

Boston College December 9, 1994

"The Prospect of Peace & Its Impact on Ireland"

featuring discussion leader John Hume, Parliamentarian & Leader of the Social Democratic & Labour Party

> moderated by Kevin O'Neill, Professor, Boston College

> > Co-sponsored by Boston College

In this dawn of hope in Ireland, for most catholics, it has been said that John Hume is their Martin Luther King.

Welcome to New England Circle/Citizens Circle. This evening's discussion on the prospect of peace and its impact on Ireland is led by **JOHN HUME**, member of the Parliament of the United Kingdom and the European Parliament, and founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

John Hume is by far one of Ireland's most influential political leaders and human rights activists of the twentieth century.

Mr. Hume was born in Derry in 1937, one of seven children of an unemployed docker. Although Derry, or Londonderry as it was known at the time, was composed of a largely Catholic population, the Protestant City Council controlled all of the economic power in terms of jobs and housing. John Hume was one of the first of a large class of young persons to benefit from the UK education system in the post war period. From his humble beginnings, through his years as a teacher, he realized the value of constructive community action and community self-help. It was during this time that he founded one of the world's largest community banks, the Derry Credit Union.

During the volatile and violent decades that followed, John Hume held fast to his creed of nonviolence in increasingly prominent roles as vice chairman of, and spokesman/strategist for the Citizen's Action Committee. Even through the tragic events of the Bloody Sunday trauma, he helped maintain sanity and calm in the community.

During the last twenty years, facing threats to his own and his family's lives, John Hume has steadfastly built coalitions for peace, working with a reforming unionist and with successive Irish hand British governments, to ensure that social and economic development be maintained.

In 1974, Mr. Hume became a member of the European Parliament and in 1984, he became the first Catholic to represent the city of Derry in Parliament, at Westminster. While serving under these bodies of government, he succeeded in focusing European interest in the political, social and economic state of Northern Ireland.

John Hume has devoted his life to working for a lasting non-violent solution in troubled Northern Ireland. Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994, and the recipient of the Human Rights and Peace Award from the International League for Human Rights, John Hume's spirit of courage and conviction have created an opportunity for future generations in Northern Ireland to grow in enduring peace.

Tonight's moderator is KEVIN O'NEILL, an Associate Professor of History at Boston College and Co-director of the Boston College Irish Studies Program since its inception in 1978. O'Neill has been co-editor of The Irish Literary Supplement since 1986 and was a contributor to the 1993 book Visualizing Ireland: National Identity and the Pictorial Tradition, a collection of essays on Irish artwork published as a companion piece to the Boston College Museum of Art exhibition "Irish Watercolors and Drawings from the National Gallery of Ireland." A 1971 graduate of Marquette University, he holds a master's degree from Layola University of Chicago and doctoral degree from Brown University. During 1991-92, O'Neill was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at University College in Dublin

This Evening's Participants

KINGSLEY AIKINS, American Ireland Fund JOANIE BRONFAMN WILLIS BROWN CIARAN BYRNE, Irish Consulate JAMES CARROLL, Author CHARLIE CLEMENTS, Physicians for Human Rights **KEVIN CULLEN, The Boston Globe** L.P. CURTIS, Brown University GERI DENTERLEIN, McDermott/O'Neill & Associates SUSAN & MICHAEL DONLAN, Committee for a New Ireland JOHN DORAN, Citizen's Medical Corporation SUSAN DORAN JANET & JACK DRISCOLL, Boston Coalition BOB DUNFEY, JR., General Service Administration **BILL DUNFEY** BOB DUNFEY, SR., The Dunfey Group JACK DUNFEY, New England Circle JERRY DUNFEY, New England Circle **RICHARD DUNFEY, Sports Publications Group**

RUTH DUNFEY WILLIAM DUNFEY FLIZABETH & PAUL FITZGERALD, Gould & Fitzgerald ABBY FENTON, Earlham College CAITRIONA FOTTRELL, American Ireland Fund ELEANOR DUNFEY FREIBURGER, New Hampshire College JAMES J. FREIBURGER, New Hampshire College THOMAS GAGEN. The Boston Globe TRISH GALLAGHER, **BARBARA & FRANK GOPEN** MARY-MARGARET & JOHN GRIFFIN, Hutchins, Wheeter & Dittmar FATHER GRAY HELMICK JOHN HUME, Social Democratic & Labour Party, European Parliament, Parliament of the United Kingdom NICOLE & TOM HYNES, Meredith & Grew PHYLLIS KATER, Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries JACK KENNEDY, John J. Kennedy & Associates LESLEY KING, American Ireland Fund NEAL MACMILLAN ALEXANDRA MARSHALL, Author MARILYN MASE, Artist PAT McGOWAN, Small Business Administration ANN & WILLIAM MCNALLY, New England Circle TREVOR McGILL, Boston College FATHER J. DONALD MONAN, Boston College CHRIS NOLAN, University of Massachusetts ERIC NEWMAN GERRY O'CONNOR, University of Massachusetts JOHN O'LEARY, Pierce Atwood Scribner Allen **KEVIN O'NEILL, Boston College** JACKIE & THOMAS P. O'NEILL, III McDermott/O'Neill & Associates JOHN OWEN, British Consulate JACK PHILBIN, Boston College JENNIFER ROSS LAUREN SCULLY, McDermott/O'Neill & Associates JACK THOMAS, The Boston Globe JUDITH THOMPSON, Children of War GERALYN WHITE, New England Circle

New England Circle/Citizens Circle invites men and women of different cultures political persuasions and professions to exchange ideas and opinions. The Circle evolved out of a 19th-century Parker House tradition called The Saturday Club, a group of concerned individuals such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Wadsworth longfellow, and James Russell Lowell who gathered monthly for lively, informal discussions. Tonight's discussion on the truly historic chain of events in Ireland could awaken the spirit of those who inaugurated this tradition.

NEW ENGLAND CIRCLE Founded 1974.

"Our purpose is to assemble a diverse group of concerned individuals for discussions of social, political, literary and educational topics; our goal is to exchange challenging ideas and opinions that can lead to constructive change in our lives, our nation and our world" The Dunfey Family

New England Circle is a nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation for educational purposes.

Circles Past...

For more than sixteen years we have enjoyed a lively and stimulating exchange of views and ideas. Some Circle topics and Discussion Leaders have been:

INDUSTRY / ECONOMICS / CITIES NEIGHBORHOODS / FARM CRISIS

Jimmy Breslin Doug Fraser John Kenneth Galbraith Tom Harkin Ed Koch Stanislav Menshikov Bill Moyers Ralph Nader Robert Reich Jim Rouse Warren Rudman Andy Young

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Maxine Waters

HUMAN RIGHTS

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