

Statement from Army Council

Delivered by

Mr. Sean McStiofhan

THE Army Council sends greetings to our Fellow Republicans and Comrades of Sinn Fein assembled in Ard Fheis in this historic year of 1971. At long last it can be said that the struggle for the Republic has entered into the decisive phase of Saoirse no Bas. Since the last Ard Fheis much has happened on both Military and Political fronts.

On the military front our fight has changed from a defensive role to defence and retaliation and then eventually to an offensive campaign of resistance in all parts of the occupied area.

The imposition of Internment on August 9th did not disrupt our organisation to any significant degree, indeed the Army today almost 3 months after internment is stronger than for many many years, our organisation is intact, the Army has come through a tough new phase, battle hardened ready to face up to the hardships of the final phase, which of course will be more intensive than anything experienced so far.

At this crucial stage in Irish history the need for a strong Republican civil and political wing is greater than ever before. The need to organise a mass support for our people in the North is greater than ever before.

The struggle in the North is not the concern of the Northern people alone, their fight must be made the concern of every man and woman throughout the length and breadth of Ireland. It is therefore the duty of all Republicans to spearhead the drive for nationwide support for the Northern people in this, their hour of need.

It is also necessary for the political wing to give the correct leadership on Social and Economic issues, in this regard we note with satisfaction the publication of the "Eire Nua" document as a first step towards the Economic freedom of our people. Above all Sinn Fein as the political wing of the Republican Movement must ensure that it will be in a position to act decisively once the military victory has been won.

To this end the Army Council, conscious of the need for a political settlement consistent with National honour and the Republican objective, exercise, its lawful Governmental powers on August 15th by calling for the establishment of Dail Uladh, a regional parliament for the province of Ulster. The Dail Uladh proposal was the first new political thinking in 50 years it is a radical revolutionary proposal that can hasten the end of the Unionist regime at Stormont and the free State Regime at Leinster House alike, much effort has been put into this proposal and considerable support has been forthcoming so that substantial progress has been made, not only in Ulster but also in the neglected province of Connaught.

We strongly urge all of you to fully support the regional government plan and to do all you can extend it to your own province.

This Revolutionary Political action is of course the first step towards the establishment of an entirely new political system designed to replace the foreign system that was imposed on our people by the invader.

As our struggle intensifies, so have repressive measures on the part of the enemy sharply increased, not a day passes without some of our people being shot, gassed, arrested or maltreated in some way or another, the brutal murder of two brave Irish women in Belfast yesterday must bring home to our people just what British

rule means to our people in the North. It means stark terrorism and nothing less, yet repressive measures are not confined to the six counties; herein the twenty-six county state, Republicans from the North are imprisoned in Mountjoy, living proof of the collaborationist treachery of the Lynch Government. Again Republicans must give the lead to our people, to effectively oppose all acts of repression North and South.

The vast majority of our people are strongly opposed to internment, we of the Republican Movement must make it known that never will we passively accept internment again.

Ceist Na Gaeilge, se cuspoir againn uilig san arm agus Sinn Fein an teanga naisiunta a chur thar ais in a h-ait dualmar phriomhtheanga mhuintir na h-Eireann, Ni bheidh meas againn orainn fhein go dti go mbeidh an Ghaeilge in Uachtar aris agus Reim an Bhearla Scriosta.

Ni feidir le daoine ar bhith poblactanach do chur air fhein mura bhfuil meas ceart aige ar an nGaeilge agus run aige i do chur chun cinn. Caithear teanga a labhairt chun i do chur chun cinn, mar sin ma ta meas againn ortha san a fuair bas ar ar son Labhairfidh muid an teanga ar a thug siad a raibh acu ar a son.

The initiation of the Civil Disobedience Campaign was endorsed by the Army leader-

ship, we now call for an extension of the Civil Disobedience Campaign to include the non-payment of motor tax and hire purchase and mortgage repayments. We look with confidence to the Sinn Fein organisation in the six counties to give the lead in these matters and to be seen to be in the leadership of this campaign.

We wish to take this opportunity of repudiating the vile, base slander of the Goulding MacGiolla clique that we are involved with the Blayney-Haughey wing of Fianna Fail or the Boland party Aontacht Eireann.

We have nothing in common with these people. Our aim can only be realised in a Democratic Socialist Republic based on the great proclamation of Easter Week and armed struggle is and must be the principle means by which the Republic we seek will be achieved. To this end we in Oglagh na h-Eireann will continue to direct our efforts, and in the name of our martyred and imprisoned comrades we pledge ourselves never to desist in our efforts until Ireland is free.

In this supreme hour, we all must by our willingness to sacrifice ourselves for the common good, prove ourselves worthy of the great destiny that is at hand — the successful conclusion of Ireland's long fight for freedom.

Sinn Fein can and must play a vital part in the great work that lies ahead.

I GCUIMHNE

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

27th October, 1970

**Capt. Thomas McGoldrick
Vol. Peter Blake**