

EASTER STATEMENT OF THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN BRITISH-OCCUPIED IRELAND

ON this 42nd anniversary of the 1916 Rising we call on the Irish people at home and abroad to rally behind the struggle for national liberation. Our historic right to the ownership of our country and the unfettered control of our destinies must be established in this generation.

Victory is guaranteed by the sacrifices of our fighting youth in Occupied Ireland. The unity of our people and their determination to end now and for all time British Imperial interference in the affairs of our country must back up the trust of Ireland's freedom fighters.

Since December 12, 1956, seven Irish Republicans have given their lives in defence of our nation's right to full

sovereignty and independence. Hundreds have been jailed. Scores of others are serving long terms of imprisonment.

The persecution of our people in British-Occupied Ireland by the Crown authorities grows worse. But their spirit remains unbroken. They continue to support the Resistance Movement despite raids on homes, wholesale arrests without charge or trial, intimidation, torture of prisoners and other terroristic acts.

Almost 150 Irish Republicans are now behind barbed wire in the Curragh Concentration Camp or in prison cells in Mountjoy Jail, put there by orders of the 26-County Government in Dublin — a Government

which professes to believe in the unity and independence of our country. The leadership of Sinn Fein and key members throughout the country are still held uncharged and untried completely against the wishes of the Irish people.

The economic situation north and south was never worse. The evils of unemployment and emigration have assumed alarming proportions. If this nation is to survive we must win our freedom in this generation.

We ask you to support the independence struggle by positive action. Support the Irish Republican Movement — the spearhead and inspiration of the whole Resistance. You must support in every way you can the fight of this

generation of Irish men and women for full freedom.

We are one nation and one people. Centuries of repression haven't broken us and now on this historic anniversary we pledge that this fight will go on until England's forces of Occupation have withdrawn from our land and the Irish people are allowed to settle their own affairs in peace. Terror and hardship and peril and death have only steeled the determination of our Republican freedom-fighters to carry on until our cause is vindicated.

Our goal is the Republic for which Pearse, Connolly, MacDiarmada, Clarke, MacDonagh, Plunkett, Ceannt and their martyred comrades gave their lives.

Long live the Republic.