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## American Irish Newsletter - February 1990

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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### Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - February 1990" (1990). *American Irish Newsletter*. 238.  
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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 15, Number 2

February 1990

## MEDIA DISTORTION (Action Request #1)

by Albert R. Doyle

The American Irish PEC devotes considerable effort to reviewing the media coverage of Northern Ireland. One cannot overestimate the importance of the media as we know that the public gains virtually all its knowledge of a given subject from the electronic and print media. Regrettably we have concluded that the general level of journalism on the subject of Northern Ireland is so bad that sections of the US media have become - wittingly or not - active transmitters of British propaganda. This amounts to censorship of the news and manipulation of the American people. Actually, British newspaper coverage is more complete and often more objective!

The reasons for this are many, including a generally low level of knowledge of and interest in "foreign" matters and acceptance of "anti-terrorism" propaganda. There are notable exceptions such as, journalists Jack McKinney of Philadelphia and Peter Hamill of New York. They take the time to look beneath the surface and to question the "official" British line.

Generally the largest news networks (CBS, ABC and NBC), newspapers and wire services are the worst offenders.

A recent example of superficial reporting was the Associated Press' (AP) December 13 reporting of an attack by the IRA on a British Army post. Now, no matter what is one's opinion about the IRA's campaign to rid Ireland of British colonial rule by military action - a subject on which people of good will may differ - it would seem that an attack such as this is part of a war. This fact has been recognized by US Courts in several highly publicized cases. However, this seems to have escaped the attention of the AP writer who describes the Irish participants as a "gang". The British side, for example the notorious SAS hit-men, are never described as a "gang" or "gunmen", which in the context of warfare they are just as surely as the IRA. The

Continued as Action Request #1 on page 6

## NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

Belfast - Queen's University Belfast as exposed by the Fair Employment Agency (FEA) has been grossly discriminatory against Catholics for decades. Bias found at all academic and administrative levels. University uses restricted advertising, internal "trawling" etc. to ensure bias in appointments. Catholic professor in Queen's defends University's record. The professor's plea was contested by the SDLP as he is one of only four Catholics holding a senior academic position out of one hundred such positions in the university. A Sinn Fein representative stated that the findings against Queen's University shows that nothing has changed in twenty years. Fr. Denis Faul says the state run Royal Victoria Hospital should also be examined by the FEA (Analysis - 12/26/89)

## IMPORTANT CHANGE !!!

Membership renewal notices will now be sent under separate cover. Renewal forms will no longer be included with the Newsletter. Just above your address label on page 6, we will indicate the date of memberships currently expiring. If you did not receive a renewal notice under separate cover, and you know your membership is or has expired, you can still use the Multi-Purpose coupon.

## MAJOR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

During the 1990 St. Patrick's Day Season (February/March) we want to recruit thousands of new members. To make this campaign a success, we will need your help. In March each member will receive a PEC membership kit to give to a potential member. If each member recruits one new member, we will quickly achieve this goal.

Further, we ask that all members make copies of the membership application (Join The AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee) included in this newsletter issue. If you don't have the facilities to make copies, ask a friend who does. Get as many copies as possible made, whether it be 4 or 400, and distribute them by hand or display them wherever the American Irish gather (dances, parades, concerts, etc.) You can even mail them to people you feel might be interested. Certainly, the majority of us will be attending some kind of an Irish function during the St. Patrick's season.

We also have membership brochures and posters available through our office. To order a supply, drop us a line or call (914) 947-2726. Be sure to leave your name and phone # if no one is available at the office. Please make a special effort!

We will also conduct another Membership-by-Mail campaign to tens of thousands of American Irish.

10,000 people marched in a "Parade of Innocence" in Dublin celebrating the release of the Guildford Four and demanding the release of the Birmingham Six. . . . The tide is now with the Birmingham Six. Their case is now at the European Parliament, the US Congress and the United Nations (Irish Post, 12/16/89). . . . Irish actor and film star Niall Tioibin has added his voice to the demand for the release of the Birmingham Six (Irish News, 11/22/89). . . . From a George Gale column in the Daily Mail, "Admitting you were wrong does not make you right. British justice has not been vindicated by the

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## MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE

The recent enactment of new fair employment legislation by the British government was in direct response to the success of the MacBride Principles Campaign in the US. The legislation's goal is to slow down the momentum of that campaign. It will not alleviate discrimination in employment. We cannot let this happen. We must intensify our efforts, now more than ever.

When you write to your US Representatives always include a request that they co-sponsor the MacBride Principles bill's introduced by Senators AID'Amato and Frank Lautenberg and Congressman Hamilton Fish. Also, please take advantage of the sample MacBride Principles resolutions we included in recent issues of the newsletter for use by organization, clubs, religious groups, town councils, etc. Be sure that copies are sent to the pertinent people mentioned in the resolutions and to the PEC. These activities must be implemented. If not, our most effective effort to date, the MacBride Campaign, will fall by the wayside. We cannot let this happen.

Following are the states and cities that have already adopted

the MacBride Principles:

**States:** Florida, Minnesota, New York, Maine, Michigan, Illinois, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. **Cities:** New York, Philadelphia, Worcester, Hartford, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Providence, Nashua, Burlington, Wilmington, Rochester, Cambridge, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, New Haven, Tucson, San Francisco, and Yonkers.

Legislation is pending or planned for more states including Pennsylvania, Missouri, Virginia, Delaware, Nebraska, Indiana, California, Ohio, Texas and Colorado. Efforts are also planned for more cities and towns.

We have also begun a campaign for universities and colleges. There are already at least eleven universities and colleges participating, including major institutions.

A campaign has also been started in Norway by the prestigious Norwegian Helsinki Committee.

Sample town council and organization MacBride Principles resolutions, and back-up materials are available through the PEC.

## The American Irish PEC founded 1975

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Vice-President.....Albert Doyle  
Treasurer.....Margaret Ferris  
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Supported in part by the Emerald Society, NYC Fire Department.

## FROM THE EDITOR

*Ireland is now the only divided and unfree nation in Europe. It is the world's oldest example of continuous brutal colonial oppression. We must bring these facts to the attention of the men and women of America. To do that we need your help.*

*The American people, once informed of the truth about British oppression in Ireland and the fact that our State Department gives all-out support to the British government, will not stand for it. Americans are confused about this issue because of media censorship. Unbelievable? Yes, but nonetheless, this is why we all have to do our share to educate our fellow Americans. We can do this from our homes by taking an active part in the PEC's effective **Reproduce & Distribute** program. The explosive democratization of Eastern Europe offers us a golden opportunity.*

*The main objective of the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) continues to be the peaceful reunification of Ireland. This means an end to division and oppression in Ireland.*

*Our main thrust for 1990 will be to highlight that the only stumbling bloc to the whole of Europe being totally free and democratic is the presence of Britain's colonial army of occupation in Northern Ireland; and to promote the MacBride Principles Campaign. All other issues stem from British oppression in Ireland -- visa denial, the Birmingham Six, Joe Doherty, extradition, etc., etc. Remove the cause and these injustices will cease to exist.*

*To achieve this we intend to expand our Membership-By-Mail campaign to reach out across the United States to those millions of caring American Irish who have no access to any information on Northern Ireland. We want them to know that they too can join with us in working to reunite Ireland through the non-violent, American democratic process. We also intend to reach out to the general American public, to increase our lobbying efforts in the Nation's capital and to intensify our pressure on the news media.*

*We begin 1990, knowing that we are winning in our efforts to reunite Ireland. We want you to share our confidence and to continue to support to the PEC.*



## FROM THE NORTH

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

The British Labour Party's policy on Ireland is that it favors unity but only with the consent of the Irish unionists! This is a contradictory policy, since it is clear that the unionists will not agree to unity with their fellow Irish citizens for the foreseeable future. The contradictions in the British Labour Party policy are being faced by a small but determined group within the party which has some of the labor unions on their side.

It is clear that with this policy the Labour Party, if it won the next general election in Britain, would be no better for the Irish than the Tories. The minority of clear-sighted Labour Party members who want radical change in policy have a difficult job to do. In effect the British Labour Party is verbally supporting Irish unity to get Irish votes in Britain and opposing Irish unity in Parliament to keep favor with the British establishment.

British Labour Party spokesperson on Northern Ireland Kevin McNamara, MP, has been hesitant and unsure and cannot be expected to help change Labour Party Policy now or in the future. It is doubtful if Mr. McNamara will become Secretary Of State for Northern Ireland in a new Labour Government -- it is said that he would not have the firmness or the political strength for it -- and one Merlyn Rees is quite enough. A much stronger advocate of dramatic change in Ireland is Member of Parliament Clare Short, Director of the *Time To Go* program, who has been consistent and strong in her support for Irish prisoners and Irish demands for freedom.

If Labour takes over government, then it will be for Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock to decide what Labour policy on Ireland should be and who should be Secretary of State. Kinnock is opposed to Irish unity in public although he would give the impression from time to time that he might change his mind. He does not have the firmness to confront the British establishment and, like any Labour administration in Britain, would be powerless if opposed by the aristocracy, the State church, the army and the intelligence services as Harold Wilson was in the seventies. Whether Kinnock would appoint McNamara, whom he knows to be broadly sympathetic to Irish demands, or Clare Short whom he knows to have the ability to push them, or neither, is anybody's guess. Certainly he has shown before now that he does not want persons or groups of real strength in positions of influence on Ireland.

Much of what the Labour parties in Ireland and Britain believe about Ireland is influenced by the Workers Party in Ireland which wants the present political structure in the North to continue, with devolved government, exclusion of Sinn Féin who represent 35-40% of nationalist voters and a clean up of the regime with a Bill of Rights, reform of the RUC, UDR and general administration. This also, then, is the dream of the British Labour Party.

Crucial to the British Labour Party leadership's retention of its "Irish unity when the unionists agree" policy is the large Irish vote in Britain. Up to the present this vote has not been organized to maximize pressure on the British government to bring about dramatic changes in Ireland.

Perhaps that will change next time round. If not, then a return of a Labour Party government in Britain would herald, not creative change, but a destructive "more of the same".

## NEW APPOINTMENT

We are happy to announce the appointment of John Hatch as PEC State Director for the state of Pennsylvania. John will also serve as PEC MacBride Principles coordinator in Pennsylvania. John's address and phone # are: 302 North Bedford Street, Carlisle, Pa. 17014 -- (717) 249-4217. We urge all members residing in Pennsylvania to contact him. He needs your help to develop a state-wide action network, especially in support of the Pennsylvania MacBride Principles Campaign.

## TELEPHONE HOTLINE - (914) 429-7849 ARE YOU USING IT!!!

All letter writers are urged to use the PEC Telephone Hotline, a 24 hour-a-day service. Messages change every Sunday night.

## BIRMINGHAM SIX UPDATE

Dr. Kathleen Lisowski, Massachusetts

The six innocent Irish men known as the Birmingham Six, who have served more than 15 years in prison, continue to be held in a British prison. International pressure and concern about the case has caused the British government to change the status of the men from security intensive Special Category A to the less restrictive Category B, but they have not been released. Mr. David Waddington, the new Home Secretary, rejected an appeal to release the men shortly after being appointed. New evidence which shows the innocence of Hugh Callaghan, Patrick Hill, Gerard Hunter, Richard McIlkenny, William Power and John Walker, will be presented to Mr. Waddington.

Congressman Joseph Kennedy is planning to demonstrate his support for the Birmingham Six by calling for Congressional hearings to investigate the injustice and introducing a Congressional Resolution calling for the release of these innocent men when Congress reconvenes in 1990.

You can support the Birmingham Six by writing your Congressman (House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) and urging that he participate in the hearings and co-sponsor the Kennedy Resolution. Include a copy of the Birmingham Six *Reproduce & Distribute* article from the January newsletter. Also, write the letter below to: Right Honorable David Waddington, Secretary of State, Home Department, Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT, England.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

New evidence questioning the convictions of the men known as the Birmingham Six is to be presented to you soon. The holding of these men when evidence shows that they are innocent concerns me deeply. I urge you to give a fair hearing to them as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



## FENIANS INVADE CANADA

by Don Hartnett, Florida

In the early hours of June 1, 1866, more than 1,200 armed soldiers marched down to the bank of the Niagara River, near Buffalo, where they climbed aboard a variety of canal boats and barges. The officers were in full uniform, uniforms which looked strikingly like those of the recently victorious Army of the Potomac. Enlisted men wore work clothes of many types, but nearly all sported green shirts. By dawn, the entire force was across the river, and elements of the force had occupied undefended Fort Erie. The Province of Canada had been invaded from American soil.

The leader of the invading column was Colonel John O'Neill, a veteran of eight years in the United States Army in the Civil War. His men were Fenians, both Irish-born and of Irish descent, who had been some of the Union's best troops in the Civil War.

O'Neill's crossing at Buffalo was the first of a planned three-pronged invasion of Canada. The other two launching points were to be at Malone, New York, and at St. Albans, Vermont. The Fenian purpose was to strike a blow at one of England's colonies and to secure a base of operations from which to emancipate Ireland and also annihilate England.

How could a few thousand Fenians expect to overcome a colony the size of Canada? Their hope rested on the belief that the American government would not interfere and that the Canadian Irish would join them in their enterprise. At this time, almost a third of the Canadian populace were of Irish descent. However, in reality there were no subjects more loyal to the queen than the Canadian Irish.

Meanwhile, O'Neill's troops had occupied the village of Fort Erie, and on June 2 they defeated a force of Canadian volunteers at the village of Ridgeway. The misconception of American neutrality became apparent when General Grant visited Buffalo and ordered General Meade to prevent any further incursions into Canada. With this order, O'Neill's hopes of reinforcements from the United States were dashed, and he was forced to return to Buffalo.

There was no Fenian attack at Malone, but approximately one thousand Fenians under Brigadier General Samuel Spear crossed the border from St. Albans and captured several villages. Without local support or reinforcements from the United States side, he, like O'Neill, was forced to return.

Although more than a dozen Fenians were captured and sentenced to death in Canada, all were released in a few months. It is estimated that Fenian losses were eight dead and twenty wounded, with similar losses for the Canadians. This futile attack against impossible odds demonstrated Fenian patriotism and zeal, the seeds of which created the Irish Republican Brotherhood movement and the patriots who proclaimed the Republic of Ireland in 1916. (The above article is reprinted from the American Irish Newsletter, Volume 6, No. 2)

This story is told in its entirety in *The Rising of the Moon*, a novel by Peter Berresford Ellis. Hardcover copies (639pp) are available through the American Irish Awareness Committee \$19.95 + \$2.50 P&H. Order # B911

## REPRODUCE &amp; DISTRIBUTE PROGRAM

If Americans were aware of the truth about British colonialism in Ireland, they would be strong supporters of Ireland's reunification, more so now because Northern Ireland is the only unfree, undemocratic nation in Europe. Unfortunately, most Americans are confused about the situation in the North because of media censorship.

All of us must personally play an active role in countering media censorship by educating the American public. Our *Reproduce & Distribute* articles in the newsletter make this task very easy. All you have to do is make copies of the articles and distribute them. Besides mailing copies to influential people in your community including journalists, and giving them to friends and relatives, you can also leave them in offices of doctors, dentists, etc. You can also place them on buses and trains, in libraries and colleges, both public and private, wherever the public gather. For St. Patrick's Day you can display them at dances, parades, concerts, etc.

If you don't have the facilities available to make copies, seek out friends or relatives, etc. who do have the facilities.

## News Bits continued from page 1

admission of the Crown Prosecution Service that it could no longer defend the 1975 conviction of the Guildford Four...In mainland Britain as well as in Ulster there has been too much bad policing, bad judging and bad laws when it comes to dealing with the Irish...Ireland north and south remains a foreign land. Were it not so we would not treat it as we do" (Irish Post, 11/18/89)

"The signs are not encouraging (that the British government will treat the inquiry into the Guildford case very seriously)...Sir John May is a retired judge of no great distinction...he has hardly displayed a sense of urgency...the first session of the inquiry will take place more than six weeks after the convictions were quashed...the judges involved in the case will give their evidence in private...Sir John has no power to compel witnesses to attend, subpoena documents or provide immunity from prosecution to witnesses who may be able to give crucial evidence" (Guardian, 11/17/89) . . . . A woman in London wrote about her experiences on the Irish border. "There was a two-mile traffic jam. It was heartbreaking when we saw the British army ordering people from their cars in the pouring rain. What really made my [English-born] husband mad was when he showed his license and the soldier replied, 'You are one of us. Carry on' " (Irish Post, 12/16/89)

The British army has taken to closing roads across the border forcing people going in and out of towns to take lengthy alternative routes. "So while the European Community prepares for the coming of the Single Market of 1992, and East and West Europe continue to tear down borders, there remains in the north-eastern corner of Ireland a border which is being strengthened with more barriers, more watchtowers and increased military presence. Will it soon be the only militarized border in the whole of Europe? (Irish Post, 12/16/89). . . . Because of the closed roads many farmers have to travel many miles to get to parts of their farmland . . . . The recent death of Andrei Sakharov highlights the media's subtle

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## JOIN The AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

*A Non-violent Approach To Social Justice In Northern Ireland*

*Ireland is now the only unfree and divided nation in all Europe. Will we proud American Irish allow this to continue?*

### WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A MEMBER

Without your interest, our people, our history, that unique Irish character, will be swallowed up...we will lose the ability to join together to help one another. Every American of Irish heritage who is proud of his/her roots has an obligation to make sure that our Irish identity survives and thrives.

The badge of caring, of humanity beyond our narrow creature comforts, of our ethnic pride and accomplishments...all this goes with joining together. In our unity there is strength. Together we can make the difference in being heard, in being respected, and in being represented. Alone, each person is powerless. Who will speak for you if you don't join us?

Will you sleep peacefully each night knowing that your silence means consent to the actions that suppress Irish freedom in Northern Ireland. Only you can help end the strife, death, and hatred that is tearing Ireland apart! Only you can give of yourself to help your brothers and sisters in Ireland! Only you can demand an end to demeaning stereotypes of the American Irish people.

### WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1975, we are a broad-based, non-sectarian membership organization encompassing a full spectrum of Americans, both of Irish and non-Irish extraction, who support the peaceful reunification of Ireland. We are a not-for-profit association.

We serve primarily as a grass-roots action group of members who are mobilized to express their views on specific anti-Irish actions through letter writing, phone calls, and symposia to influence U.S. opinion-makers, legislators, and businessmen.

We recognize the fact that many Americans are concerned about the conditions in Northern Ireland. We seek to provide the American people with information and a mechanism by which they can participate in the American democratic process to achieve equal rights and equal opportunity. We seek to effect a change in American foreign policy by keeping the issue of human rights in Northern Ireland before the American people. Our ultimate goal is the peaceful reunification of Ireland and a British withdrawal.

The PEC is a principal promoter in the United States of the non-violent *MacBride Principles Campaign* for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland. This campaign strives

to give all people a fair opportunity to work and provide their families with a decent standard of living.

### WHAT YOU WILL GET WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP

- . Access to a national network of your fellow Americans sharing your same concerns
- . Opportunity to participate in nationwide letter-writing, telephone and public education campaigns
- . Our monthly *American Irish Newsletter* -- The one source of information that will give you both the facts and the perspective on American Irish concerns
- . The major benefit...is the statement you make by becoming a member of the PEC...that you are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with your fellow American Irish in striving to improve the status and future of all the Irish people
- . You can be as active as you choose from the comfort and privacy of your home

### WHAT THE PEC STANDS FOR

- . Peaceful reunification of Ireland and British withdrawal from Northern Ireland
- . Participation in the American democratic process to influence our government to support Irish re-unification
- . Promotion of fair and equitable immigration practices
- . Positive portrayals of the American Irish image
- . Awareness of our heritage in the United States

### HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill in the form below and return with your check.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please check appropriate boxes:

MEMBERSHIP ☐ \$20 one-year ☐ \$35 two years

DONATION ONLY (Non-member) ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to American Irish PEC  
Mail with form to American Irish Political Education  
Committee, Malloy Building, Two North Liberty Drive,  
Stony Point, NY 10980 -- (914) 947-2726



## JOE DOHERTY: BRITISH INTERFERENCE IN AMERICAN JUSTICE

by Sandy Carlson

Joseph Patrick Doherty, 34, grew up in the New Lodge Road area of Belfast, a small Catholic ghetto surrounded by Loyalist enclaves. He lived there with his parents and sisters. During his youth, he witnessed Loyalist mobs, unhampered by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC, police), intimidate his neighbors, sometimes burning them out of their homes, sometimes assassinating them at random. British military forces frequently picked up and interrogated Joe. On his seventeenth birthday, Joe was interned for five months without charge or trial. His oldest sister was one of the first women interned. She was strip searched more than 80 times before she was released.

On June 18, 1989, Joe Doherty began his seventh year of imprisonment in the United States. He has been held prisoner longer than anyone else in the history of the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City. Having committed no crime, he has been held, without bail, on an immigration warrant.

In 1983, the British government filed an extradition request after Doherty was seized by federal agents for having illegally entered the U.S. He had done so after escaping from jail where he had been held for the alleged murder of a British soldier. Yet according to *Newsweek* reporter Tony Clifton 12/11/89, "...On May 2, 1980, Doherty and other members of the Irish Republican Army were ambushed by British troops in Belfast. In the firefight, Capt. Herbert Richard Westmascott of the British Army was shot dead". Joe Doherty asserted that he should not be extradited because he was a guerrilla soldier fighting a legitimate war against an occupying force. American law, he argued, barred extradition for political reasons. Likewise, in support of Doherty's claim, "In December 1984, U.S. District Court Judge John Sprizzo agreed with him, holding that the facts of this case present the assertion of the political-offense exception in its most classic form" *Newsweek* (12/11/89). In denying the extradition request, Judge Sprizzo determined that none of the acts in Doherty's case violated international law or standards of civilized conduct. He ruled that Doherty's acts were not common crimes but offenses of a political nature.

Two subsequent attempts by the government to overturn Sprizzo's decision failed. Federal Judge Charles Haight, Jr. maintained Sprizzo's decision. The Executive Branch appealed Judge Haight's decision. The U.S. Court of Appeals termed the Executive Branch's position "startling" and went on to affirm in all respects Haight's decision in favor of Joe Doherty.

The British negotiated a new extradition treaty with the U.S. eliminating the political offense exception. The new treaty would apply to Doherty if it was made retroactive - a violation of the US Constitution which specifically protects against ex post facto laws. Mr. Doherty agreed to deportation to the Republic of Ireland. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) appealed the order.

In 1987, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) ruled

## Reproduce & Distribute

against the INS. Two days later the INS reopened the BIA decision. The BIA then reaffirmed the correctness of the order to allow Joe Doherty to be deported to Ireland.

The case was then referred to the Attorney General Edwin Meese. Thus, the Executive Branch was allowed the final say although it was the losing party throughout the entire process. On June 9, 1988, Meese ordered Doherty deported to Britain. The Executive Branch invalidated six separate decisions in Mr. Doherty's favor.

Meese's decision was vigorously criticized by various Congressional Representatives. A letter to Meese from the American Civil Liberties Union condemned the decision for denying Mr. Doherty due process of law.

Doherty filed a petition for review of the Attorney General's decision with the U.S. Court of Appeals. Its filing bars execution of the deportation order. In November 1988, the BIA granted Mr. Doherty's motion to reopen the deportation proceedings. This decision, the seventh in his favor, entitled Doherty to go forward on his claims for political asylum and/or withholding of deportation. The granting of either would bar his return to Britain.

The Department of Justice, through the INS, looked to Attorney General Richard Thornburgh to reverse the BIA's decision to grant Doherty's motion to reopen. On June 30, 1989, Attorney General Thornburgh overturned the BIA's decision of November 14, 1988.

Concern for Doherty's situation has prompted U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd, Archbishop John Cardinal O'Connor, Reverend Jesse Jackson and many U.S. Congressional Representatives, to visit Mr. Doherty in prison.

More than 100 US Senators and Congressmen have signed a resolution introduced by Representative Thomas Manton calling for the Attorney General to grant Mr. Doherty bail and ultimately to grant him political asylum.

The only thing keeping Mr. Doherty from being deported immediately is the stay attained by his attorneys preventing the enactment of the deportation order as long as the litigation in the Second U.S. Court of Appeals in New York continues. At the time of this writing his hearing was scheduled for January 19, 1990.

**COURSE OF ACTION:** Contact your US Senators (US Senate, Washington, DC 20510) and Congressman (House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515). Urge them to co-sponsor Resolution 62 (for Senators SCR 62 and Representatives HR 62) which calls upon the Attorney General to grant Joe Doherty bail and a hearing on political asylum. Advise them that our courts have determined Doherty a political offender and not a murderer.

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

For Membership Information Only  
Call 800 777-6807 between 3pm & 9am EDT

Published February 1990 by American Irish PEC, Malloy  
Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 - (914) 947-2726



## To The Editor

*It was with utter disgust that I viewed the TV program, Mission Impossible, on ABC, November 9, 1989.*

*This ugly distortion of Irish traditions and culture was the height of anti-Irish propaganda. As usual the Irish were portrayed as superstitious, ignorant, drunken louts whose greed knows no bounds. Of course, the implication was that American Irish are of the same ilk.*

*Are we now to be targets of vicious propaganda? Anti-Irish hate is now in vogue in England! Are Americans of Irish heritage next?*

*Beware my fellow Americans! The old lies are back! Will we be denied opportunities because our fellow citizens view us as ignorant, incompetent people?*

*The truth behind the situation is fear! The British machine, including those Americans who are enamored of British traditions, is running scared. They know more and more American Irish are uniting against their disinformation campaign both in America and Northeast Ireland.*

*A famous American said "Eternal vigilance is the price of democracy". This must be our motto also!*

Rita Hagwell

Poulsbo, Washington

## News Bits continued from page 4

manipulation of public opinion. Russia is our "enemy" while Britain is our "ally". Sakarov opposed the policies of the Russian government and was referred to as a "Soviet dissident". Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein opposes the policies of the British government in Ireland and is called a "supporter of terrorism". (AIN-PEC 1/90) . . . . . Example of British media coverage. The headline read "Maze Escaper Walks Free" and reported that Paul Kane had been released from prison (Irish News, 11/16/89) . . . . . Paul Kane was convicted on the word of a supergrass witness whose testimony was later deemed suspect. Other people convicted at the same time were released, but because he had escaped from the Maze while his appeal was pending, Kane was extradited to the North and was sentenced to five years for the breakout. In reality, Kane did not "walk free" but spent many years on remand and in prison when he should not have been there at all. "The British courts offered us this contrast -- an absurd 1.5 million Pounds awarded to 75-year-old Lord Aldington, the former deputy chairman of the Tory Party, in his libel case, and 25 thousand Pounds for 26-year-old Breda Downes and her daughter in damages for the death of her husband Sean, killed by a plastic bullet fired at close range by a member of the RUC" (Irish Post, 12/9/89)

After the killing of 15 year-old Seamus Duffy by a plastic bullet, Bishop Daly ventured the opinion "that Seamus' death was the tragic but inevitable result of the previous night's bonfires (to mark the 18th anniversary of internment)...the lesson to be drawn was that all commemorations of historic events must cease. It was as if Seamus Duffy's death and the instrument of its accomplishment had sunk out of sight, below the level of the bishop's consciousness" (Christianity and Crisis, 11/6/89)

## NEW IRISH

We advise all new Irish to protect your green cards. Replacing green cards that have been lost or stolen is very complex. Do not keep your green card in your possession. Instead carry a photo copy....It is possible for all immigrants to open bank accounts in New York. For information on these matters call IIRM Advice Center (718) 478-5503.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

**...TO SELL RAFFLE TICKETS --** We need members from across the United States to help us sell raffle tickets. The sale of raffle tickets provides funding for our MacBride Principles Campaign. We urge all members to volunteer to help. You decide how many tickets you want to sell. The tickets cost \$3 each and will offer a trip for two to Ireland from JFK Airport in New York, or \$1000 cash. They will be available in March or April and the drawing will be in September at the PEC's Annual Testimonial Dinner. Volunteers are asked to send their name, address and phone # and the amount of tickets needed to AIPEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 -- phone# (914) 947-2726.

**...TO LOBBY IN WASHINGTON, DC --** We now have several teams of volunteers to help lobby Members of Congress. We still need more volunteers for this very important work. We plan to have representation in Washington on a regular basis. If you would like information please contact the PEC at the above address/phone number.

**...STUDENTS --** To start MacBride Principles campaigns and education programs in colleges, universities, etc. For further information contact the PEC at the above address/phone number, attn: Sandy Carlson.

## BOOKS AND VIDEOS, ETC.

Make checks payable to American Irish Awareness Comm.

**SPECIAL!!!** All four books for only \$20 + \$2.50 P&H

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3. **The Irish Race in America** by Edward O'Meagher  
Condon -- Quality Paperback 325 pp  
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4. **Divided Ireland** by Professor Charles Rice, Notre Dame  
Quality Paperback 117 pp -- Published 1985 -- List \$5

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Make check for \$22.50 payable to American Irish Awareness Committee



## Action Request continued from page 1

article goes on to quote the usual British propaganda sources so familiar to us, with the usual language about "terrorist", etc. It is very likely that the writer of the article never left London for his or her investigation.

Course of Action: Write the letter below, preferably in your own words, to: Editor, Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020. Have your friends, relatives, etc. do the same.

Dear Sir:

This letter is to protest your continued superficial coverage of Northern Ireland. The Dec. 13, 1989 dispatch about the fighting at Derryard is an example. You describe the Irish combatants as a "gang" when our own American courts have found that there is a legally recognized armed struggle between contending forces going on -- in other words, a war. Do you describe the British SAS killers as a "gang"? To be consistent you should. Please try to cover Northern Ireland with more depth, accuracy and sensitivity. I expect more from professional journalists of your reputation.

Sincerely,  
signature

## OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS (Action Request #2)

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts

As we approach the St. Patrick's Day season we must be on the lookout for those institutions that derive profit by degrading the American Irish image. We must pay particular attention to the greeting card companies and brewers of beer and other alcoholic beverages. We must also keep a watch on the progress of both Hallmark Greeting Cards and Recycled Paper Products, both of who have promised progress for 1990.

Members have advised us to be on the watch for cards produced by Sunrise Publications Inc. and Paramount. If you find offensive cards in any card company's selections, please send us copies (photocopies of all sides will suffice). Also, determine if any offensive cards by Hallmark or Recycled are of old or new stock.

American Irish are taking seriously the offensive nature of certain St. Patrick's Day cards and are reacting. One member advised us that of the 62 cards he received for Christmas only nine were by Hallmark and one by Recycled. Of all the cards received at the PEC national office only one was by Hallmark.

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

----- Detach Here -----

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Membership includes a subscription to our monthly Newsletter and supports all our activities.

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 9002 - February 1990

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