

Editorial

Northern Ireland deal renews hope

On April 10, an historic agreement was signed between previously warring parties in Northern Ireland and the governments of Ireland and Britain, to end 30 years of bloodshed, known as the Troubles. Without President Clinton's personal intervention, this would not have happened, in what the Queen's Privy Council considers its backyard. The new agreement, while not perfect, means that the killing can stop, and the two-centuries-long collaboration for economic growth between America and the Emerald Isle, can begin anew.

But, as with the Clinton administration's Dayton Accords halting the Bosnian conflict, if peace is not accompanied with economic development, the agreement will not hold. A New Bretton Woods agreement among nations, combined with a worldwide drive to build the Eurasian Land-Bridge, is the only hope to secure this peace accord.

Solving the Northern Ireland conflict had been a priority of President Clinton as early as 1992, when he made a campaign pledge to grant Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams a visa and to appoint a special envoy to work on the Northern Ireland problem. In 1993, British officials, including then-Prime Minister John Major and Northern Ireland Secretary Patrick Mayhew, visited the White House and worked against granting Adams a visa. But, because of the strong Irish-American lobby in the United States, as well as the role of Ireland's then-Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and Northern Ireland's leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party John Hume, President Clinton had allies with whom to pursue his commitment for peace.

One year later, on Jan. 30, 1994, the Clinton administration granted a visa to Adams, which President Clinton hailed as an opportunity to "help advance the cause of peace in Northern Ireland." In February, Adams travelled to the United States and made a presentation on the prospects for peace. In March, Irish Prime Minister Reynolds attended the White House St. Patrick's Day festivities. After a meeting with him, President Clinton said, "In the earliest days of our Republic, the American dream has often been the story of Irish-American

achievements. In the words of the Irish poet Thomas Kinsella, we must set no limits to the possible." Then, in early August, the President made a bold intervention, over the objection of the U.S. Departments of State and Justice, to grant Joe Cahill, a former Irish Republican Army leader, a visa to enter the United States. On Aug. 31, 1994, the IRA announced a cease-fire. The President had won his gamble.

One Irish journalist, Niall O'Dowd, commended the President "for not taking the British point of view, as the Reagan and Bush administrations have done for almost 15 years."

In a May 1979 feature, *EIR* reported that Ireland was the fastest-growing economy in Europe. It had surpassed all other industrialized countries in rates of manufacturing output, capital investment, and GNP. "The population of Ireland is rising for the first time since the Great Famine," we wrote. "The 150-year hemorrhage of forced emigration which has drained the country of its most valuable resource—its labor power—is being halted as more and more high-technology jobs are created every year." Precisely what the British feared, and so, the British-fueled Troubles escalated, and free-trade globalizers undercut that capital-intensive approach.

But now, President Clinton has the chance to change history for all mankind, not only for Northern Ireland. Only by eliminating poverty born of underdevelopment, can one beat swords into plowshares. Hundreds of billions of dollars for infrastructure development, as outlined in the Eurasian Land-Bridge program, to gird the globe with railways, power plants, and water systems, is the way to eliminate the British dogs of war. Ireland, North and South, under the terms of the new agreement, could be united economically.

EIR commends President Clinton, his envoy Sen. George Mitchell, and all the signatories to this agreement, for their unswerving commitment to peace. But now, the command decisions made to secure this agreement must become a precedent for the tough battles ahead: building a new just, monetary system.