the video in schools and parish halls.

**Coordinate/Facilitate:** Help groups that already have scheduled commemorative activities. There is always a need for workers to promote such events and help carry them out. You can order copies of PEC brochures on the Great Hunger for distribution at these events and on other occasions.

**Donate:** Send the PEC-AIEF a contribution. We need your support to help us continue promoting the Great Hunger. **Don't forget!** We are the people who initiated the Great Hunger awareness back in 1982. Many of the Great Hunger events taking place across the US and planned for the future, are the result of our efforts.

### To Order Books/Video

**Paddy's Lament -- \$10.95**

**The Great Hunger -- \$13.00**

**When Ireland Starved -- \$29.95**

Add \$2.00 P&H (New York State residents add sales tax).

Make checks payable to AIEF and mail to: 54 South Liberty Dr., Stony Point, NY 10980.

To charge (\$25 min.), call (914) 947-2726 Tues. thru Fri. (Visa or MasterCard only).

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failure to remember would mean the desecration of the innocent victims of evil."

We American Irish and friends must bring ourselves to remember the faceless people who died...and those who, bearing a heavy sorrow, somehow managed to survive.

## Attention New Yorkers

The New York State legislature is considering amending the education law to revise the teaching of the Great Hunger in New York State schools. The measure, sponsored by Assemblymen Joe Crowley and Senator Michael Hoblock, seeks to dispel the myths about the Great Hunger presently taught.

The bill reads: "the regents of the University of the State of New York shall prescribe courses of instruction in the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845-1850 to be maintained and followed in all the schools of the state."

**New York State residents** are asked to call or write their State Senator and Assembly member at: Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248. Phone numbers are: Senate (518) 455-2800 -- Assembly (518) 455-4100. Use the message below as is or in your own words. Have other family members, associates, etc. do the same.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Please support and promote Bill # A 6510 introduced by Assemblyman Joe Crowley (for State Senators Bill # S 4880 introduced by Senator Michael Hoblock) amending the education law of the State of New York.

Sincerely,

## Wanted!

We need no nonsense people who are willing to call or write their political leaders in support of a united Ireland. If you are one of those special people, please contact: **American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC**, 54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401, Stony Point, NY 10980 -- (914) 947-2726

Published July 1995 by PEC-AIEF

# Reflections On The Washington Conference

by Oliver Kearney, *Secretary of Equality Group in Northern Ireland*

During the Conference President Bill Clinton and his advisors, George Mitchell and Ron Brown, spoke of their desire to reinforce the Irish Peace Process by promoting increased investment, new employment and a healthier business climate in Ireland.

Nobody who attended could be in any doubt of the potential political and economic benefits which may result.

Yet, for thoughtful and informed observers there were clear warnings that must not be ignored, if a lasting peace is to finally be created between Britain and Ireland.

The conference agenda was delicately poised: the need to address the persistence of widespread job discrimination and economic inequality as a continuing and central cause of conflict in the North of Ireland; and at the same time, to avoid open confrontation between opponents and supporters of the MacBride Principles.

The fact that this delicate balance was preserved and serious confrontation avoided, was due entirely to the good sense and diplomacy of the powerful coalition of MacBride Principles campaigners in attendance who were sufficiently confident of their strength and influence to avoid abusing President Clinton's hospitality by responding to provocation.

The provocation emerged from unexpected sources, John Hume and the British government.

John Hume, one of the principal architects of the peace process, caused consternation in the White House and the Irish Embassy on the opening day of the conference, by providing to the *Irish Times* an injudicious interview attacking the MacBride Principles campaign.

In the course of this interview, he regurgitated all the tired old arguments about promoting disinvestment and "hassle" for hard-headed business managers whose profession is to manage "hassle" all over the world.

Even more alarmingly, he publicly attacked Rep. Ben Gilman's bill to link IFI funding to the MacBride Principles, apparently without recognizing that had it not been for Gilman's initiative, IFI funding would be dead in the water.

Simultaneously, the British Government, which declares its commitment to advancing the peace process, issued an equally inflammatory statement of its intentions to "de-regulate" Fair Employment and Liquor Licensing Laws in Northern Ireland.

Quite apart from the offensive linkage of job discrimination to liquor licensing, the declared intent to "de-regulate" the **obviously inadequate** Fair Employment Legislation was so clearly at odds with statements on this subject at a British Government press conference on the Conference opening day, that confrontation at the Breakout Session on Fair Employment appeared to be not only avoidable, but intended.

Because of intensive diplomacy the previous evening, the speaker's panel at the Employment Breakout Session of the conference was restrained and positive in addressing inequality and discrimination.

Consequently, the influential MacBride campaigners at the Employment Breakout Session chose to respect President Clinton's hospitality by avoiding confrontation on the issue of the MacBride Principles. The conference ended on a positive note, with goodwill evident in all quarters.

This begs the question - was it the intention of the British Government to wreck President Clinton's initiative by promoting a full scale confrontation at the Conference, between MacBride campaigners for peace and justice in Ireland, and the Loyalist/Unionist representatives who were present?

If so, there must be very serious doubts about the commitment of the British Government to actively promote the peace process, and eliminating the job discrimination and economic

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inequality which still persist as a continuing underlying cause of conflict.

Questions have already been raised in other quarters about the British Government's attitude to the peace process and about British resentment at the efforts being made by President Clinton to push the process forward.

It would have provided the utmost satisfaction to the British Government and elements in the US State Department, if the MacBride Principles, to which President Clinton is publicly committed, had become the focus of a confrontation at this historic conference between MacBride campaigners, and Loyalist and Unionist representatives.

That did not occur for a number of reasons:

1. Irish Americans are more strongly united and confident in the promotion of the peace process, than ever before on any issue concerning the conflict in Ireland.

2. MacBride Campaigners do not seek, and have never sought confrontation with Irish people who hold a different allegiance from Irish nationalists, since all must and will ultimately be accommodated and respected in a just and lasting peace settlement in Ireland.

3. The MacBride Principles are non-sectarian and non-denominational: they threaten nobody, and proclaim justice for all.

The MacBride Principles program is the surest guarantee of future economic justice for nationalist and loyalists alike in any final settlement of the conflict in Ireland. The MacBride campaign must intensify, despite the British government's opposition, since without economic justice and equality, **the future of the Irish Peace Process will be in serious doubt.**

**For information** about American Ireland Education Foundation write 54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401, Stony Point, NY 10980 or call (914) 947-2726

**Published July 1995 by PEC-AIEF**



## Time To Replace The RUC

by Sandy Carlson, reporting from Ireland

Belfast's *Irish News*, a daily paper with a nationalist point of view, started a self-promotion on its own pages in May. On one page it presented a myth about the paper ie., "the *Irish News* is dull and boring." On the next page, a reply asserting the contrary. The May 30 issue's ads address the myth, "the *Irish News* is a nationalist rag," with a retort from RUC detective inspector Ronnie Flanagan that he gets a lot out of the paper, even if he doesn't agree with its editorial policy on policing. The significant aspect of his retort is less its content than the paper's presenting him as someone who is specifically not a nationalist. The paper identifies Flanagan as a man with a political agenda at odds the paper.

The RUC seems to have complied with the notion -- Flanagan's quote is there in black and white. And yet, the RUC insists, time after time, that they are a non-sectarian force, by which we presume they mean they don't support one religious or political section against another and are not involved in party politics.

Sometimes, indeed, the truth can be found in between the lines of newspaper ads: The RUC's non-nationalist political agenda had presented itself in black and white on the streets of Belfast in the months before the ad appeared, however. Since the Republican and Loyalist ceasefires, political dissidents have been engaged in a symbolic war for territory in the north, especially in Belfast. They returned to street protests

to measure their progress from the first civil rights marches in the sixties. Have they achieved the civil right to self-expression in a public forum? Have the RUC learned to be a community police force, as it claimed, rather than a paramilitary extension of the British Army?

The reply the RUC issued in the streets is discouraging. They responded to many of these events by attacking and arresting protestors. Film footage and photographs of the RUC's interaction with protestors shows armed police in riot gear aggressively hovering over protestors sitting in the street.

In the RUC's political campaign to win the community's support, they have sent some strange messages. For example, in the middle of May, Northern Ireland Police Authority member Chris Ryder's editorial in the *Irish News* said: "Certainly mistakes were made and individual wrongdoing and excesses took place, for which there is no excuse. But set against the scale of terrorist barbarity and reckless disregard for human rights, the serious black marks on the RUC's record are few indeed."

In other words, "terrorist barbarity" is the standard of police behavior according to the Authority set up to keep an eye on police behavior, to prevent "excesses." Of course, excesses that involve deploying baton-wielding police to confront unarmed protests are not individual but institutional. The problem is not with one or two officers but with a policing philosophy born and reared in a militant hothouse. Ryder says we who are interested in a "fresh start" should put our emphasis on "mapping a constructive future rather than analyzing blame for our tortured past."

Thus, examining the north's barbaric standard of policing in the context of the sectarian police state that produced it is a notion that deeply disturbs the RUC. Between the lines we read: "pretend we're nice guys because we don't intend to scrutinize ourselves as closely as we have scrutinized the paramilitaries." Of course, this subtext

## British Lift Ban On Conway Mill: Letter Writing Works

The British Government has finally ended its repressive campaign to put out of business, the Conway Mill job creation-education center in West Belfast. After a controversial 10 year funding ban and much harassment, the Conway Mill will be able to apply for government funding. It is expected to create up to 300 badly needed jobs.

Rev. Des Wilson, the Mill's director, and PEC wishes to thank all members who took the time to write to the British government on this matter as requested in the May newsletter.

is bracketed in riot gear.

Because the British government has been dragging its heels through the thick and muddy peace process, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams promised the government it would hear the sounds of angry feet marching -- that is, republicans would present themselves in person and through the media to the government and to the world to insist on equality of treatment.

Ryder, like Adams, says that "the police service must not become a political football kicked back and forward between opposing political factions, nor must it become an asset of power to be manipulated by any political party or coalition." The difference between these two politically different men is that Adams, like other republican and loyalist dissidents, recognizes the RUC's close relationship to the British government and military establishment as a political one that demands close scrutiny so that it can be replaced in a new, non-sectarian context which does not repeat itself -- as it has been on the streets of the north.

**USE THE  
TELEPHONE HOTLINE  
(914) 429-7849**

## Did You Know!

- That PEC is responsible for making the MacBride Principles the law in more states and local governments than any other organization?
- That PEC initiated the MacBride Principles campaigns in the last two states to adopt the MacBride Principles, Nebraska and Missouri?



## Action Requests

*Write the letters below (or call), preferably in your own words, or as is. Be courteous. Have friends, organizations, business associates, etc., do the same.*

1. **Hon. Bill Clinton**  
The President  
White House  
Washington, DC 20500

**Message:** Congratulations on your White House Conference on Ireland. Please understand that jobs alone is not the solution. Please keep Irish unity and democracy as the priority issues. I ask also that you again direct the State Department to ask the British government to send the cases of the Casement Accused (Patrick Kane, Sean Kelly and Michael Timmons) back to the Court of Appeal for review.

2. **Hon. John Bruton**  
An Taoisach  
Upper Merion Square  
Dublin 2, Ireland

**Message:** Institutional changes on the part of the British is not a sufficient exchange for constitutional changes on the part of the Irish. Irish unity and democracy in the north are still the priority issues.

## Support Our 1995 Raffle Help End PEC's Financial Crisis

Please purchase the book of raffle tickets enclosed with this newsletter. The support of all members for this raffle will go along way in ending PEC's financial crisis. The tickets cost \$3 each (book of six tickets for \$15). The drawing will take place on Saturday, October 14, 1995. Winners will be announced in the newsletter.

**The prizes are:** 2 Round-Trip Tickets to Ireland from New York or Boston, or \$1,000 cash, and five \$100 consolation prizes. Please return the stubs with your check payable to PEC-AIEF in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible.

**Volunteers Are Needed To Sell Tickets!** To order extra books of raffle tickets call 800 777-6807 or write: PEC-AIEF, 54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401, Stony Point, NY 10980. Specify how many books you want. Your help is important to overcoming our financial crisis.

*(Purchase of tickets is not necessary to enter raffle.)*

## Casement Accused Update

by Paul Brosnahan, Massachusetts

In 1994, at the behest of the American organization, Lawyers Alliance for Justice in Ireland, President Bill Clinton had the State Department ask the British government to send the Casement Accused cases back to the Court of Appeal for review. At the time the State Department contacted the British government, the British responded that Secretary of State, Sir Patrick Mayhew, had the cases of Patrick Kane, Sean Kelly and Michael Timmons and others under review. As you recall from an earlier report given in this newsletter, Mayhew refused to refer the cases back to the Court.

This was done, despite reports from Amnesty International, the Committee on the Administration of Justice, the Irish government, BBC's Rough Justice TV program and numerous legal and human rights organizations, which cite serious problems with these cases. Many members of parliament and legislators in England, Ireland, Australia and the United States have also voiced their concerns to the British government about these cases. We must again write to President Clinton asking that he continue to follow up on this matter.

**See Action Request # 1 On This Page**

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