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Most Rev. Thomas C. Kelly, O.P.
Magr. Francis C. Lally
Rev. J. Brian Hehir
Mr. Edward W. Doherty
U.S. Catholic Conference
1312 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

November 9, 1977

Dear Brothers in Christ:

I write this letter in deep distress and disillusionment. I draw your attention to the publication of the Office of International Justice and Peace/U.S. Catholic Conference, "Northern Ireland: A Religious Conflict."

On page 12 of this publication, the Irish National Caucus is described as "an American-based support group for the I.R.A. Provisionals."

As leader and spokesman for the Irish National Caucus, I wish to formally protest such an irresponsible statement - the seriousness and accountability of which is in no way diminished simply because it is a quotation.

The Irish National Caucus has no foreign principal as can be verified with Mr. Brian Ahern of the U.S. Department of Justice (Foreign Agent Registration Act). It, therefore, does not morally or financially support any group or organization in Ireland, and it is not "an American support group for the I.R.A. Provisionals."

I enclose a copy of our official Position Paper. You will see there that the Irish National Caucus is clearly and unequivocally a non-violent organization.

Journalistic ethics - not to mention justice and peace - should have demanded that the Office of International Justice & Peace give the Irish National Caucus the courtesy of a call before it made reference to the Caucus. Surely we were entitled to at least that? (Our Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Bernadette O'Reilly of Washington, D.C., had, well in advance of publication, been in contact with Mr. Edward Doherty of the Office of International Justice & Peace. Why did he not simply ask her if the Irish National Caucus was a support group for the I.R.A.?)

This morally unjust and journalistically inexcusable action has caused the Irish National Caucus untold harm; it will, also, in the minds of many, bring the Office of International Justice & Peace into serious disrepute. In light of the facts, how can they - who expected the Office to be the beacon of justice and peace - avoid cynicism, not only about that Office, but also the Church?

Now that you know that the Irish National Caucus is not a support group for the I.R.A., will the Office of International Justice & Peace make restitution by pub-

lishing a retraction? Surely it is only under British Rule in Northern Ireland that a person is guilty until proven innocent?

I urgently request that a retraction be published. I make this request respectfully and non-aggressively. Please undo the harm and pain that have been caused.

Yours in justice and peace,

Seán MacManus C.S.R.

Rev. Seán MacManus, C.S.R.
National Coordinator,
Irish National Caucus
Deputy National Chaplain
Ancient Order of Hibernians

Enclosure

cc: The Most Rev. Thomas J. Drury
Vice Chairman,
Board of Governors
Irish National Caucus

The Honorable John M. Keane
National President,
Ancient Order of Hibernians
Chairman of the Board of Governors
Irish National Caucus

The Honorable Paul O'Dwyer
President,
New York City Council
Vice Chairman,
Board of Governors
Irish National Caucus

All other leaders of the Irish
National Caucus in the U.S.