

## Parliament leader likes prospects for Irish peace

By Liz Schevtchuk  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — By determining to "spill our sweat ... and not our blood," Ireland's fractured Catholics and Protestants can build a new country, moderate Irish nationalist politician John Hume advised Americans March 18.

A member of the British Parliament from Northern Ireland, Hume told a National Press Club audience that the December Anglo-Irish agreement by the British government and its counterpart in the Republic of Ireland offers the best hope for peace in two decades of bloody bitterness.

But the real work is left to the Irish people themselves — Ulster's Unionist and Protestant factions that seek Northern Ireland's continued membership in the United Kingdom, and Catholics of North and South, as well as the violent guerrilla groups in both camps, Hume indicated.

Yet, the island's energetic people have the attributes essential to building a new Ireland through hard work, he said. "Spill our sweat, I say, and not our blood."

Under the Dec. 15 agreement, drawn up by Republic of Ireland Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major, Britain essentially said that "if the Irish people agree on Irish unity, we'll give it to you," and relinquish any political and economic claims to Northern Ireland, Hume said.

The agreement followed Hume's own talks with militant Irish nationalist leader Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the legal, political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, and secret con-

tacts between representatives of the British government and IRA.

Hume and Adams drafted their own peace pact, which has not been made public, although Hume said in Washington that the provisions accord with those in the agreement, dubbed the Downing Street declaration, proposed by Reynolds and Major.

Asked to reveal the contents of the Adams-Hume document, Hume declined. "I don't think it would be quite helpful," at this stage, he said.

But he described the Major-Reynolds Downing Street agreement as a significant breakthrough. "I think it is the most comprehensive declaration in 70 years," since the island split into North and South, he said. "The agreement promotes the idea that the Irish themselves must decide" their future, through self-determination, Hume said.

"In other words," he added, "it's now up to us to sort out our differences. It's a challenge now to both" Catholic and Protestant, he said. "I think we have the best prospects for peace in 25 years" — since the current round of "troubles" flared and he became active in seeking peace.

However, the British government may have to move a bit more in clarifying its plans, he suggested, which would behoove the IRA to move as well, he said. "No stone should be left unturned."

Moreover, he explained, the IRA knows that if "no stone" has been left unturned on the road to peace, then it only risks total isolation if it refuses to lay down its arms.

Offering advice to the IRA, he said: "If you still don't trust the British, join with the rest of your fellow Irishmen," North and South, in resolving remaining difficulties.

He hinted that his contacts with Adams continue. "I have been engaged in talks with Gerry Adams now for some considerable time," he said.

The model for a new Ireland exists, in the peace now prevalent in Western Europe, whose nations had been at war intermittently for centuries and fought bitterly in this century as well, he said.

But after World War II, "they suddenly realized difference is not a threat," Hume said. European nations came together in founding common institutions and ways of working cooperatively, discovering that they could do so without sacrificing their own cultures or nations, he said.



AP/Wide World Photos

## Inmates release prelate

Federal police lead Roman Catholic Cardinal Aloisio Lorscheider through the woods of northeastern Brazil Wednesday, March 16, moments after he was freed by prison inmates who took the cardinal and other human-rights activists hostage during an uprising the day before in the Paula Sarsate prison near Fortaleza.

## Catholic, Jewish warning issued concerning Holocaust 'revisionism'

By Jerry Filteau  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. Catholic and Jewish leaders have warned educators not to be taken in by "Holocaust revisionism" campaigns of neo-Nazis and hate groups on the nation's campuses.

"The Holocaust deniers have adopted a new tactic, placing advertisements in college newspapers," said the Joint Statement on Dealing with Holocaust Revisionism by the Synagogue Council of America and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The statement, released in Washington March 17, urged all publications in educational institutions to "unconditionally reject any efforts to deny the horrifying realities of the Holocaust."

The Holocaust is the name given to Hitler's World War II campaign to exterminate the Jewish people. About 6

million Jews were killed before the war's end.

The Catholic-Jewish statement said the Holocaust deniers began their advertising campaign after educators gradually learned to recognize and turn aside their efforts to create respectable academic forums for their ideology under the guise of symposiums or academic debates.

"Again hiding their true intent under more respectable guise, such as so-called committees for 'open debate' on the Holocaust, the unsolicited ads deny the reality of the gas chambers and of Nazi genocide," the statement said.

It said those behind the ads seek to pressure or force college and university publications to publish their material by appealing to First Amendment rights of free speech.

"This is a perversion of the First Amendment," the religious leaders said.

"Ever since World War II various extremist, often neo-Nazi groups have sought to deny the crimes of the Nazis, particularly the attempt to exterminate the Jewish people," they said. "We condemn these prejudiced efforts and the racial hatred they would incite."

The statement was approved at a Catholic-Jewish national consultation March 14 in New York. Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, NCCB episcopal moderator for Catholic-Jewish relations, hosted the session and was Catholic co-chairman.

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