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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 15, Number 4

April 1990

NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

The United Nations Human Rights Commission in Switzerland will hear a submission on behalf of the Birmingham Six. The submission is based on the grounds that their conviction was "a violation of human rights, due process and a maladministration of justice...[the Birmingham Six] are a standing example of all that is defective in the English judicial and law enforcement system when it comes to emotive and semi-colonial issues." After the hearing the United Nations will publish the submission and circulate it throughout the world. The Birmingham Six case may also be placed on the agenda of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe where participating states (the United States, Canada, Turkey and all European countries except Albania) can raise collective and individual human rights abuses in each other's territory. (Irish News, 2/7/90).....**The Lord Mayor** of Birmingham at the time of the 1976 pub bombings called for the British government to re-examine the Birmingham Six convictions "in the interests of total justice." "One expects the law to be totally fair and honest in all of its dealings and I have assumed that that had been the case over the years. But new evidence suggests there may have been some miscarriage somewhere and the re-opening of this case with this evidence is something that should now take place." (Irish News, 1/11/90).....**In the spirit** of Live Aid and Band Aid, a new initiative was launched to raise funds and public awareness about the case of the Birmingham Six and others believed to be wrongfully imprisoned. A song entitled *For All It's Worth* will be recorded in Dublin. A 30-minute video accompanying the single will explain the musicians' concern and motivation in making the record. Co-ordinator Frank Cassidy stated, "The release of the Guildford Four has highlighted injustice and we no longer think it is acceptable for people to live under the threat of legislation such as the PTA which has been responsible for so many wrongful convictions of Irish people." (Irish Post, 1/27/90).....**"The greatest statesmen** are often those who are prepared to change their minds and admit they were wrong. Gorbachev and de Klerk have gained enormously in stature in announcing that policies which they have operated all their lives are utterly mistaken and must be reversed...[Mrs. Thatcher] has proceeded on exactly the opposite principle. Change of tactic by her is regarded as a sign of weakness...It is her failure to acknowledge failure [in Northern Ireland] which diminishes her reputation as a world figure." (Observer, 2/11/90).....**Dr. Cahal Daly** failed to respond to a request from community leaders to discuss his reported position on the MacBride Principles. A statement issued by the leaders, Oliver Kearney, Ciaran de Baroid, Ann Bradley and Father Des Wilson, stated, "It is utterly deplorable that Bishop Daly, who professes the non-political nature of his role, should

Continued on page 6

WHITE HOUSE REBUFFS AMERICAN IRISH

On February 16 the **White House** contacted the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) to arrange a meeting between leaders of the American Irish community and Ambassador Robert Blackwill, Special Assistant to the President from the National Security Council. After a series of discussions and at the urging of John Finucane, PEC National President, it was decided that the Council of Presidents of Major Irish American Organizations (COP) and the American Protestants For Truth About Ireland would represent the American Irish community.

Two representatives from each of the groups in COP were invited (American Irish Congress, American Irish PEC, AOH, Brehon Law Society, Irish American Labor Coalition, IAUC, Noraid (INA), and the Knights of Equity). The PEC was represented by John Finucane, National President and Tom O'Flaherty, National MacBride Principles Consultant.

The purpose of this high-level meeting was two-fold: a demonstration of the willingness of the Bush Administration to meet with representatives of the American Irish community to discuss Northern Ireland related issues; and to exchange information and views regarding the February 27 meeting between President George Bush and Ireland's Prime Minister Charles Haughey.

All representatives were approved by security, which is normal procedure, and personally invited by a White House representative. John Finucane, who supplied the list of names and organizations to the White House, checked in advance to be sure all were approved. Paul Murray, National President of INA when personally contacted, also asked if they were certain of INA's invitation. He was assured that there were no problems.

As the meeting was about to begin, it was learned that three members of the COP contingent, including Paul Murray (INA), were denied entry by the Secret Service. In a demonstration of solidarity and in protest of the Administration's behavior, all members of the group walked out.

This behavior is an insult to all Americans of Irish heritage as it displays clearly the pro-British, anti-American Irish activist bias of the Administration. This bias exists only because of the silence of the vast majority of American Irish, including many very influential people, on the issue of British colonialism in Ireland which allows the British government undeserved influence upon our Government leaders.

We believe that a meeting between the Bush Administration and COP representatives will take place now that the Administration recognizes the legitimacy of our organizations. This fact was made clear by the recent high level State Department/COP meeting. As Americans working through the American democratic process, we are entitled to their continued respect.

Continued on page 6

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IRELAND SET FOR AUGUST 9-11, 1990

A major conference on the future of Ireland will take place August 9 - 11. Organizations from many countries are being invited to attend. Topics of discussion will include Ireland's place in the world and what political, economic and human rights arrangements will have to be made.

This International Conference will take place at the Conference Centre, Europa Hotel, Belfast. This location which is in Belfast city center, has been chosen to send a message to the British government that the days of restricting such conferences to "nationalist" areas are over. The title of the Conference *Ireland - The Way Forward* implies the precondition that Irish people in Ireland will decide their own future.

For information contact Springhill Community House, 123 Springhill Ave, Belfast BT12 7QF, Northern Ireland.

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

National President.....John J. Finucane
Vice-President.....Albert Doyle
Treasurer.....Margaret Ferris
Recording Secretary.....Kathy Regan
Financial Secretary.....Tom Sheridan

American Irish Newsletter

Editor.....John J. Finucane

Assistant Editors: Sandy Carlson.....Albert Doyle.....Kathy Regan

National Headquarters: Malloy Building
Stony Point, N.Y. 10980, (914) 947-2725

WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Dr. Roger Mc Grath, 1311 Rancho Lane, Thousand Oaks, CALIFORNIA 91362-(805) 497-6407.

STATE DIRECTORS: Jack O'Brien, 11109 Belton Street, Upper Marlboro, MARYLAND 20772-(301)336-5167; Leah Curtin, Hibernian Life, 790 Cleveland Avenue, Suite 221, St. Paul, MINNESOTA 55116-(612)690-3888; Kathy Regan, 3045 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NEW YORK 10468-(212) 365-0213; Kevin Mulligan, 21 Miami Street, Nashua, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03060-(603) 883-4447; Shannon Eaton, 271 Deering Avenue, Portland, MAINE 04102 - (207) 772-1496; Frank O'Day, 21 Pierce Lane, Madison, CONNECTICUT 06443-(203)245-4739; Kevin P. Murphy, 29 Zolla Circle, Revere, MASSACHUSETTS 02151-(617)284-0723; Bob West, 683 Walnut Road, Wauconda, ILLINOIS 60084-(708)526-6520; Terry Deem Reilly, 1123 Clarkson, Denver, COLORADO 80218-(303)837B-9443; Joe O'Neill 1376 21st Avenue, San Francisco, CALIFORNIA 94122-(415)681-8734; Kevin Murphy, 9685 Sunny Isle Cir., Boca Raton, FLORIDA 33428-(305)466-1526; Ned A. Delaney, 10940 W. 100 N., Kokomo, INDIANA 46901-(317)566-3824; Larry Doyle, 46 B 2007 Betz Road, Bellevue, NEBRASKA 68005-(402)292-5291, Phil Chaney, 663 West 70th Street, Kansas City, MISSOURI 64113 - (816) 363-6523; Kathy Whitford, 1270 St. Charles, Lakewood, OHIO 44107 - (216) 529-0670; John Hatch, 302 North Bedford Street, Carlisle, PENNSYLVANIA 17014 - (717)249-4217; Andy Kelly, 424 W 17 Avenue, Spokane, WASHINGTON 99303 - (509) 747-7431.

NATIONAL MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CONSULTANT: Tom O'Flaherty, RFD #6, Box 153, Laconia, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03246 - (603) 528-5733

LABOR LIASON: Kevin Garvey, IUOE Local 891, 560 West 169 Street New York, NEW YORK 10032-(212)281-7172.

NATIONAL ORGANIZER: Pete Foley, 3177 Villa Avenue #3H, Bronx, NEW YORK 10468-(212)933-7196

STUDENT ORGANIZER: Sandy Carlson, 19 Pond Brook Road, Newtown, CONNECTICUT, 06470-(203)270-0497.

Supported in part by the Emerald Society, NYC Fire Department.

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE

VIRGINIA - A MacBride Principles bill has passed in the House of Representatives and is presently awaiting action in the Senate. A victory in Virginia, a southern state, will be a major boost for the MacBride Campaign....**MAINE** - Shannon Eaton, PEC State Director, advises us that a MacBride Principles "divestment" proposal is well underway in Maine. In 1988, a MacBride Principles investment bill, initiated by the American Irish PEC, was signed into law. The new bill, initiated by several state legislators and not by American Irish activists, was prompted by the failure of American companies operating in Northern Ireland to adopt the Principles. Tom O'Flaherty represented the PEC....**NEW YORK** - On March 13 hearings were held by the New York City Council on proposed MacBride Principles contract compliance legislation. John Finucane testified on behalf of the PEC.

FROM THE EDITOR

For many years Nelson Mandela, of the African National Congress, sat unnoticed in prison; for many years, the struggle against apartheid in South Africa remained an internal affair and little known to the outside world; for many years, few outside South Africa cared.

Suddenly, after 27 years, Nelson Mandela is out of prison and apartheid is coming to an end!

Why such dramatic changes towards democracy in South Africa? Because the media, for whatever reason, decided to make an issue of this injustice. With the support and intervention of the media, apartheid, economic sanctions and Mandela suddenly became popular issues throughout the free world. It was the media that created public awareness and put pressure on political leaders.

An example of that pressure was President George Bush's invitation to Nelson Mandela to visit the United States even though Mr. Mandela has publicly stated that he will not rule out violence as a means of ending apartheid. Would this have happened without pressure from the media?

It is obvious that politicians will do whatever is necessary, even to the extent of reversing their positions, to protect their interests and those of their political parties. They know a band-wagon when they see one.

But what about Northern Ireland?

Do not the media have the same responsibility to treat with equal intensity and truth British injustice in Northern Ireland? Do the media not have the same responsibility to treat fairly and fully the MacBride Principles Campaign for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland? Do the media not have the same responsibility to treat fairly and fully the unjust imprisonment of Joe Doherty by the American Government?

The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) will continue its efforts to pressure the media through its letter-writing, Membership-By-Mail and Reproduce & Distribute programs.

You can help by complying with our Action Requests; by distributing our Reproduce & Distribute articles and by recruiting new members for the PEC.

FROM THE NORTH

by Fr. Des Wilson, *leading Northern Ireland civil rights activist and Director of Conway Mill in Belfast*

The belief that a deal is being done in Ireland is quite strong at the moment. The British secretary of state went on a round of persuasion tours trying to get members of parties other than Sinn Fein to talk.

The republican movement gave the same answer as the African National Congress: Start talks and we shall discuss stopping the war. At the same time Sinn Fein signaled that they were open to talks without preconditions. The northern unionist have given the same answer to Brooke as before: "We are not talking until the Agreement is laid aside." They are talking, of course, but they are in a weaker position now than for many years.

The great bastions of unionist privilege are in jeopardy: the shipyards and Shorts, are in new ownership; new fair employment practices are being forced on a reluctant British government and industrial establishments by the MacBride Principles Campaign; and the unionist campaign against the Anglo-Irish Agreement has failed. They will get a good deal in the end. Not because they have forced it out of reluctant governments, but because, like a baby agreeing to take a milk bottle, they will simply have agreed to accept what everybody wanted to give them in the first place. They will get all they could desire in a new Ireland, but northern nationalists will not -- Dublin/London strategy is to give them as little as possible and to blame them for everything.

Fair employment practices such as the MacBride Principles, for whatever reason they are introduced, weakens the power of the secret societies. These secret societies, the orange lodges, black preceptories, and masonic cells, with the approval of the British government, dictates who should get jobs and how high they should go in their professions. The system is all-pervasive, breeds inefficiency and underlies the decline of the economy in the north of Ireland. Instead of building and creating, about half the population is now watching the other half and taking in the military's washing.

One of the reasons why the British have resisted fair employment is that once fair employment comes in, the power of the secret societies goes out. Secret societies have controlled all aspects of the system from the beginning. If unfair employment goes, much of the power of the secret societies goes. Few decent Protestant men and women would tolerate the jiggery pokery of the religio-political cells if their livelihood and promotion did not depend upon it.

And to add significance to significance, the government through the BBC broadcasts a critical assessment of the UDR. This is followed by a statement by Lord Hunt, who was responsible for the UDR in the first place, in which he says the UDR should be disbanded. And the reason for his change of mind? Why, he saw the BBC program, of course.

Clearly, the British government intends either to disband or to respectabilize the troops and is preparing the public for it.

A deal then is being hammered together by the civil servants and has been given a hesitant voice by Peter Brooke, but nobody knows what it is. That it involves European defence is hardly in doubt. That it involves repatriation is possible. That

PEC TO SEEKS TO ORGANIZE GRASSROOTS SUPPORT GROUPS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK AND WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

The PEC needs members to organize PEC grassroots support groups in Worcester, Massachusetts and Suffolk County (Long Island), New York. If you would like to take a leading role in the formation of these groups, please contact the PEC national office at: Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 or call (914) 947-2726.

PEC representatives will travel to your location to help in the organizing process.

There is much to be done at the local community level including passage of MacBride Principles legislation and resolutions by County and Town governments, and educating the public. It is time that we Americans start asserting ourselves!

We urge members in other parts of the US to consider forming a unit in their communities.

JOE DOHERTY UPDATE

A three-judge panel of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals has heard Joe's appeal from the deportation orders of Attorneys General Meese and Thornburgh and has taken the case "under advisement."

The U.S. Dept. of Justice has agreed that, if Joe does not prevail in the 2nd Circuit, it will not execute the deportation order for 90 days after the Court's decision, thus giving Joe the opportunity to file a petition for a writ of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court. If a petition is then filed, the order of deportation will be stayed pending final disposition by the Supreme Court.

Please write to and telephone your congressional representatives and urge them to sign on to House Concurrent Resolution No. 62 and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 62 in support of Joe.

On February 29 the PEC sent a special mailing to all members in New York State requesting that they write to Senator Daniel Moynihan (D-NY) urging that he support Joe Doherty and co-sponsor SCR #62. Recently the media exposed the Senator for not having a position on Doherty. Moynihan's office stated that he will soon take a position.

it involves acceptance of the RUC backed up by the SDLP and the churches is scarcely to be doubted either. Whether the SDLP will be strong enough to resist it or the church weakened enough to be forced by its own people to say "No" as well, remains to be seen. At the moment, it seems clear that the war is going to become more and more unwinnable as nationalists and republicans become more self-assured and the ability of conservative churchmen and politicians to thwart the wishes of their own people grows less and less.

Yes, there is room for cautious optimism.

NEW YORK: Haven For United Irishmen

by Margaret Fitzgerald, Ph.D., historian

New York became a haven for Irish patriots who fled British oppression in the early 19th century. After the mass arrests in the 1798 Rising, the British executed many leaders, sent others to slave in Prussian mines, impressed hundreds into the army and navy, and transported more to Australian penal colonies.

A group of 76 prisoners, to avoid further bloodshed, signed a treaty giving "honourable information", without names, on the United Irish organization, in return for cessation of reprisals and voluntary exile to America. The 76 knew that informers had already given this information, including names. The British knew that they did not have to keep this treaty, treaty-breaking being their custom. The Irish Viceroy, Lord Cornwallis, believed that sending the volatile United Irishmen to America would facilitate a peaceful union of England and Ireland with equal rights for all. (After the Act of Union, Cornwallis resigned in protest over the King's refusal to grant the promised Catholic Emancipation.)

Representing the 76 signatories, Thomas Addis Emmet wrote to U.S. President John Adams for passports. Rufus King, a would-be aristocrat who was Ambassador at the Court of St. James, had no difficulty in persuading Adams to reject this request. Adams had already pushed through the Alien and Sedition Acts on the pretext of danger from the United Irishmen. Actually, Adams wanted dictatorial powers to suppress the anti-Federalists who included long-time resident American Irish. This was obvious from the quick imprisonment of Matthew Lyon under the Sedition Act. Irish-born Lyon, a Member of Congress who had fought in the Revolution with Ethan Allen's Vermonters, was convicted for saying that the pomp of the presidential mansion more became the court of a king than the president of a republic.

Adams lost his bid for a second term. New York was a deciding state in giving the election to more democratic Thomas Jefferson. And New York soon welcomed the United Irishmen who had languished in jail for want of American acceptance.

Samuel Neilson was the first member of the United Irish Directory to reach New York. Neilson, born in 1761 in County Down to a Presbyterian minister, made a fortune in business before becoming involved in politics. He saw that the Catholic Committee, with most penal laws still standing, was too weak to be effective. It was his idea that Catholics and Protestants should work together for Catholic Emancipation, parliamentary reform, and eventually complete independence. Neilson, with Wolfe Tone, Henry Joy McCracken, and a few others, founded the United Irishmen in Belfast in 1791.

In 1796 Neilson was imprisoned for spreading treason through his newspaper. Released in 1798 under the condition that he refrain from "treasonable acts", he did not refrain. He was caught trying to contact Lord Edward Fitzgerald and the Sheares brothers who were jailed in Dublin's Newgate. Imprisoned again, Neilson was freed by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802 and deported to the Netherlands.

Neilson came to New York in December 1802 and was welcomed for his republican idealism. Less than a year later, before his planned newspaper got into print, he died suddenly

in Poughkeepsie. His body was interred in New York City but later was removed to Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

Thomas Addis Emmet, born in Cork in 1764, studied medicine at Edinburgh and law at Temple Bar in London. After he was called to the Irish Bar, he defended Napper Tandy and became the leading nationalist counsel. He took the United Irish Oath publicly in court to show that he considered it legal. When the '98 Rising failed, Emmet was imprisoned until 1802. Exiled in France, he tried unsuccessfully to interest Napoleon in a campaign in Ireland.

After arriving in New York in 1804, Emmet joined the Bar. Within seven years he was Attorney General for New York State. Continuing his fight for freedom, he took up the causes of runaway slaves and indentured servants. He died suddenly in 1827 on his favorite battleground, court, and was buried in St. Mark's in the Bowery. Later, a commemorative monument in Irish, English, and Latin was placed in St. Paul's churchyard.

Emmet regretted his rejection for asylum by Adams in 1798 because his younger brother would have accompanied him and probably have been saved from the gallows in 1803.

New York also became the home of William MacNevan who was born in Galway in 1763 and educated in Prague and Vienna. After returning to Dublin to practice as a physician, he joined the Catholic Committee and then the United Irishmen. Imprisoned in 1798, he was exiled in 1802 to France where he later joined the Irish Brigade.

In 1805 MacNevan arrived in New York. He became a professor of chemistry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia University); he was resident physician for New York State; he authored many publications on medicine and Irish history; and his research added much to the knowledge of chemistry. When he died in 1841, MacNevan was buried in the Riker Family Cemetery (his wife was Jane Riker) near LaGuardia Airport, Queens. He has a trilingual monument in St. Paul's.

John Chambers and William Sampson were other leaders who joined the United Irish colony in New York after imprisonment. Sampson's daughter married the son of Theobald Wolfe Tone.

After his father's death, William Theobald Wolfe Tone was declared an adopted child of the French Republic, was educated there, and commissioned in the French Army. After Waterloo, he went to New York and studied law and served briefly in the army. He published his father's writings, wrote his biography, and prepared many military manuals.

Wolfe Tone had taken his family into exile in America in 1795. Although his body is buried in Bodentown, Kildare, his wife Matilda (who married again) is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn. Close by is a readable headstone for their grandchild Grace, daughter of their son William and of Catherine Sampson, descendant thus of two United Irish heroes.

The United Irishmen found a welcome in New York and sympathy for their cause. Their bodies must lie uneasy now as U.S. agents enter a city workplace and arrest Irish men and women. Their ghosts must sigh over the prison where an Irishman seeking refuge has been kept almost seven years without charges at the request of the British government. Perhaps the ghost of John Adams is whispering "I was not the only president who 'dearly loved a lord.'"

ACTION REQUEST #2 Offensive Situations

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts State Director

SEND ALL OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS TO KEVIN P. MURPHY, PO BOX 8895 - J F KENNEDY STATION, BOSTON, MA 02114

Congratulations to Loretta Fitzgibbons, secretary at the PEC national office and member Hugh O'Rourke of New York, for a job well done.

When reporting on the recent presentation to Congress of the Joe Doherty resolutions in Washington, DC, newsman Roland Smith of *WOR-TV* mistakenly quoted that Joe Doherty had killed a prison guard. From the PEC office, Loretta Fitzgibbons organized a telephone campaign to *WOR* requesting a retraction. The following evening Roland Smith retracted his error and gave further coverage on the case of Joe Doherty. We commend Roland Smith and *WOR*.

Hugh O'Rourke protested to the management of a Caldor department store about their sale of green *Drink and Be Irish* t-shirts. Several days later he was advised by a top executive of the *Caldor Department Store* chain that the shirts in question are being removed from all stores and returned to the manufacturer. We commend the management of Caldor.

What made the difference was that Loretta and Hugh asserted themselves.

Dr. Michael Murphy of New York has advised the PEC of a toy ape named "Murphy" that is being marketed in many

BOOKS AND VIDEOS, ETC.

Make checks payable to American Irish Awareness Comm.

BALLYMURPHY and the Irish War

By Ciaran de Baroid

To understand and to feel the conditions, frustrations and the suffering endured by the nationalist community in Northern Ireland, you must read *Ballymurphy and The Irish War*.

The CIA, Britain's MI5 and MI6, and hundreds of academics and journalists have all meticulously scrutinized the longest running, most complex, and most "professional" trouble spot in the world—Belfast. From one point of view, it's all about "population control"—a very important concern as cities become more congested and economic, housing, racial, and other strictures provide flash points of trouble.

Belfast, with its long history of "population control", has valuable lessons to offer. Here, not for the first time in our century, a city has exploded and, incredibly, maintained a state of revolution for the better part of a generation.

Ballymurphy is the first book to detail twenty years of everyday life under such conditions. *Ballymurphy* is a nationalist area of Belfast with a history of political, economic, psychological and religious discrimination.

Ballymurphy is the intimate account of the past 20 incredible years. Never before has life in a community in Britain or Ireland been so thoroughly documented. Although the author

stores. PEC research indicates that they are being promoted in several US markets. The ugly anti-Irish racism in the US, England and Australia has often depicted Irish people as being sub-human and **apelike**. Send protest letters to, **Applause Inc.**, Woodland Hills, Ca. 91367.....The Lyons family of New Jersey informs the PEC that the **Russ-Berrie Company** still manufactures St. Patrick's Day merchandise that associates the American Irish and St. Patrick's Day with the consumption of alcohol. You are urged to protest to Russ-Berrie insisting that they discontinue the production of offensive St. Patrick's Day merchandise that associates the American Irish and St. Patrick's Day with alcohol. Letters should be sent to Jennifer Munson, Russ Berrie Co., 111 Bauer Drive, Oakland, NJ 07436.

Barbara Hafer, Republican candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania, recently described Governor Robert P. Casey as "a redneck Irishman from Scranton". Top state legislators have labelled Hafer's remarks as "bigoted". Republican leader Kay Flynn has expressed outrage. Pennsylvania voters are urged to remember this on election day.

EDUCATE THE PUBLIC**Reproduce & Distribute Program**

Our *Reproduce & Distribute* (R&P) Program is proving to be effective with regards to educating the public. Many members advised us that they are distributing the R&P articles in many different ways. Some members are mailing them to influential people in their communities (politicians, journalist, clergy, educators, labor leaders, etc.). One member mailed the articles to over 40 journalists. Some distribute them at social gatherings such as dances, concerts, festivals and do not restrict their efforts to Irish affairs. Another member distributes them at his church after services. Students are now distributing these materials at their colleges. We are effectively countering media censorship.

We need every member to participate in the distribution of the *Reproduce & Distribute* articles. The vast majority of Americans, Irish and non-Irish alike, are not aware of the truth. Everyone you contact will learn something new and some will become active in the PEC. We need your help!

TELEPHONE HOTLINE**914/429-7849****For the latest action requests - 24 hrs. a day!**

exhibits all the care of a scholar in his documentation, the style is informal, almost conversational. Instance by instance, these accounts are all presented against a background of explanation, not rhetoric. And each case is verified by interview, official reports by state or public inquiry, newspaper publication, or the work of other researchers. A record of heroic endurance, *Ballymurphy* is the one book to give understanding to the Northern Ireland situation. Sturdy soft cover, 410 pp.

Order #979.....\$15.95

THE ORANGE ORDER AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Much has been written and spoken about Northern Ireland and its discriminations, but we are no nearer ending this than we ever have been, for we have failed to recognize that the sole responsibility rests with the all-powerful Orange Order.

Having failed in this observation, we have allowed a hostile media to describe events in Northern Ireland as mere confrontations between Catholics and Protestants or IRA guerrillas who want to unite the Protestant North with the Catholic South. Both interpretations are widely accepted as a quirk in the Irish temperament, not worth the attention of other peoples not directly involved.

Allowing such interpretations to go uncorrected has resulted in the alienation of the Protestant people and the confusion of Catholics.

In Northern Ireland, the Orange Order controls the municipalities, large industry, agriculture, commerce, the judiciary, police, the military, civil service, etc., with the result that employment, education, and housing are largely denied to the non-Orange.

The Orange Order has little or nothing in common with the Protestant religion or recognizable interpretation of Christianity, but shows remarkable similarities in speeches, writings, and activities to those of the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan.

Orangeism does not base its existence on Christ dying on the Cross for all mankind, but King William of Orange riding on his white horse and his military victories in 1690.

Orangeism does not preach Christianity's call for peaceful relations between peoples, but that they have religious and material supremacy over others, historically referring to themselves as "the Ascendancy" and scornfully referring to Catholics as "papists."

Orangeism is not preached from Christian pulpits, but within lodges, halls, and at rallies and parades, the two most prominent being July 12 (Battle of the Boyne) and August 12 (Siege of Derry). The latter commemorations are accompanied not by Christian hymns but calculated provocations such as "The Sash" and "Kick the Pope Over Dollie's Brac."

The chief spokesman for the Orange Order is Ian Paisley, who with some biblical training but no credentials as a minister, was ordained by his father, a Baptist minister. The latter was later deprived of his church by the Baptist Deacons for excessive "Hell fire, brimstone, and anti-papery" preaching. Like father, like son: Ian was himself repudiated by the elders of the established Presbyterian Church. Consequently, he set up a sect which he labelled "The Free Presbyterians." Again let us note that there is no identification with the established Protestant religion or the Protestant people as a whole or authorization to speak on their behalf.

In Britain, the Republic of Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australian, and New Zealand, there are some enclaves of Orangeism, but Orangeism does not rule as it does in Northern Ireland. Perhaps this is the most damaging aspect of Orangeism--only in the tiny Six Counties of Ireland, where it has a majority and rules supreme, does it wreak its havoc.

Let us note that, although the areas in which Naziism and

REPRODUCE & DISTRIBUTE

Ku Klux Klanism flourished could be said to be populated by Protestant people, we wisely did not surmise that the Protestant religion was responsible for these social abnormalities. In the same manner, let us disassociate Orangeism from the Protestant religion, for as long as we allow this erroneous connotation to continue, we are postponing the day of Orangeism's passing, the end of discrimination against Catholics and the exploitation and enslavement of the Protestant shipyard floor sweeper who is told that his job depends on keeping higher echelon Orange Order members in their country estates.

Why should the people of Britain, by their taxes, be obligated to maintain the Orange Order autocracy in their democracy?

Let us consistently separate Orangeism from religion, particularly the Protestant religion. Let us seek the help of the Protestant religion. Let us seek the help of the Protestant people and, through every avenue of approach by skilled and ordinary people alike, with single purpose of mind, consistently expose Orangeism as a principle cause of Northern Ireland's troubles.

by Gearoid O'Feirne, New Jersey

JOIN The AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) founded 1975

(A non-violent organization seeking to reunite Ireland)

For Membership Information Only
Call 800 777-6807 between 5pm and 9am

IRELAND - EUROPE'S LAST CAPTIVE NATION

Proponents of justice the world over are elated by the recent democratization of Eastern Europe, plans to reunite Germany, and some progress towards ending apartheid in South Africa. Western world political and religious leaders including our own Government representatives are expressing great satisfaction and voicing their enthusiastic support for democracy and freedom everywhere. **But not a word about British captivity and oppression in Ireland!**

For the past 20 years in Northern Ireland, nationalists have attempted to work through the democratic process to achieve democracy, freedom and equal rights. They have been unsuccessful in their efforts to bring about change. As a matter of fact, their situation has worsened. The British government's response has been more repression in an attempt to crush the will of the people.

Sadly enough, the U.S. State Department fully supports the British and our elected federal representatives turn their backs, all because Britain is an "ally". Will Ireland forever remain Europe's Last Captive Nation?

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Stony Point, NY 10980 - (914) 947-2726.

MEDIA CENSORSHIP / GOVERNMENT POLICIES PROLONG VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The tragedy in Northern Ireland has continued unabated since 1968 because its causes have been ignored by the major news media. The American media, in line with the British Government and our State Department, limits itself to reports that justify British presence in Ireland.

The media inaccurately emphasizes that the fighting is between Catholics and Protestants while depicting the British army as "peacekeepers". The media stresses the violence of the IRA while playing down, if not omitting completely, the extensive violence of the British army and loyalist murder gangs.

The media excludes in its coverage, important current information and relevant historical background which is pertinent to the public if they are to understand British government attitudes and prejudice against the Irish people. For example, the media do not report that the conflict is a struggle by the nationalist community for democracy and basic equal rights similar to the struggle by the Blacks in South Africa; that the nationalists who make up 40% of the northern population are the original inhabitants of the land; nor do they report that, during 800 years of British colonial rule in Ireland, Catholics have been denied basic rights. Some historians allege that during this period the British government killed almost 8 million Irish people in an effort to enforce their colonial policies.

The media should highlight that most Catholics have no input into the democratic process. British officials and even their religious leaders will not meet with their community leaders.

No important insights are provided. The media do not report that the British government is not willing to bring about change for fear of losing Loyalist support. It is loyalists' support that guarantees British control of Northern Ireland. The loyalists, who happen to be Protestant, are manipulated by the powerful Orange Order, the equivalent of America's Klu Klux Klan (KKK). The British government refuses to crack down on the Orange Order and will not pass effective civil rights legislation in order to enforce equality.

Such biased reporting denies the public the necessary information needed to make informed decisions. Therefore, the media precludes American opposition to British oppression in Northern Ireland. Furthermore, the media denies the public an understanding of US State Department support for oppressive British policies in Northern Ireland.

It was not until the media decided to cover fully and fairly the injustice of apartheid in South Africa and the sanctions being taken against it, including the Sullivan Principles of Fair Employment, that pressure began to build on the South African government to move towards democracy. There is no doubt that the same thing would happen regarding British presence in Ireland, if the media chose to treat it extensively and fairly.

As Americans we are entitled to the truth! It is our right to demand that our media treat the subject of British colonialism in Ireland fairly and accurately. Further, we must urge President George Bush to call for an end to British

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colonialism in Northern Ireland as a means to ending this tragedy that has plagued Ireland these past twenty years.

YOU CAN HELP!

Although the media in general is guilty of biased coverage, at this time, we will limit our efforts to NBC and CBS. By concentrating our efforts we will be much more effective. We ask you to rewrite the brief sample letter below to both NBC and CBS. We urge that you ask friends, business associates, family, etc. to do the same. Each letter to a national figure equals the views of one thousand people. Write **Letter #1** to both: Mr. Howard Stringer, President, CBS Broadcast Group, 51 W 52 Street - 34th fl., New York, NY 10019 and Mr. Robert C. Wright, President, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112. Write **Letter #2** to Honorable George Bush, President, The White House, Washington, DC 20500.

Letter #1 - To The Media

Dear Mr. _____:

I urge that your network make an issue of British colonial presence in Northern Ireland. The ongoing injustice and suffering there are due in large part to the failure by the media to give full and fair coverage of this issue.

I look forward to your reply on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Letter #2 - To President George Bush

Dear President Bush:

Please use your good offices to bring an end to British colonialism in Northern Ireland. Such action would bring an end to the injustice and violence that has plagued Ireland for more than eight centuries.

I look forward to your reply on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

YOU CAN FURTHER HELP OUR WORK

JOIN the AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee (PEC). For membership information only call 800 777-6807 between 5pm & 9am EST, and/or

Send a donation payable to AIPEC at Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 - (914) 947-2726.

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Cont'd from White House Rebuffs American Irish on page 1

We must write to the President Bush to express our shock at the Administration's rebuff of American Irish leaders, and urge that his office organize another meeting between the Council of Presidents of Major Irish American Organizations and top Administration officials. (Continue with Action Request #1 below.)

ACTION REQUEST #1 - URGENT

We ask all members to write the letter below to President George Bush (The White House, Washington, DC 20500) and to distribute the *Reproduce & Distribute* article *Media Censorship / Government Policies Prolong Violence in Northern Ireland*. Feel free to mention in your letter that you are a member of the American Irish Political Education Committee. Urge friends, business associates, family, etc. to write. This campaign to President Bush is very important and should be ongoing to throughout the year. Have non-Irish friends participate.

Continued from News Bits on page 1

continue to ignore all communications from members of his own flock on issues of job discrimination while openly acting as a political spokesman for the British government. He is not entitled to abuse his moral authority as a churchman to engage in such behavior without at the very least consulting with those members of his flock who can speak authoritatively on the matters in question." (Andersonstown News, 1/13/90)

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Membership includes a one-year subscription to our monthly Newsletter. Your membership supports all our activities.

Dear President Bush:

I am shocked by your Administration's rebuff of American Irish leaders at the March 6 meeting between the National Security Council and the Council of Presidents of Major Irish American Organizations. I urge that you take the appropriate action to assure that this meeting takes place.

Please use your good offices to promote the reunification of Ireland. Without your help, Ireland will remain Europe's last captive nation.

I look forward to your response on these urgent matters.

Sincerely yours,

STUDENT ACTION

The student MacBride Principles campaign has grown considerably since the PEC initiated it last autumn. Presently we have students at over twenty universities actively involved in educating their peers and professors of the discrimination and oppression in Northern Ireland. In addition, a number of high school students have initiated similar activities at the high school levels.

If you would like to join us in this vital endeavor, contact Sandy Carlson at the PEC National Office.

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