

PRESS RELEASE

from

SINN FÉIN

20th November, '79

NEW BRITISH PROPOSALS FOR SIX COUNTIES

Statement by Ruairi Ó Bradaigh, President of Sinn Féin

Today's proposals for restructuring British rule in the Six Counties are irrelevant to the basic issue and meaningless since they lack the essential ingredient of a declaration of intent by the British Government to disengage from Ireland.

The proposals come as a severe blow to the leader of the Dublin Government. Despite his subservience to and shameless collaboration with the British Government Mr. Lynch finds that even discussion of Irish unity, not to mention the vague "Irish dimension", is completely ruled out.

Essentially the proposals are window-dressing for the world at large, an attempt to buy time while the Thatcher administration ruthlessly pursues a military solution to the age-old question of British rule in Ireland. The petty-minded politicians who participate in the proposed talks are merely providing a smokescreen for unprecedented repression in the Six Counties.

None of today's proposals can or will work. They are again an artificial attempt to make an artificial British colony function. Sooner or later the British establishment must face up to a complete withdrawal from Ireland. They should plan for this now and so spare the people of both islands further bloodshed.

ENDS

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