LECTURE SERIES

The Institute’s public lecture programme for 2001, organised in association with the Conference of University Rectors in Ireland under the umbrella title *Institution building and the peace process: the challenge of implementation*, concluded with presentations by distinguished speakers.

In the earlier part of the year, four speakers had addressed aspects of the process of institution building after the Agreement (see last issue of this newsletter)

**Northern Secretary**

Dr John Reid, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, gave a lecture on 8 November on the contribution of the British government to the peace process in Ireland.

Mr Noel Dorr, Chairman of the Institute and former Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, responded to the address.

**Foreign Minister**

Mr Brian Cowen, Minister for Foreign Affairs, concluded the series with a lecture on 6 December that dealt with the role of the Irish government in the peace process.

The respondent was Professor Paul Arthur of the University of Ulster, a well-known academic and author of the recently published book, *Special relationships: Britain, Ireland and the Northern Ireland problem*.

**Dr Reid’s lecture**

The Secretary of State argued that the real division in Northern Ireland politics was not Protestant vs Catholic or nationalist against unionist; rather, it was the division between those committed to the pursuit of politics and those who continued to cling to paramilitary methods. He called on unionists to reinforce the political dimension by playing a full role in it.
“Even sceptics”, Dr Reid said, “must engage in the project if they are to be able to influence and take control of their future. Even those who oppose the administration are governed by it.” He paid tribute to those unionists who had engaged constructively—they had contributed not only to the unionist cause but also to the peace process itself.

The Secretary of State reviewed the long path over three decades that had led to the Agreement in 1998. He drew attention to the controversy that had once attached to the two principles—the principle of consent and the equal validity of nationalist and unionist aspirations—that lie at its heart; these, he said, are now taken for granted, as is the view that a solution will only stick if it commands widespread support across the communities in Northern Ireland.

The Secretary of State concluded: “I do not delude myself that we have solved the conundrum of Northern Ireland. But we are doing the next best thing: enabling the people of Northern Ireland to answer it for themselves.”

Copies of the Secretary of State’s lecture are available from IBIS. A report on the lecture by the Minister for Foreign Affairs will appear in our next issue.

**GUINNESS NEWMAN SCHOLARSHIP**

The Institute is pleased to announce that the Guinness Newman Scholarship in British-Irish Studies has been awarded to Dr Claire Mitchell.

Dr Mitchell received her doctorate from NUI (Dublin) in 2001 for her thesis on *Religion and Politics in Northern Ireland after the Agreement*. She was a recipient of a Government of Ireland Scholarship in the Department of Politics, UCD in 1998-2001. Her research focused on the role which religion plays in the construction of political identity in a changing world.

An expert in qualitative research strategies, she played a key role in the creation of an oral archive on the negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement during 1998-2001.

This project, funded by the Rowntree Foundation and the John H Whyte Trust, was carried out under the direction of Dr Jennifer Todd, Department of Politics, UCD.

Building on her doctoral work on political attitudes in the Catholic and Protestant communities, Dr Mitchell is currently exploring the attitudes of evangelicals to social and political change in Britain and Ireland. According to Dr Mitchell “a comparison of British and Northern Irish evangelicals is undertaken in order to contrast the impact of differing political experiences on religious identities. This is important, because as we debate about how to accommodate difference in society we need to be aware of how differences, especially seemingly ‘fundamental’ ones, are responsive to different political contexts. Furthermore, we can also learn how religious identities (as distinguished from religious beliefs) may be transformed. Viewed in this way we challenge the idea that evangelicals, and religious fundamentalists more generally, are inflexible and politically unworkable with. This is particularly salient in the light of the continuing significance of religion in politics in the 21st century”.

Dr Mitchell is also working on her forthcoming book, *The Politics of Religious Change in Northern Ireland*, and a series of papers on religion and political identity.

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**RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**

**Visiting research fellowships**

The Institute is pleased to welcome two new visiting research fellows: Ted Barrington and Wilhelm Verwoerd.

**Ted Barrington** is a career civil servant who joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1971. Since then he has worked in a number of areas within the Department, including an extended period in the Irish Representation to the European Communities in Brussels. Most recently he served as the Irish Ambassador to the United Kingdom between September 1995 and August 2001. He is currently on a sabbatical from the Department.

It is a key objective of the Institute to involve people from the public sector in its work and we are delighted that Ted Barrington is our first visiting research fellow from this sector.

**Wilhelm Verwoerd** is a graduate (BA, MA) of the University of Stellenbosch where he majored in philosophy. He subsequently studied for an MA (philosophy, politics and economics) at the University of Oxford and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of the Witwatersrand. The focus of his doctoral research is on the moral foundations of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Wilhelm has worked as a lecturer in political philosophy and applied ethics at the University of Stellenbosch and as a researcher for the TRC in Cape Town.

While at the Institute Wilhelm Verwoerd will explore the relevance of his research for reconciliation on the island of Ireland and specifically the relevance of the TRC for Ireland. He is also actively involved with practical work through the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation.
IBIS is sorry to announce that Carmel Coyle, administrator of the Institute since its establishment, has ended her employment here. The Institute wishes, however, to congratulate Carmel on her appointment to the prestigious position of Director of the Irish Fulbright Commission. Carmel’s position is being filled on an interim basis by Brid Reason, who is on secondment to the Institute from elsewhere within UCD.

IBIS PUBLICATIONS

Book series in British-Irish studies
IBIS, in association with UCD Press, is planning the launch of a new book series entitled Perspectives in British-Irish Studies. The first two books in the series are currently in preparation and will be published next year. These are:

Redefining the union and the nation: new perspectives on political progress in Ireland edited by John Coakley. This book, whose origins lie in the 2000 lecture series organised jointly by the Institute and the Conference of University Rectors in Ireland, aims to analyse the shifts in orientation within the major traditions that have been so significant for the future of the peace process in Ireland. The contributors fall into two categories. First, a set of leading politicians present their analyses of the impact of ideological shift within their traditions. This discussion is followed by analysis by a group of leading academic specialists in the area, who have been asked to provide an assessment of the extent and nature of change.

From political violence to negotiated settlement: the winding path to peace in twentieth century Ireland edited by Maurice Bric and John Coakley. The book, which is based on the proceedings of the IBIS conference on the same theme held in March 2001, examines the issue of paramilitary violence in the Irish political tradition. It is structured along a mixture of chronological and thematic lines, starting with an examination of the circumstances at the beginning of the twentieth century that brought the issue of violence as an agent of change to the centre of the Irish stage. This is carried further by means of an analysis of the perpetuation of lessons learned in the pre-1922 period for subsequent political development, and by more detailed studies of the interplay between strategies of violence and the parliamentary path on the unionist and republican sides. The contemporary relevance of the issues raised is underscored in a contribution from the chair of the arms decommissioning body.

New IBIS working paper
The IBIS working papers series is based on work in progress and the Institute accepts no responsibility for views offered. Papers are deposited in copyright libraries and are available on request from the Institute’s secretary.

The most recent working paper in the series, by Adrian Millar, is entitled “A Lacanian psychoanalytic interpretation of conflict in Northern Ireland”. Its aim is to demonstrate the power of Lacanian theory to bring to light the unconscious dynamics at work in the formation of ethno-national political identities. This form of psychoanalysis is applied to interviews with republicans and loyalists in Belfast, highlighting what it is that both communities are in denial of as they constitute their self-interpretations.

The following is the list of papers that are currently available on request:

1. Desmond O’Malley, Redefining southern nationalism: a political perspective; Tom Garvin, Redefining southern nationalism: an academic perspective
2. Dermot Nesbitt, Redefining unionism: a political perspective; Richard English, Redefining unionism: an academic perspective
3. Alban Maginness, Redefining northern nationalism: a political perspective; Jennifer Todd, Redefining northern nationalism: an academic perspective
4. David Ervine, Redefining loyalism: a political perspective; James McAuley, Redefining loyalism: an academic perspective
5. Mitchel McLaughlin, Redefining republicanism: a political perspective; Paul Arthur, Redefining republicanism: an academic perspective
6. Ned Thomas, New Wales? New culture?
7. Máiréad Nic Craith, Cultural diversity in Northern Ireland and the Good Friday agreement
8. John de Chastelain, The Northern Ireland peace process and the impact of decommissioning
10. Eunan O’Halpin, The geopolitics of republican diplomacy in the twentieth century
11. Deaglán de Bréadún, Building government institutions in Northern Ireland—strand one negotiations; Steven King, Building government institutions in Northern Ireland—implementing strand one
12. Martin Mansergh, Cross-border bodies and the North-South relationship—laying the groundwork; Andy Pollak, Cross-border bodies and the North-South relationship—implementing strand two
13. Adrian Millar, A Lacanian psychoanalytic interpretation of conflict in Northern Ireland
Chronology
This continues the chronology begun in issue 2 of the IBIS Newsletter. For a detailed chronology, see the CAIN website at http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/othelem/chron.htm

2001

Jul 1 Trimble’s resignation as First Minister over failure of IRA to disarm takes effect; Reg Empey becomes acting First Minister

Jul 2 Statement from arms decommissioning body indicates no progress on IRA disarmament

Jul 9 Talks at Weston Park, England, between prime minister, taioseach and leaders of pro-agreement parties, lasting until 14 Jul, end in deadlock

Aug 1 British and Irish governments publish implementation plan in respect of disputed areas of Good Friday agreement

Aug 6 Arms decommissioning body announces agreement with IRA on method for putting arms beyond use

Aug 7 SDLP accepts implementation plan; UUP rejects it

Aug 10 Assembly suspended due to failure to elect First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Aug 11 Assembly restored (providing another six-week period during which a First Minister could be elected)

Aug 14 IRA withdraws offer on disarmament

Aug 17 British government announces revised plan, designed to meet nationalist objections, for implementation of Patten report on policing

Aug 20 SDLP announces support for revised policing plan

Aug 25 Sinn Féin announces opposition to revised policing plan

Sep 1 UUP announces qualified support for revised policing plan

Sep 3 Loyalist protests at children attending Holy Cross primary school resume (protests had begun on Jun 19 and lasted until school holidays on Jun 29)

Sep 6 Sean Neeson announces intention to resign as leader of Alliance Party

Sep 10 US special envoy Richard Haass begins visit to Britain and Ireland; holds talks with Secretary of State Reid; on Sep 11, with the taioseach; on Sep 12, with Northern Ireland parties

Sep 17 John Hume announces intention to resign as leader of SDLP

Sep 20 DUP agrees to nominate members to new police board

Sep 21 Assembly suspended due to failure to elect First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Sep 22 Assembly restored (providing yet another six-week period during which a First Minister and Deputy First Minister could be elected)

Sep 28 Murder of Martin O’Hagan (first murder of a journalist during the troubles) by loyalist paramilitaries

Oct 6 David Ford elected leader of Alliance Party

Oct 8 Unionist motions in assembly to exclude Sinn Féin from the executive fail in absence of cross-community support

Oct 12 Secretary of State announces that he considers the ceasefires by the Ulster Defence Association, the Ulster Freedom Fighters and the Loyalist Volunteer Force to be at an end

Oct 18 Thee UUP and two DUP ministers resign from Northern Ireland executive

Oct 23 IRA and arms decommissioning body announce that a portion of the IRA weapons stock has been put beyond use

Oct 24 Three UUP ministers reappointed to executive

Oct 25 Two new DUP ministers appointed to executive

Oct 27 UUP executive backs re-election of Trimble as First Minister

Nov 2 Assembly fails to elect Trimble and Durkan as First Minister and Deputy First Minister due to absence of cross-community support

Nov 4 Police Service of Northern Ireland comes into formal existence

Nov 6 Assembly elects Trimble and Durkan as First Minister and Deputy First Minister following redesignation of three Alliance MLAs as “unionist”

Nov 10 Mark Durkan replaces John Hume as leader of SDLP

Nov 17 The Gaelic Athletic Association votes to delete a rule banning NI security force members from playing Gaelic games

Nov 23 Loyalist protests at children attending Holy Cross primary school are suspended following intervention by First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Nov 28 Ulster Democratic Party is dissolved

Nov 30 Meeting of British-Irish Council and of North/South Ministerial Council in Dublin

Forthcoming Conference
The Institute is planning a one-day conference on the restructuring of the political institutions that has been taking place since the 1997 devolution referenda in Scotland and Wales and the 1998 referenda on the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The theme of the conference is Renovation or revolution? Constitutional engineering and the “national questions” in contemporary Ireland and Great Britain.

The conference will build on a one-day roundtable meeting held in Dublin on 8 January 1999, which undertook a preliminary exploration of issues related to this theme. Papers will be presented on the process of constitutional change in the two islands in a comparative perspective.

The conference takes place under the auspices of the British-Irish Consortium for the Study of Political and Constitutional Change. The consortium includes UCD, Queen’s University Belfast, the University of Edinburgh, Cardiff University of Wales and the London School of Economics.

The conference has been scheduled for 3 April 2001. Further information will be circulated later.

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