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Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - December 1987 - January 1988" (1988). *American Irish Newsletter*. 236.

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THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 12, No. 6

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DECEMBER, 1987/JANUARY, 1988

Senator Lautenberg on Human Rights

by Carol DeHaan, PEC New Jersey

New Jersey's Senator Frank Lautenberg, who will run for reelection in 1988, embarked during August and September on a thirteen day tour of the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary and the Baltic countries to discuss human rights issues that New Jersey's ethnic groups have stressed as important. Addressing the issue of widespread persecution and imprisonment of religious and political dissidents, he wants officials of these countries to know that "... in America, the human right is one above all."

These lofty sentiments provide an interesting contrast with his treatment of New Jersey's largest ethnic group, the American Irish who appealed for his assistance by letter dated June 16, 1987, concerning the abuse of Joseph Doherty who has been imprisoned by the present administration for more than four years with no criminal charges against him, and who seeks to be deported to the Republic of Ireland, and whom our courts have repeatedly ruled should be allowed to leave. After the letter was ignored by the Senator for three weeks, beginning on

July 6 and continuing through August 7, telephone calls were made to the Senator's Washington office asking for a meeting with him. After several calls, Aide Mike Kavanaugh transferred the request to Aide Kevin MacDonald, who after three or four calls stated, "I cannot do anything for you," and again transferred the call to Aide Sharon Waxman, who, after three or four more calls, has spent the month of August "looking into it." Two packages of clippings regarding the injustice endured by Joe at the hands of Attorney General Meese were sent via Federal Express, as well as letters of support for Joe's cause from officers of the Irish-American Unity Conference, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Fenian Society and the Bergen County Council of Irish Associations. While all these letters to Senator Lautenberg go unanswered, while most telephone calls go unreturned, while aides busily transfer calls to one another, and when cornered respond, "We're looking into it," the Senator goes jousting on behalf of human rights in Eastern Europe.

As we all know, tyranny is elsewhere.

NEWS BITS

by Kathy Regan

As the campaign to implement the MacBride Principles for fair employment in companies operating in the north of Ireland gathers momentum in the United States, it is also gaining more attention in England and Ireland ... Harrison Goldin was in England promoting the MacBride Principles and Charles Haughey and Brian Lenihan also favor them. Kevin McNamara, the British Labour Party's spokesman on Northern Ireland, said, "The Principles contain sentiments with which no person committed to equality could disagree." The Labor Party annual conference will be urged to endorse them and the Labour Committee on Ireland Conference will advocate their adoption by trade unions. The IBRG in Manchester has agreed to promote the MacBride Principles wherever possible in Britain and to sponsor a major forthcoming conference in London on them. (Irish Post, 9/19/87) Ken Livingstone was scheduled to give evidence in support of the MacBride Principles before the Illinois state senate. (Irish Post, 10/10/87) ... Commenting on Tom King's speech in the USA on fair employment, SDLP spokesman, Brian Feeney, stated, "Everyone knows Tom King is an emperor with no clothes. His guidelines have no legal backing and his booklet on fair practice will not become law until 1990 — the legislation is not drafted, which is a disgrace." (Irish Post, 9/29/87)

The London Strategic Policy Unit has produced a report on strip-searching, noting it was first highlighted in connection with Irish women in Armagh and Brixton Prisons. The report says that Irish and Black women prisoners and those involved in political protest, are the most likely to be strip-searched (Irish Post, 10/3/87) ... Protestant male graduates in Northern Ireland earn "significantly" higher salaries than Catholic men who have studied the same course and attained the same class of degree according to a study by a joint Queens/University of Ulster team (Irish Times, 10/21/87)

In a submission to Viscount Colville who is charged with the annual review of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), the Liverpool Branch of the Labour Committee on Ireland stated, "The normal practice is that a person is detained incommunicado without being given any specific reason, is asked a large number of seemingly insignificant questions about his or her lifestyle and acquaintances and is then released with no further action to be taken. We would therefore endorse the common criticism that the PTA powers of detention have nothing to do with detecting crime and

everything to do with intelligence-gathering and intimidating those travelling between Ireland and Britain." (Irish Post, 9/19/87) ... Bishop of Galway, Eamonn Casey, would like to see the PTA scrapped. As the acting chairman of The Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) (funded by the Bishops' Commission for Emigrants), he has written a detailed submission to Lord Colville citing the case of an Irishman held on remand for 18 months in a British jail without charge. He returned to an impoverished family and a ruined business and could not apply for compensation. (Irish Post, 10/17/87) ... "Hudsons, Birmingham's biggest and most prestigious bookshop, has adopted a softly-softly approach to Labour MP Chris Mullin's book *Error of Judgement* which argues the innocence of the Birmingham Six. The book is only available in the basement, tucked away in the Irish history section. Management has denied that any decision has been made against promoting the book" (Irish Post, 10/10/87) ... A statement from the Birmingham Six declared, "There should be no trade off between their cases and the current controversy over extradition." The men feel their only chance of justice is, "if the judges know they are being watched by the public" (Irish Times, 10/21/87) ... Trial lawyer Michael Dowd is attending the appeal hearing at London's Central Criminal Court on behalf of the US Brehon Law Society and New York's Institute for Legal Justice. He declared, "The true measure of justice is acknowledging a mistake has been made and correcting it" ... Serious questions about how statements were obtained and forensic tests conducted in this case must be answered. That's why I'm here" (Irish Post, 10/31/87).

During a recent visit to Ireland, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said, "Irish culture permeates the whole national make up of the Australian character and psyche." He welcomed "the continuing association" between the two countries and "the arrangement" whereby young Irish people are able to get work permits in Australia. Although he publicly supported the Anglo-Irish Accord, in private meetings with Charles Haughey he urged Haughey to stand firm on Extradition until he can extract concessions on judicial reform. The implication was that "resistance to Margaret Thatcher would earn the applause of Commonwealth leaders" ... "This opens new avenues for Irish diplomacy to explore. The thrust of efforts to win international support for the cause of Irish nationalism has tended to be directed at the US and, latterly, Ireland's EEC partners. Ireland has friends in the Commonwealth as well. Isn't there some merit

New Hampshire PEC Forms

We are happy to announce the creation of a statewide PEC in New Hampshire. The state director is Mr. Tom O'Flaherty. He can be reached at Goodtime Farm, RFD #6, Box 153, Laconia, NH 03246 — phone # (603) 528-5733.

The immediate purpose of this unit is to inform state legislators and the general public and to rally support, regarding the MacBride Principles. MacBride legislation has recently been introduced in the New Hampshire state legislature by

Nashua state representative Kevin Mulligan. Legislative hearings are expected to begin in early January, 1988.

WE URGE ALL NEW HAMPSHIRE PEC MEMBERS/ SUBSCRIBERS to immediately contact Tom O'Flaherty to begin organizing the necessary support to win passage of this MacBride legislation. Victory in New Hampshire for the non-violent MacBride principles is critical to the outcome of the campaign in the U.S.

MacBride/Kearney Tour Update

The recent PEC sponsored tour of Mr. Oliver Kearney, executive secretary of the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Trust, in promotion of the MacBride Principles, in conjunction with the organization and unity demonstrated by principles campaign activists in carrying out his tour, has greatly intensified support for the MacBride Principles in the U.S. In the words of Washington news correspondent Sean Cronin, a 30-year veteran, "The speed of the success of the MacBride Principles campaign is phenomenal."

The recent tour of Mr. Tom King, Northern Ireland Secretary, has been described by the British press as a failure. According to England's INDEPENDENT, "King's US Tour A Failure." King told Americans that the MacBride Principles were not needed as the British government has their own proposals that would become law not this year, but in 1989. British laws prohibiting discrimination in employment in Northern Ireland were passed in 1920, 1973 and again in 1976. Yet the Catholic unemployment rate has worsened. The British government is more intent on deceiving the public than in correcting this terrible situation. In the words of Oliver Kearney, "We would be foolish to think that after 67 years of using discrimination to hold on to the colony, that now the British government wants to end discrimination."

For the first time many uninformed legislators are learning the truth about the ruthless nature of British colonial rule in Northern Ireland. They and other concerned Americans are beginning to understand that British colonial rule in Ireland depends for its very existence on discrimination and injustice. This is why state legislators continue to vote overwhelming support for the principles.

Another major accomplishment of the campaign is the increase in unity within the American Irish community. Because of the non-violent nature of the campaign, we are enlisting the support of those who would be otherwise reluctant to act on the problem of Northern Ireland.

Kearney's five-week tour, organized by the AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee (PEC), began September 17, 1987. It included stops in nine states and Washington, D.C. He met with and won the support of many influential Americans (members of federal, state, and municipal legislative bodies; political figures; the press; American Irish leaders; and representatives of many religious denominations). At least six states have recently introduced or are in the process of introducing MacBride legislation.

Kearney noted a high degree of unity among the individuals and organizations

involved. He was overwhelmed by the unity which existed at the state level, and by the unity and coordination demonstrated in the way his tour was carried out on a national level. "The unity, dedication and professionalism I have encountered on the part of those involved" he said, "gives us [Northern Ireland's Catholic community] a sense of hope which has not existed in many years."

The success of the campaign has forced the British to intensify their anti-fair employment efforts. They have even retained public relations firms to promote their campaign. This can be very damaging to our campaign if we let it go unchallenged. **We must, in turn, greatly intensify our efforts in all states.**

The principles have grass roots support. The British government's opposition witnesses have to be bought or pressured as is the case in newspaper editorials, Ford Motors, Paddy Devlin, etc. The British government is desperate and therefore, dangerous. In Illinois where two hearings took place attracting hundreds of supporters, the British government's witnesses even included an acknowledged Communist party member Hazel Morris, Research Officer of the Amalgamated Transport And General Workers' Union. She stood shoulder to shoulder with British representatives and Mr. William Kelly, International Relations Manager of Ford Motors in opposing the principles.

Legislative Update — New Hampshire — MacBride legislation was introduced in October by state representative Kevin Mulligan. On October 19, 1987 the Pennsylvania House Finance Committee approved overwhelmingly (14-3) in favor of the legislation. In Illinois both the State Senate and House conducted well attended and extensive hearings (11 1/2 hours) on October 6 and 9. In Michigan where the bill has already been approved 99-0 in the Assembly, it is being held up in the Senate by Republican Senator Rudy Nichols, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. **All Michigan members must write to him** (see Action Requests below). On October 16, 1987 the Detroit City Council passed a resolution supporting the MacBride Principles. The resolution was approved by all members of the Council. As approved, the resolution adopts the Principles as part of the investment strategy of the Detroit General Retirement System and Policemen and Firemen System towards companies doing business in Northern Ireland. **San Francisco** — Principles legislation will soon be introduced in the San Francisco City Council.

in the argument that the Commonwealth as a whole institution might be enlisted to Ireland's aid?" (Irish Post, 10/31/87) ... Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, referring to current proposals that council candidates make an anti-violence declaration, "It is utterly hypocritical for a British government which is responsible for the finance of 30,000 armed soldiers in our country to talk about anti-violence declarations. It is the British presence

which is the historic source of division in Ireland and which perpetuates the violence and political instability." He also said the policy of political vetting of community groups which has been applied only in Nationalist areas was a form of discrimination. "The policy of refusing to fund groups which the British perceive as politically independent has already resulted in the loss of valuable jobs and

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THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

founded 1976

A publication of the American Irish Political Education Committee with the support of the Emerald Society, Fire Department, City of New York. Address: Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 — (914) 947-2726.

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From The Editor

The MacBride Principles campaign is fast becoming an international issue. Principles campaigns are now underway in Canada and Britain and in the planning stage in other European nations. It will soon be a primary topic of discussion at an international human rights convention. The principles will take economic control (jobs) out of British government hands. It is economic control that has permitted British colonials to remain in northern Ireland this long. The principles, a non-violent program, will end British colonial rule in northern Ireland. There will no longer be endemic discrimination, Bloody Sunday's, internment without trial, torture, one judge-non-jury courts, Joe Doherty's, etc.

The success of the MacBride Principles in the US is in our hands. Will we make them a total success? Yes, because we realize that they are a once-over opportunity. SO LETS GET TO WORK and step-up our efforts to promote legislation and awareness of the principles in our society.

In my two weeks traveling with Oliver Kearney I learned much. There are many Americans, and I don't mean only "Irish-Americans", many who are very influential, who will want to help promote the principles. Of the people who heard Mr. Kearney's presentations, many volunteered to help. Their offer came only after they heard him speak. The majority had no idea at all of what British oppression means to the minority in northern Ireland. The difference is, people will help if informed and provided direction. This is our job.

Obviously, the principles are a powerful and non-violent means to end British colonial rule in Ireland. All Americans who care about the this terrible tragedy can help. We must take full advantage of the opportunity.

As a leading promoter of the Principles Campaign in the US, the PEC works to provide a course of action and needs your help. Please respond to as many as possible of the "MacBride Principles Action Requests" that appear on page 4. Please act today!

ATTENTION!

MacBride Principles

If you're contemplating MacBride Principle legislation for your municipality or state, please write or call the PEC first. We have a world of information available to assist you. Write AIPEC, Malloy Bldg. Stony Point, NY 10980 or call (914) 947-2726 - Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. thru 2 p.m. EST.

The New Irish

by Pete Foley, PEC liaison to Irish Immigration Reform Movement

There are approximately 150,000 undocumented Irish currently in the U.S. that are not eligible for amnesty through the 1986 Immigration Act. Most of these people came to the U.S. after 1982. These new Irish are an integral part of the economy in many localities throughout the U.S. and some are being exploited because of their status. Many are living in crowded housing (four people to a one bedroom apartment is common), and paying higher rents or forced to take a cut in wages because the landlord or employer knows of their status and threatens to turn them in to Immigration authorities. Many have college degrees or much needed job skills, but are forced to work in low skill, low wage jobs.

Ireland has an unemployment rate of approximately 22% and is telling young graduates, of one of the finest educational systems in the world, that they have to emigrate or become welfare recipients for the next ten years until the Irish economy is turned around. These people have chosen work over welfare and have come

to America. With their skills and education they have easily found jobs here. They hoped that once here they could find a way to become legal residents.

Current immigration law makes it almost impossible for the Irish to legally emigrate here no matter what their skills. Of the 275,000 visas issued yearly only 515 were allocated for Ireland. The U.S. State Department has listed 36 countries that are adversely affected by current immigration law (including Ireland, Canada and most of Europe). There is a bill before Congress that would address the problems of the undocumented Irish, amnesty and a larger yearly visa quota for Ireland. That bill, the Kennedy-Donnelly bill (#S1611 in the Senate — HR 3143 in the House) would add 50,000 visas to the current number. This would be for the 36 countries adversely affected by the current laws. This would give the Irish up to 20,000 visas per year as needed. The PEC and the Irish Immigration Reform Movement ask you to write your US Senator. Urge that he support and promote the

A True Friend The Honorable Mario Biaggi

For Christmas, it would be appropriate for all of us to remember a true friend of peace and justice in Ireland. We urge you to send a Christmas card to our good friend and founder of the most important Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs, the Honorable Mario Biaggi. Have your organizations and friends do the same. His address is: Honorable Mario Biaggi, Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. PLEASE SEND YOUR CARD TODAY!

Kennedy-Donnelly bill, urge change in the amnesty provision of the new Immigration law to extend through 1987, and to urge suspension of employer sanctions against undocumented aliens. Proper addresses is: Hon. _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Extradition Act

According to reports at the time of this writing, An Taoiseach, Charles Haughey will not oppose the Extradition Act with Britain. Why the reversal? Haughey was a strong opponent of the Extradition act with Britain when leader of the opposition. Fifty-seven of the eighty-one elected members of Fianna Fail, his party, spoke out in opposition to the Act on November 18. At that time he advised them he had already made his decision without consulting them. We are also advised that the US State Department put pressure on him. What will Britain give in return? Again, we are advised the British government will make no concessions — no prima facie, no change in the Diplock Courts. What will happen to Joe Doherty? The British government has brutalized Irish political prisoners for hundreds of years and will continue to do the same. If Haughey does not oppose the Act he will severely damage his much sought after "good relations" with American Irish organizations (AIN-PEC 11/25/87).

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

services in the areas of most deprivation, particularly West Belfast. The withdrawal of funding to community and education groups is however only the visible manifestation of the policy. What has gone unchallenged and virtually unnoticed is the fact that scores of other groups have been refused funding simply because the areas in which they function are strongly Nationalist. (Irish News, 10/21/87) ... The RTE Authority has urged the Government to scrap Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act. "Section 31 is becoming increasingly anomalous because more than half of the households in the Republic are now receiving foreign radio and television stations, not subject to the provisions of the section." (Irish Press, 10/19/87)

A thirteen year-old London Irish lad, Scott Clancy, has been accepted as a member of Mensa. He has an IQ of 176, a score of which 99% of the population could not achieve. (Irish Post, 10/10/87)

A Dutch Euro MP promised further moves against Britain in the European Parliament over the use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland. He and two members of the United Campaign against Plastic Bullets presented a petition with 1200 signatures to an Embassy official. "I asked what action Britain had taken on the European Parliament resolution of 1982 banning the use of plastic bullets. I was told the European Parliament has no legal authority and Britain decides its own policies. (Irish News, 10/22/87)

WASHINGTON, DC — Rep. Benjamin Gilman (NY), who recently appeared at the Appellate Court Hearing of the "Birmingham Six" in London, urged his Congressional colleagues "to closely follow this matter over the course of appeal, with hopes that the 'underlying values' of British justice, 'will triumph'. Congressman Gilman stated: "My presence at this appeal will allow me to more fully understand ... the facts and political implications of this widely-followed case, which bears importantly on the work of the Congress". Gilman reported to his col-

leagues that his visit to the London courtroom and discussions with experts "have strengthened my strong belief that a miscarriage of justice occurred in the original trial many years ago." (11/87).

STONY POINT, N.Y. — At the recent very successful convention of the Irish American Unity Conference (November 13-15) in Hartford, Connecticut, a new slate of officers was elected. Bob Linnon, President (Fla.), Dan O'Kennedy, Vice President (Mich), Elizabeth Logue, Secretary (N.J.) and Noreen Walsh, Treasurer (Fla.). The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) has congratulated the new officers and pledged continued unity (AIN-PEC — 11/87).

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OFFENSIVE SITUATION

by Kevin P. Murphy, PEC Massachusetts

It is an unfortunate fact that in this day and age anti-Irish stereotyping is still perpetrated upon the American Irish. Thanks to concerned readers of the American Irish Newsletter I have compiled a list from around the United States of Offensive Situations aimed at our race. American Irish in Pompano Beach, Florida seeking permission to have a St. Patrick's Day Festival in a city Park were told by city Parks Commissioner Timothy Taff that St. Patrick's Day is, "the one day of the year that everyone is to become inebriated". A Sacramento, California T.V. station recently aired a movie titled, "Price", in which Irish people were depicted as violent and hateful. C.B.S. television's "Knots Landing" show will this season introduce a character who is described as an "Irish terrorist".

The N.Y. Daily News ran an editorial cartoon regarding former presidential candidate Gary Hart that depicted the Irish as drunken and lazy. Boston Herald

writer Howie Carr described the Boston Irish in a July column as "shovel faced Mick underclass". A blatant example of slandering the name and reputation of the American Irish is Steven Spielberg's childrens film, "American Tail". The animated film depicts immigration to America. The Irish characters in the story are depicted as drunken, violent and promiscuous. Hundreds of thousands of Americans, mostly children have viewed this movie.

Is Mr. Spielberg attempting to implant in the minds of young people a negative image of the American Irish? I urge all readers to write to Stephen Spielberg at: Universal Studios, 70 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, California 91608.

(Ed. Note: Send all information concerning "Offensive Situations" to Kevin P. Murphy, PO Box 8895, JFK Kennedy Station, Boston, MA 02114.)

[illegible]

MacBride Principles Action Requests Letter Writing Needed!

Please write the following letters in your own words or as is. Urge your friends, family members, members of organizations, etc. to do the same. We cannot over stress the importance of these letters. Non-members of the PEC do not have to mention membership in the PEC.

WRITE TO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Our letter writing campaigns to the Presidential candidates urging they support the principles and Ireland's reunification have had an impact. We recently received a call from one of their offices. The more letters the different candidates receive, the greater the concern within their political party:

George Bush for President, 733 15th Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20077-1844; and Dole for President, 1828 L Street, NW, Suite 805, Washington, DC 20036.

Dear Candidate:

As an American and a member of the American Irish Political Education Committee, I am very concerned about British colonialism and oppression in Northern Ireland. I urge you to promote the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Practices Act (MacBride Principles) introduced by Senator Alfonse D'Amato. I also ask that you call for the peaceful reunification of Ireland. I look forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
signature

Further Actions NATIONAL LEGISLATION

While many of us are busy generating support for principles legislation pending in our state legislatures, it is most important that we also continue to build support for the national legislation. As you are aware, bills have been sponsored in the US Senate by Senator Alfonse D'Amato and in

the House of Representatives by Congressman Hamilton Fish, both Republicans.

Please write a short note to your US Senators and Congressman urging they support and promote the MacBride legislation. Mention the sponsors names above. Bill numbers are: in the Senate S229, in the House HR 722. Addresses are:

For Senate: Hon. (name), United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510; for House, Hon. (name), House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

MICHIGAN

Michigan PEC representative Dan O'Kennedy has informed us that letters and phone calls are urgently needed to Senator Rudy Nichols, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee (517) 373-2417. He is preventing the MacBride bill from being acted on in the Senate where there is major support for it.

address & date
Honorable Rudy Nichols, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I urge that you immediately move the MacBride Principles legislation out to the Senate floor for a full vote. I look forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

We urge all New Hampshire members to immediately write a letter to and/or make personal contact with your local state representative and senator. Urge that they support and promote the MacBride legislation introduced by State Rep Kevin Mulligan of Nashua. Ask them to contact State Representative Kevin Mulligan, 21 Miami St., Nashua, NH 03060 — (603) 883-4777. Your support is urgently needed.

PLATFORM COMMITTEES

In January, 1988 the members of the Democratic and Republican national platform committees will be selected. The members of the state platform committees will be selected April through June. These people will decide what planks will make up their party's platform.

We are advised that members should contact their state and national party chairmanship to determine the names of the platform committees members.

The grass roots pressure that we can build at the state level will be much more effective. Our issues will be part of the platform that the state committees will present at the national convention. The whole

process will serve to educate these people, at all levels, and make them aware of our presence.

We urge all of you to immediately make contact with your state and national party and ask that they forward you the names and addresses when available. Once you receive the names begin making contact. They will be looking for input. The planks we are asking to be included are: Ireland's reunification and the MacBride Principles. If appropriate, mention you are a member of the American Irish Political Education Committee. Please keep us apprised of your progress. Contact your local political parties for appropriate addresses.

!!!! Bumper Stickers Now Available !!!!

"SAY YES TO MACBRIDE" (Principles) bumper stickers are now available. They are very important in promoting public awareness of the principles. WE URGE ALL OF YOU to affix these bumper stickers to each of your family members cars. Urge your concerned friends to do the same. Organizations are asked to help by purchasing these stickers in bulk from the PEC at \$.50 ea. and distributing them to members. Individuals can also

help the PEC raise funds by selling stickers to friends, family and at different functions. If you would like to help, please contact the PEC. To order your stickers send \$1.00 ea. (\$.50 ea. for 5 or more) to AIPEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EFFORT! If you plan to reproduce the bumper stickers, it is important that you do not change the format.

Your Support Is Needed!

Starting in January, 1988 we will commence a broad based informational mailing on the MacBride Principles to the general public. The purposes of the mailings will be to inform the public, win active support for MacBride legislation both on a state and national level, and to raise funds to sustain the campaign. This action will be in addition to what we are already doing in this area. The PEC is

now serving as a primary US MacBride Principles promotion and information distribution center.

PLEASE SEND A DONATION — PLEASE RUN A FUND RAISER TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS. Send donations to AIPEC, Malloy Bldg, Stony Point, NY 10980 — phone # (914) 947-2726 between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm EST, Monday thru Friday.

Action Letter

by Albert Doyle

The Oliver Kearney case continued.

In our last issue we asked you to write to the Guinness Brewing Company here in the U.S. We asked you complain about their part in the firing of Oliver Kearney from his position with the Vintners' Federation in Northern Ireland for his testimony in support of the MacBride Principles of Fair Employment. Many of you did write and Guinness' reply disclaims any knowledge of the reason for the firing or their part in it. We are advised by Oliver Kearney that this is not correct. Below are the facts concerning Mr. Oliver Kearney's firing from the Licensed Vintners Federation as reported by Mr. Kearney:

"The Guinness Corporation (Northern Ireland) provides an annual subvention to the Licensed Vintners' Federation amounting to almost \$40,000. In addition Guinness owns a chain of bars which form a membership bloc within the membership of the Licensed Vintners' Federation. Guinness also exercises a controlling financial interest in more than 50% of the 1000 privately-owned bars which make up the Federation's membership.

The Guinness Corporation, therefore, exercises such a powerful financial interest in the affairs of the Federation that it can influence any policy decisions taken by the Federation.

Senior management of the Guinness Corporation in Belfast met with the chairman of the Licensed Vintner's Federation on May 13, 1987 and discussed the action which should be instituted by the Federation against Mr. Kearney for appearing in California (where he testified in support of MacBride legislation). Legal advice was provided by the company regarding Mr. Kearney's contractual entitlements.

Further discussions were held between

Guinness management and members of the executive committee of the Federation during the following days before final action was instituted to terminate Mr. Kearney's employment. The company was fully informed of, and approved the action to be taken.

The main board of the Guinness Corporation in England includes a number of highly-placed Conservative party members of the Westminster Parliament and its House of Lords. The company's management in Northern Ireland maintains close personal contact with British Ministers and senior members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC)."

We suggest a follow-up letter to Guinness U.S. to let them know that we will not be brushed aside with falsehoods. Please write the suggested letter below — in your own words or as is — but write now, and get friends and relatives to do so.

address & date
Guinness Brewing Company
6 Landmark Square
Stamford, CT 06901

Gentlemen:

I am surprised that you deny any connection of your company in the firing of Oliver Kearney from his position with the Vintners' Federation of Northern Ireland for his support for the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment. I regret that you have been deceived by your company and suggest you check again, as Guinness management in Ireland were active participants in this case. While awaiting your response and indication of Guinness' intent to redress this wrong, I will cease using your products and will urge all I know to do the same.

Sincerely,

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Oliver Kearney VHS Video Available

We now have a very effective 30 minute VHS video cassette of Oliver Kearney, Northern Ireland Fair Employment Trust, in a very articulate discussion of the MacBride Principles. It can be used for educational purposes at meetings, MacBride Principles information forums, house gatherings, etc. It will certainly help generate support for the principles campaign. To obtain a copy send \$19.95 to AIPEC, Malloy Bldg., Stony Point, NY 10980.

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