

OTHER NATIONS

*Irish Cooperation
Across the Border*

"Irish Cooperation, Not Strife" by John Hume, in *European Community* (Nov.-Dec. 1976), 2100 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

During the past decade of Northern Ireland's civil war, Dublin and Belfast have cooperated increasingly on security matters, usually through London. Now, writes Hume, a former Northern Ireland cabinet minister, they are cooperating in an across-the-border economic development project that could be "the most significant step" in restoring economic and social cooperation since the 1921 Partition of Ireland into the Free State and the six counties of the north.

The area covered by the study—prepared under the auspices of the European Community, which both Britain and the Republic joined in 1974—are the neglected northwestern counties of Donegal in the Republic, and Derry, just across the border in the north. Their plight, Hume says, is "among the most severe in Europe" in terms of unemployment (more than 12 percent), emigration ("consistently high"), and manufacturing (mostly textiles).

Partition severely reduced Derry City's role as an urban center; Hume says it could be restored if joint regional development became a reality. Lough Foyle, the 25-mile-long estuary with the port of Derry at its head and the border running down its length, could also be developed for seagoing commerce, fishing, and tourism. The last, a major Irish industry, has suffered badly in the current "Troubles."

*Communist China:
A Not-so-Rosy Look*

"Seeing China Plain" by Edward N. Luttwak, in *Commentary* (Dec. 1976), 165 East 56th St., New York, N.Y. 10022.

"The miserable poverty of the country is everywhere in evidence," Luttwak writes after an extensive 1976 China tour. The Johns Hopkins foreign policy specialist also contends that many visiting Americans, notably John Kenneth Galbraith and James B. Reston, have been so dazzled by the Chinese government's "elegant stage-management" that they have sometimes failed to see either the poverty or the totalitarianism, which he calls the "most fundamental of Chinese realities."

The economy is not in fact super-efficient ("it has its own built-in forms of waste"). Capital laboriously generated in the communes is often squandered on projects that are sound ideologically but make for rotten economics. Example: A hydroelectric plant built "in response to slogans manufactured in Peking" during the years of the Great Leap Forward. On completion, it was discovered that the water flow during several months of the year was too small, and several costly thermal generators were required to meet local power needs. Peking, Luttwak says, has only its vast manpower as an economic and military base.