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## American Irish Newsletter - January 1990

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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### Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - January 1990" (1990). *American Irish Newsletter*. 237.  
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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 15, Number 1

January 1990

## ATTENTION CONGRESS

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts PEC State Director

Citizens of the free world have looked with great satisfaction at the tumbling down of the Berlin Wall and the end of oppression in so many Eastern European nations. As Americans, who traditionally have led the struggle for democracy in many parts of the world, we are overjoyed at the thriving of democracy. Now that the barbed wire, concrete and heavily armed borders of Eastern Europe have disappeared, what about Ireland's artificial border that separates north and south? While Germans can now freely cross the borders between East and West without harassment or fear, this is not so in Ireland. Irish men and Irish women must daily endure searches, acts of intimidation and even bodily harm when crossing the border between the Irish Republic and Britain's so-called "democracy" Northern Ireland. Britain's heavily armed troops and para-military police, barbed wire, steel barricades and observation towers - all these mar Europe's new look of open borders and freedom. Is Britain's last colony -- Northern Ireland -- going to be the only non-democratic oppressed society in all Europe?

President George Bush should seize this opportunity to bring pressure on the British government to end this unnatural division of Ireland and the unjust denial of freedom.

Speaker of the House Tom Foley and Senators Edward Kennedy and Daniel Moynihan must finally reverse their present positions and speak out on the side of democracy and freedom in Ireland. Many U.S. Senators and Congressmen have been reluctant to speak out against the British because of Britain's value as an ally against the Soviet Union. But this is no longer necessary as democracy is sweeping across the Soviet Union. Members of Congress in support of democracy should now move forward to bring down what Congressman Joe Kennedy in 1988 called Britain's Berlin Wall in Northern Ireland.

The new wave of freedom sweeping Eastern Europe is coming about because of courageous individuals such as Poland's Lech Walesa, who supported the Irish Hunger Strikers, and the Soviet leader Gorbachav, both of whom have the guts to face reality. Unfortunately, there are no Walesas or Gorbachavs in the administrations that run England or Ireland. If there are, they have not yet surfaced.

Our Senators and Congressmen should take note that in the late 1980s concerned American Irish achieved greater unity through the democratic MacBride Principles Campaign. In the 1990s we will be even more closely united in our quest for a free and reunited Ireland with the same democratic principles which govern America. Europe will not be totally free as long as Britain uses her military machine to keep the Irish down.

**Membership Renewal Notice Appears On Page 6  
Just below Your Address Label.**

## NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

**LONDON** - Men of violence -- British soldiers threw a three-year-old child over a wall. They knocked out a teenager's front teeth. They taunted a family mourning a still-born baby. These are the "peace keepers in West Belfast". (New Statesman 10/27/89)...Kerry Kennedy, the sister of Congressman Joe Kennedy of Massachusetts, will soon travel to Northern Ireland to investigate human rights violations. Kerry Kennedy is the Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation. (AIEPEC 12/89)... "...plans are well advanced to make the UDR a full-time force. That would enable the withdrawing of the British army and the reduction of the Northern Ireland garrison...From a report in The Daily Telegraph, 'Security chiefs believe that a full-time force with better training represents the most efficient way of indefinitely providing military support for the RUC and easing the burden on the regular army. At present, one-third of Britain's front-line troops are either serving in Northern Ireland, on leave after doing so, or training to go there.'" (Irish Post, 9/23/89)... "The articulate tones of Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison have been replaced by little captions rolling silently across the screen, voice-overs by reporters, or unconvincing impersonations by actors...[There have been] fewer requests for interviews...fewer Sinn Fein comments and statements being carried on television and radio and in the newspapers...grey areas have been useful to the authorities in that broadcasters...have often tended to err on the side of caution...People seem to have accepted Mrs. Thatcher's projection that the ban is directed against terrorism rather than against free speech and their own right to know." (The Independent, 10/18/89) Three young boys purchased a case of candy and sold it at the recent Irish Solidarity Day Rally in New York. They turned the proceeds over to the Joe Doherty Defense Fund (AIN-PEC)... "The Guildford convictions were quashed by the Court of Appeal after the Crown said it was not possible to uphold them because of new evidence which emerged during inquiries by Avon and Somerset police.

Continued on Page 4

## NEW APPOINTMENT

Kevin Mulligan, former New Hampshire State Legislator, has been appointed PEC State Director for New Hampshire. He has replaced Tom O'Flaherty who is now the PEC National MacBride Principles Consultant. Kevin wants to begin organizing state-wide. We urge all New Hampshire members to contact Kevin at 21 Miami St., Nashua, NH 03060 -- phone # (603) 883-4777.



**SEND OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS TO KEVIN P. MURPHY,  
PO BOX 8895, JFK STATION, BOSTON, MA 02114.**

## ACTION REQUEST # 2

### Offensive Situations by Kevin P. Murphy

**Has NBC declared war on the American Irish community?** Between October 14 and December 1 at least three programs deemed dangerously offensive to the American Irish were aired by NBC. The October 14 episode of *Hunter* suggested that Irish nationalists are committing violent acts including murder, in the US. On December 1 NBC's *Mancuso* The FBI suggested that American Irish and Irish born were robbing banks in the US to support the IRA. NBC is well aware that many unsuspecting viewers will accept these outrageous and false impressions of American Irish and Irish people. In the October 28 segment of NBC's *Golden Girls* a character decides to become a circus clown. When he places the red nose on, the character, played by actress **Bea Arthur**, states that he is Irish. Previously on the same show another character, talking about when she immigrated to America, stated, "we all were happy and everyone was drinking, on second thought only the

Irish were drinking." **Priority Course of Action:** Write Mr. Robert C. Wright, President, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112. Strongly protest the above misleading and offensive situations being sure to give the name and date of each program. Demand that NBC not produce programs that mislead the public concerning the war in Northern Ireland or that degrade our image. Inform him that if NBC continues its anti-American Irish bias you will have to boycott NBC and protest to their advertisers. Urge that NBC producers consult the American Irish Political Education Committee. Also take this opportunity to again call upon NBC to end its censored news coverage on the campaign for democracy and freedom in Northern Ireland.

We have received complaints concerning the column *From The Hip* in *USA Today* dated November 24. The article by senior editor **J. Taylor Buckley** which questions why so many football teams use Indian themes as mascots included, "Why doesn't some school call its team something really far out, like The Fighting Irish, named, of course, for that legendary mythological tribe of pugnacious drunks? In the *New York Times*, Sunday, November 5, writer **Benedict Nightingale**, in his review of Henry V wrote, "and wild Irishmen ripping off their clothes and running into battle naked in the filth. Terrible, unbelievable". Members in Memphis, Tennessee and Los Angeles, California have informed us that ads appearing in local newspapers promoting the British Army's Black Watch tour stated that the unit is "ceremonial". In fact, throughout the past 20 years the regiment has committed civil and human rights violations against the Irish people in Northern Ireland.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

*The American movement to peacefully reunite Ireland is now stronger and more experienced than ever. While the British government is scraping the bottom of the barrel of dirty tricks, both interest and activism in the United States on the question of Northern Ireland is on the rise. Activism is spreading to the most rural parts of America, to colleges, unions, legislative bodies, clergy, and journalists. People who are neither of Irish extraction nor the Catholic faith are becoming involved, even to the extent of assuming leadership positions.*

*There are several reasons for this. Among them are the MacBride Principles campaign; the increasing effectiveness of our education programs; the frustration after twenty years of no solutions; and the realization that Americans do not have to support violence in order to oppose Britain's out-dated colonial policy in Northern Ireland. More pressure on Britain to end the forced division of Ireland and its people is sure to come because of the upheaval in Eastern Bloc nations and their quest for democracy. Britain the "cradle of democracy" turns out to be the last oppressive and undemocratic state in Europe!*

*What was once a dream in the minds of PEC activists is now becoming a reality - some of the best talents from within and outside the American Irish community are coming forward to help by working through the American democratic process. The American Irish community has the people, wealth, skills, education and influence to make a difference. We cannot but win if we keep on pressing and growing.*

*You can bring the day of justice closer by telling friends and relatives about the PEC and urging them to join.*



## FROM THE NORTH

by Fr. Des Wilson, Belfast, *Director of Conway Mill*

The policy of British governments in Ireland has always been to ensure that they would have military domination and that the Irish would never have a viable independent economy.

In the early days of the Southern State, Irish policy was to reduce the scale, but not the nature of Irish dependence on Britain -- insurance companies would have to have about half of their shares in Irish hands, native resources would be used for electricity and so on. As time went on the South became more and more dependent upon international and multinational industries.

Now it is trying to encourage native industry through "Buy Irish" campaigns. There is some awareness in the South of the dangers of economic domination and there is at least a feeling that something may be done, sometime, to counter it.

In the North, domination by Britain is more complete and, for the time being at least, irreversible. The purpose of domination is not to create rich British industries there; it is to ensure that a native Irish economy will not emerge.

In the North most employees are not producing anything. Over half are engaged in services; of these, very many are involved in "security". There is a joke in Belfast that the next major survey should be of those who earn their living simply by sitting on their behinds watching what other people are doing!

Two academics, Rowthorn and Wayne in *Northern Ireland: The Political Economy of Conflict* (available thru American Irish Awareness Committee \$22.50 Order # B916), have said that the North has a workhouse economy, that is, one in which people produce very little, control is from outside and the paid operatives administer, watch and guard. When the war stops there will be a dramatic increase of tens of thousands of unemployed, most of them Protestant loyalists. This unproductive economy was created deliberately.

When the Stormont government was in place native industry declined. The decline continued under direct rule after 1972. The North which in the nineteen twenties had been the most prosperous part of Ireland had become by the nineteen eighties the second poorest region in the European community.

## MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE

**NORWAY** -- The prestigious Norwegian Helsinki Committee announced the first European-based initiative in support of the MacBride Principles. The committee will be asking Norwegian politicians, trade unions and the business community to assist the campaign for affirmative employment legislation in Northern Ireland. 'We feel that the Principles may be the key to making a new solution in Northern Ireland. As long as you have this apartheid in the workforce, you will never have any kind of equality in society. The right to work is a very fundamental right. People outside the workforce are people outside democratic society.' [The Principles are] 'a way forward to a political solution in Northern Ireland.' (Irish News, 11/9/89)...**MASSACHUSETTS** -- PEC member Fr. Philip Jacobs III, rector of the Episcopalian Church of the Good Shepherd in Fairhaven, Massachusetts has advised us

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the McCarthy Drug Store, Village Center, in Stanfordville, New York where you will not find offensive St. Patrick's Day greeting cards. Dorothy Stirling advises us that the owner, Mr. McCarthy, stocks only cards and novelties that depict the American Irish in a dignified manner.

Industry which the British government had placed and subsidized in the North was not Irish industry but British. The government therefore gave its subsidies to British industry planted in Ireland. When the British economy declined and they could not continue subsidizing industries in Ireland which were in decline or would be more profitable in Britain, the government invited industrialists from Germany, Holland, the United States, etc. to come in. This industry was carefully placed and controlled so that it had the same effect as British industry in the past -- most of it was guilty of religious discrimination while it was there and would eventually leave for economic reasons over which the Irish had no control.

Belfast Shipyard has now been sold to Olsen of Norway and Shorts to Bombardier of Canada. Once again it is being seen that British policy in Ireland is not primarily to create British industry there, but to prevent Irish industry emerging. Bombardier (in spite of being owned by Catholics) and Olsen (in spite of having dubious work practices) fulfill this purpose quite well. They do so without costing the British taxpayer the enormous subsidies which had to be paid in the past.

So the North still has a dependent, not an independent native, economy. Who exactly is in charge, in a real sense as far as the British are concerned, is irrelevant. As long as it is not the Irish, the British are satisfied; and in any case the British still have power to bring in whomever they wish, sometimes at enormous cost -- **they spend good money in Ireland not to develop it but to inhibit it.**

You can describe this as a workhouse economy, as a dependent economy, or better still as a military base economy. What you are describing is an economy which produces little, is based on surveillance and security operatives, allows some crafts and tourism to the natives (with poorly paid jobs) and degenerates eventually into something more like a reservation than a country. The North of Ireland under Britain's policy of careful impoverishment is fast becoming a larger Gibraltar.

that on November 4, 1989 the Episcopal Convention of Massachusetts unanimously adopted a MacBride Principles resolution relative to American companies doing business in Northern Ireland. In the summer of 1988 the Episcopal Church in America in convention adopted the MacBride Principles...A new British government brochure, being sent to legislators throughout the United States, is misleading and inaccurate. Among the inaccuracies in the brochure *What's Wrong With The MacBride Campaign?* is that the Fair Employment Act of 1976 had a major impact for Catholics in employment in the public sector which accounts for 40% of all employment in Northern Ireland. According to *The Continuous Household Survey* of April 1989, "despite 13 years of the 1976 Fair Employment Act, Catholic workers, at all levels of employment, are increasingly less likely to find employment than their Protestant counterparts."



## THE IRISH MAKING AMERICA GREAT

by Mary C. Williams, Arkansas

In America we have the "Saint Patrick's Day Irish," the "Fighting Irish," and the "Drunken Irish"—all manifestations of the "Stage Irish" handed down by British political cartoonists of the nineteenth century. For too long, textbooks have been proclaiming W.B. Yeats and George Bernard Shaw to be English writers and have been neglecting the fact that the Irish have contributed much to world culture and civilization. It is time that some light be shed on what the Irish have contributed to America and the world. The following is an *incomplete* list of some of those people who were Irish-born or were descended from the Irish:

Henry Ford (parents born in County Cork), Edward Doheny (Mexican Petroleum Co.), James J. Hill (builder of the Great Northern Railroad), A.T. Steward (founder of what is now Wanamaker's of New York), Andrew Mellon, Charles Lindbergh (whose mother was of Irish descent), Michael Collins (the astronaut).

William Russell Grace (founder of Grace Shipping and Chemicals), John Francis Queeny (founder of Monsanto), Alexander Orr and John E. McCall (founders of New York Life), Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Walt Disney, Matthew Brady, John F. and Robert Kennedy, Sam Houston, Robert Fulton (father born in Kilkenny), Samuel F.B. Morse (grandson of Samuel Finley of Armagh, who was one of the earliest presidents of Princeton), Charles B. Rogers (founder of Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Thomas Maloney (founder of Lorillard Tobacco), the O'Neills of Akron (General Tires), the Kellys (Kelly Tires), John Phillip Holland (the inventor of the submarine).

Paul Galvin (founder of Motorola Television), John Huston (film director), Leopold Stokowski (conductor whose mother

was Irish), Victor Herbert (born in Dublin), Mack Sennett (silent film director), George Bernard Shaw, William Butler Yeats, James Joyce, J.M. Synge, George (AE) Russell, Sean O'Casey, James Whitcomb Riley, F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Rev. Phillip Embury (established first Methodist church in America), Rev. Makemie (established first American presbytery), Andrew Jackson, James Cagney, Bing Crosby, John Wayne (Marion Michael Morrison), Grace Kelly, Maureen O'Hara, Jack Nicholson, George M. Cohan, Ellen Burstyn, Faye Dunaway, Eugene O'Neill, James McCreery (whose donations helped found the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art), Thomas Romney Robinson (Irish astronomer and inventor of the rotary cup anemometer), Frank Carney (founder of Pizza Hut), John Hannon (co-founder of Baker's Chocolate), S. Duncan Black (co-founder of Black and Decker).

Four signers of the Declaration of Independence were native-born Irishmen, nine were Irish Americans, and John Dunlap, another Irishman, printed it. Audie Murphy (the most decorated soldier of World War II and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient), and Bob Geldof (Rock star and arranger of aid for Africa) and James Galway, Peter O'Toole, Robert Shaw, and Richard Harris.

America and the world are not asked to believe the Irish are superior to other races, but let credit be honestly given where it is due. Let history be written truthfully—in regard to failures as well as to successes—and let us lay finally to rest the mythical "Scots-Irish" that has so long served as a repository of Irish accomplishments for Anglophiles. Perhaps then an American child of Irish descent will recognize the author of the following and will be able to repeat it in its entirety with pride:

*"I am come of the seed of the people,  
The people that sorrow..."*

### News Bits continued from page 1

Searching original files recovered from Surrey police, they discovered that notes and records relating to crucial interviews with Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Hill had been rewritten, altered and suppressed and that detectives misled the trial." (Independent, 10/20/89)... "The Bishop of Birmingham, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham and a chairman of the Birmingham Council of Christian Churches have called for a re-examination of the Birmingham Six case in the light of alleged malpractices in the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad and the release of the Guildford Four." (Independent, 11/8/89)... Cardinal O Fiaich stated, "I would like to see the Winchester Three case pursued for a number of reasons... because it was a charge of conspiracy which is a shaky kind of charge on which to convict somebody...the evidence seems very vague... I think the sentence (25 years) was out of all proportion." (Irish News, 11/9/89)

The parents of Seamus Duffy, the 15 year-old killed by a plastic bullet, were arrested and held for almost two hours when they arrived at Luton Airport to campaign against the use of plastic bullets. (An Phoblacht/Rep News, 11/9/89)... "A West Belfast woman found her husband lying in a pool of blood in their back garden with his hands tied behind his back. The British soldiers responsible then prevented her from ringing

for an ambulance." (An Phoblacht/Republican News, 10/19/89)... "Dawn Michelle O'Riordan was playing near home when a British Army raiding party arrived. As the children curiously approached the jeeps a soldier sprayed a fire extinguisher in her face." (Andersonstown News, 10/21/89)... "Seventeen members of the UDR received gallantry awards including one OBE, five MBE's, one Queen's Gallantry Medal, one British Empire Medal and nine Mention in Despatches." (Irish News, 11/1/89)

On August 25, Boston Mayor Ray Flynn signed an executive order requiring contractors who do business with the city of Boston to adhere to the MacBride Principles if they also have operations in Northern Ireland. Companies that don't adopt the principles are, supposedly, to be barred from city contracts. Last week, Flynn hailed in exuberant terms a pledge by NYNEX Corp. to adhere to "guarantees of nondiscrimination in employment...including those embodied in the MacBride Principles. This, claimed Flynn, proved what "a powerful vehicle" his executive order is and how its "importance...cannot be understated." In truth, NYNEX...had not agreed to adopt the MacBride Principles. It had done no more than simply retype -- almost verbatim -- its long-standing policy statement on the subject. (Boston Herald 11/27/89.) [Because of this "pledge" Boston has awarded NYNEX an 11 million dollar contract. Was Mayor Flynn misled by NYNEX?



## THE BIRMINGHAM SIX: BRITISH INJUSTICE AGAINST THE IRISH

by Sandy Carlson

In November 1974, a bomb explosion in Birmingham, England, killed 21 persons and injured 160. Although the Irish Republican Army (IRA) claimed responsibility, six innocent Irish persons with no connection to the IRA were charged with the bombing and sentenced to life in prison. William Power, Hugh Callaghan, Noel McIlhenny, Patrick Hill, John Walker, and Robert Hunter have now served fifteen years in prison for a crime they did not commit—a crime the British government knows they did not commit, a crime the IRA insists the six did not commit.

Recently, the Guilford Four were released and exonerated of a bombing which took place within a week of the Birmingham bombing. They were released on the grounds that they had been tortured, that the police investigators at the time altered notes on interrogations, and five of the twelve police lied at the trial. The same police were involved with the Birmingham Six interrogations, but the British government refuses to consider releasing them. Still, human rights activists, politicians, and church officials from all over the world are again calling for a reopening of the case.

The prison warders were later charged with beating the six. They gave evidence that the six had been beaten when they reached the prison. The six tried to sue the police, but were blocked by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, who stated, "If the six men win, it will mean that the police were guilty of perjury, that they were guilty of violence and threats, that the confessions were involuntary and were improperly admitted in evidence and that the convictions were erroneous.... This is such an appalling vista that every sensible person in the land would say, 'It cannot be right these actions should go any further.'" Eight years later, Denning said it was better that some innocent men remain in jail than that the integrity of the English judicial system be questioned. Thus, it is clear that the British government has as its first concern the sanctity of its image as the cradle of justice rather than the upholding of justice.

In 1985, experiments commissioned by a British television company showed that the forensic tests used on the Birmingham Six could react positively to innocent substances, such as the plastic coating on playing cards. This is interesting in light of the fact that the six asserted that they had been playing cards at the time of the bombing.

In 1986, a former police officer said the six men had been intimidated by noise, guns, and dogs while in custody. Also, a former woman police officer admitted that she had seen the six beaten while in custody. Still, the three-judge court hearing the appeal upheld the conviction. In 1987, the British Home Secretary was forced to send the Birmingham Six case back to the Court of Appeal. At the hearing, a senior police officer was found to have altered a schedule of times and details in interviews with the six.

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Dr. Skuse, who had conducted forensic tests, contradicted himself repeatedly in the witness box. The judges were forced to concede that his test "was not specific for nitroglyceride." In addition, officers involved were alleged to have fabricated evidence.

In September, 1988, B.M. Blumberg & Co., submitted a petition to the European Court of Human Rights. They alleged a violation of Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights which guarantees that each person is entitled to a fair and public hearing and Article 13, which guarantees that everyone whose rights and freedoms as set out in the Convention are violated shall have an effective remedy before a national authority. In 1988, the Court of Appeals rejected the abuse claims.

In September, 1989, the IRA reiterated that the Birmingham Six were not responsible for the Birmingham bombing. Also in September, the Irish Embassy in London did a report on the implication of the West Midlands Crime Squad. Prime Minister Charles Haughey of Ireland has since requested that the West Midlands police squad be suspended.

Peter Barry, former Irish Foreign Minister, stated that since the investigation into the West Midlands Police Serious Crimes Squad in Britain included officers involved with the Birmingham Six, the investigation should cover that time.

Dick Spring of the Irish Labor Party has called for a reopening of the case.

Christopher Mullin, British Labor MP, who has been working for the Birmingham Six, has called upon the British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd to reopen the case.

Tomas Cardinal O'Fiaich of Ireland, the Bishop of Birmingham, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham and a chairman of the Birmingham Council of Christian Churches have all called for a reopening of the case.

Write to President George Bush (White House, Washington, DC 20500) and urge that he call upon the British government to reopen the case. Certainly, in considering that the Birmingham Six, like the Guilford Four, were beaten in custody, and that the police investigators fabricated and altered interviews and schedules, and the forensic tests are known to be inconclusive, it is time for this case to be reopened so that the Birmingham Six, who have lost fifteen years of their lives, will also be exonerated and released.

### JOIN

**The American Irish  
Political Education Committee (PEC)**  
founded 1975

For Membership Information Only  
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## THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

Each member has an important role to play in winning vital grassroots support for pending national and state MacBride Principles legislation. Britain's new fair employment legislation which is grossly inadequate, according to Britain's Labour Party, Dr. Christopher McCrudden, one of Europe's foremost anti-discrimination experts, and the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Trust, will be a hindrance to our continued success if we do not step-up our efforts to win grassroots support. **We must get endorsements for the MacBride Principles from local and county governments and from local organizations, church groups, union locals, etc.** (*In the October, 1989 issue of the newsletter [Volume 14 No. 10] we printed a resolution for use with organizations, clubs, etc. Copies can be obtained by sending a self addressed, stamped envelope to the PEC.*)

To help generate that support, we have prepared below a draft MacBride Principles resolution for use by town governments. **All members** are asked to contact their local councilmember and ask that he or she introduce the resolution in the town council. Our resolution can be used as a guide. You can solicit help from friends (welcome non-American Irish) in this endeavor. **Copies of all adopted resolutions must be sent to the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC).**

**IT IS MOST IMPORTANT** that copies of the adopted resolutions be sent to your US Congressman and US Senators. They must know that these actions have been taken. **In states that have not yet adopted MacBride Principles legislation**, it is equally important that your state representatives receive a copy.

To help you promote the resolution, we have available excellent materials: MacBride Principles (*Think About It*) brochures at \$.10 ea.; *Testimony by Oliver Kearney*, Executive Secretary of the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Trust, at \$.10 ea. and our excellent MacBride Principles Briefing Paper which we will include at no charge.

### MacBride Principles Resolution For Town Governments

WHEREAS, the existence of anti-Catholic discrimination in Northern Ireland is a reality and that a system of economic apartheid has been maintained in Northern Ireland for 70 years resulting in the infliction of violence against the people of Northern Ireland, and

WHEREAS, this is an issue involving both economics and human rights bringing Fair Employment for Northern Ireland as an accepted standard of our own country designed to induce thirty three U.S. owned corporations with operations in Northern Ireland to adopt a minimum standard of equal opportunity in employment, and

WHEREAS, legislation sponsored by Senators Frank Lautenberg and Al D'Amato, and Congressman Hamilton Fish, has been introduced in the United States Senate and House of Representatives calling for American

companies to adopt the MacBride Principles, and

WHEREAS, the MacBride Principles were promulgated in November of 1984 under the authorship of Ireland's great 20th century International Statesman, Dr. Sean MacBride, as a useful non-violent activity. They are:

1. Increase representation of individuals from under-represented religious groups in the workforce including managerial, supervisory, administrative, clerical and technical jobs;
2. Provide for adequate security for the protection of minority employees both at the workplace and while traveling to and from work;
3. Ban provocative religious or political emblems from the workplace;
4. All job openings should be publicly advertised and special recruitment efforts should be made to attract applicants from underrepresented religious groups;
5. Layoff, recall, and termination procedures should not in practice, favor particular religious groupings;
6. Abolition job reservations, apprenticeship restrictions, and differential employment criteria, which discriminate on the basis of religion or ethnic origin;
7. Develop training programs that will prepare substantial numbers of current minority employees for skilled jobs, including the expansion of existing programs and the creation of new programs to train, upgrade, and improve the skills of minority employees;
8. Establish procedures to assess, identify and actively recruit minority employees with potential for further advancement; and
9. Provide for the appointment of a senior management staff member to oversee the company's affirmative action efforts and the setting up of timetables to carry out equal opportunity principles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the (name of your town council, etc.) support and adhere to the MacBride Principles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of (name of your town, village, etc.) will support shareholder resolutions that call for adoption of MacBride Principles, and that after a period of three years, if these companies do not abide by the MacBride Principles, will no longer purchase any product manufactured or distributed by these companies or make any new investments in these companies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the State Governor, affected Congressperson, both U.S. Senators and the American Irish Political Education Committee. (*If your state has not yet adopted the Principles include that copies be sent to pertinent state legislators.*)

Prepared by: AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee (PEC), Malloy Building, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980 - (914) 947-2726.



**THE PEC MEMBER --An Important Person**

by John J. Finucane

Too many people play down their importance as individuals in the non-violent American campaign to end British colonialism and oppression in Northern Ireland. What can I do, I am only one person, they ask. The reality is that any person can work alone and from the comfort of the home, and still be very effective, if they are part of the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) network!

You, the individual member of the PEC, are the most important part of our organization. Without you nothing happens.

When you work with fellow members from across the country, through our *Reproduce & Distribute* and *Action Request* programs which appear in our American Irish Newsletter, and our Telephone Hotline (914) 429-7849, you are very effective. What makes us effective as individuals is the fact that we are working together. It is you who determine how effective our organization will be in its work through the American democratic process. It is you who can shatter the myth that one must support violence in order to oppose British colonialism and oppression in Northern Ireland. This is a favorite ploy of the B.I.S. (British Information Service). It is you, the individual member, who make the PEC work -- you are the PEC!

When you write the letters requested and distribute the *Reproduce and Distribute* articles from the newsletter, you are being extremely effective in countering British propaganda and censorship in the American media. Just think: if only one thousand members reproduced our monthly *Reproduce and Distribute* article and distributed it to only ten influential and

**STUDENT SUPPORT FOR MACBRIDE  
ON THE RISE!!!**

The grass roots campaign for the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland has gained momentum on college and university campuses in the United States.

Students in at least seven colleges are now involved in educating their peers, professors, and school administrators of our country's moral obligation to enact MacBride legislation.

The American Irish PEC recently made a presentation at a major university in Connecticut. Sandy Carlson, the PEC's Student Activities Coordinator, discussed British employment discrimination policies in Northern Ireland and encouraged students to work for MacBride at the university. Also, a visitor from Belfast spoke on behalf of Irish political prisoners and the abuses they suffer at the hands of the British. The event was well received and well publicized.

It is the PEC's goal to aid in initiating and supporting MacBride activities at colleges and universities throughout the United States, thereby demonstrating to our federal government that United States citizens demand MacBride legislation. For further information contact Sandy Carlson at 23 Court Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511 (203/787-5757) or at the PEC's national office (Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980-1502) for a free student action information kit.

sympathetic people in their communities, the PEC would reach 10 thousand people who are most likely uninformed about Northern Ireland each month or 120 thousand people every year. Remember! The information you are spreading is not aired by news media in the United States.

**USE YOUR CLOUT!** Play a part in our letter writing campaigns and spread the *Reproduce & Distribute* articles. The articles also help to recruit new PEC members.

**BOOKS AND VIDEOS, ETC.**

Make checks payable to American Irish Awareness Comm.

**BEHIND THE MASK VHS Video**

Produced by Activision. Directed by Frank Martin

After 20 years of violent conflict in the North of Ireland this is the first documentary on the IRA as seen through the eyes of activists from the present campaign.

It records on video the opinions and experiences of the men and women who have carried the struggle for Irish independence into the present day.

It aims, not to represent the familiar landmarks of the history books but to examine the personal motivations, actions and sacrifices behind those events, tracing the common experience of the guerrilla army -- defense of their people, taking up arms, combat, a life 'on-the-run', imprisonment, political education and the constant risk of violent death.

Now for the first time this silence is broken as former leading IRA members speak openly and give us the view from Behind The Mask.

Order # B978.....\$29.95

**A WOUNDED CHURCH By Fr. Joseph McVeigh**

This controversial book has caused an uproar in Ireland, north and south. It has been banned by Veritas Religious Bookstores in Ireland.

Fr. McVeigh's book "A Wounded Church" looks at the history of the Catholic Church in Ireland over the last two centuries in the light of the present role of the Catholic hierarchy in the ongoing conflict. After centuries of persecution of the Catholic Church in Ireland the Catholic hierarchy

emerged in the latter half of the eighteenth century as an ally of British colonial rule...they are seen by a large section of their own people as allies of the British government rather than spiritual and moral leaders.

According to the author the bishops continually condemn violence without defining it and without analyzing the root causes of injustice and poverty. Fr. McVeigh says they have so far failed to condemn the institutionalized violence of the state and therefore have become part of the problem. Published by Mercier Press. Paperback, 120 pp.

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**THE DAY MICHAEL COLLINS WAS SHOT**

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**A MUSICAL SIX CASSETTE PACK OF IRELAND**

This exceptional value (six cassettes) includes the following: Frank Patterson's Farewell My Derry Love (12 selections); Paddy Reilly Live (11 selections); The Fureys Finest (16 selections); James Last's Rose Of Tralee (15 selections); Tony Kenny Sings Danny Boy (20 selections); and Paddy Noonan's A Musical Taste of Ireland (26 selections). Purchased individually would cost \$58.

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## MAJOR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PLEASE HELP US with our St. Patrick's (February/March) membership drive! We will provide posters and membership brochures. A membership application will be included in the February newsletter. These items can be displayed at St. Patrick's Day dances and festivals. For information call toll free (800) 777-6807, anytime during the day. Be sure to leave your name and phone # if no one is available at the office.

### ACTION REQUEST # 1 by Albert R. Doyle

We know that the issue in Northern Ireland is not fundamentally a religious dispute but is a political one: should the north be a part of a united, democratic Ireland or a colonial appendage of Britain? Because the nationalists are usually Catholics this conflict inevitably has religious overtones with serious anti-Catholic discrimination being a recognized feature of the "system" in the north. Despite this history, the Catholic Church in Ireland has usually not taken a stand as an organization on the Northern troubles -- although individual clergy have. The reasons for this are also historic -- a socially and politically conservative leadership, buying into the British propaganda line which equates the nationalist position with support of violence and fear of the reduction of church power in a United Ireland. Our own American bishops have always deferred to their Irish counterparts in this area and in their annual reports have avoided commenting on Northern Ireland.

Of course they do comment -- often strongly -- on other controversial foreign conflicts. This month's letter is to call the attention of the U.S. Catholic Bishops to this anomaly and to request them to take action. Write the letter below in your own words and get family and friends to do the same.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops  
3211 4th Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20017

Your Excellencies:

I ask that you speak out about British colonialism and oppression in Northern Ireland and that you support the MacBride Principles Campaign.

I am disappointed that the most recent report of the Conference of Bishops did not make any worthwhile comment on the Northern Ireland situation. You must be aware of the oppression of Catholics in that colonial outpost of Britain. Human Rights violations have been documented beyond dispute in Northern Ireland. As a concerned person, I note with approval your forthright stand on other such violations elsewhere and cannot help wondering why Ireland is ignored. I assume it is because you are taking your cue from the Irish Bishops who have traditionally avoided the issue for a variety of reasons. I suggest that this need not be accepted by you as Americans and Christians concerned about injustice wherever it occurs. I look forward to your response on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

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