

THE PROCLAMATION OF
POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE.

SEAN Mac DIARMADA,

THOMAS MacDONAGH,

P. H. PEARSE,

EAMONN CEANNT,

JAMES CONNOLLY.

JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

THE IRISH REPUBLIC

ON THE TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR 1916 IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN, SEVEN MEN, WHO WERE REPRESENTATIVE IN SPIRIT AND OUTLOOK AND PURPOSE OF THE IRISH NATION THAT HAD NEVER YIELDED TO NOR ACCEPTED THE BRITISH CONQUEST, SET THEIR HUMBLE AND ALMOST UNKNOWN NAMES TO THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT THAT HAS PASSED INTO HISTORY, MAKING THE NAMES OF THE SEVEN SIGNATORIES IMMORTAL.

THOSE SIGNATURES WERE SEALED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE IMMORTAL SEVEN, AND OF MANY OTHERS WHO FOLLOWED THEM INTO ONE OF THE MOST GALLANT FIGHTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD; AND THE IRISH NATION ROSE FROM SHAME TO HONOUR, FROM HUMILIATION TO PRIDE, FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM.

THREE YEARS LATER (ON JANUARY 21ST 1919), THE REPUBLIC PROCLAIMED IN EASTER WEEK 1916 WAS RATIFIED AND FORMALLY ESTABLISHED BY THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL IRELAND AND A SOLEMN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE SENT OUT TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

TO COMBAT THAT DECLARATION AND TO PREVENT THE PROCLAMATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND FROM BECOMING EFFECTIVE, THE ARMED FORCES OF THE ENGLISH ENEMY MADE WAR UPON THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY. THEY WERE MET BY THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY, AND CHALLENGED AND RESISTED SO STUBBORNLY THAT AFTER TWO YEARS OF BLOODY WARFARE THE ENGLISH WERE FORCED TO ASK FOR A TRUCE WITH A VIEW TO SETTLEMENT BY NEGOTIATION.

UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE MEN WERE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO TREAT WITH AN ARMED ENEMY WITHIN THEIR GATES, THE ENGLISH WON THE PEACE. WEAKNESS AND TREACHERY CAUSED A RESUMPTION OF THE WAR AND THE OLD ENGLISH TACTICS OF "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" WERE EXPLOITED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT. PARTITION WAS INTRODUCED, THE COUNTRY DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS WITH TWO SEPARATE PARLIAMENTS SUBJECT TO AND CONTROLLED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FROM LONDON. THE ARMED FORCES OF ENGLAND STILL OCCUPY SIX OF OUR COUNTIES IN THE NORTH AND RESERVE THE RIGHT "IN TIME OF WAR OR STRAINED RELATIONS" TO RE-OCCUPY THE PORTS WHICH THEY HAVE JUST-EVACUATED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF IRELAND. IRELAND IS STILL TIED, AS SHE HAS BEEN FOR CENTURIES PAST, TO TAKE PART IN ENGLAND'S WARS. IN THE SIX COUNTIES, A LARGE NUMBER OF REPUBLICAN SOLDIERS ARE HELD PRISONERS BY ENGLAND. FURTHER WEAKNESS ON THE PART OF SOME OF OUR PEOPLE, BROKEN FAITH AND MAKE BELIEVE HAVE POSTPONED THE ENTHRONEMENT OF THE LIVING REPUBLIC, BUT THE PROCLAMATION OF EASTER WEEK AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE STAND AND MUST STAND FOREVER. NO MAN, NO MATTER HOW FAR HE HAS FALLEN AWAY FROM HIS NATIONAL FAITH, HAS DARED TO REPUDIATE THEM. THEY CONSTITUTE THE RALLYING CENTRE FOR THE UNBOUGHT MANHOOD OF IRELAND IN THE FIGHT THAT MUST BE MADE TO MAKE THEM EFFECTIVE AND TO REDEEM THE NATION'S SELF-RESPECT THAT WAS ABANDONED BY A SECTION OF OUR PEOPLE IN 1922.

THE TIME HAS COME TO MAKE THAT FIGHT. THERE IS NO NEED TO RE-DECLARE THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, NOW OR IN THE FUTURE. THERE IS NO NEED TO RE-AFFIRM THE DECLARATION OF IRISH INDEPENDENCE. BUT THE HOUR HAS COME FOR THE SUPREME EFFORT TO MAKE BOTH EFFECTIVE. SO IN THE NAME OF THE UNCONQUERED DEAD AND OF THE FAITHFUL LIVING, WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO THAT TASK.

WE CALL UPON ENGLAND TO WITHDRAW HER ARMED FORCES, HER CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AND INSTITUTIONS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL KINDS FROM EVERY PART OF IRELAND, AS AN ESSENTIAL PRELIMINARY TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; AND WE CALL UPON THE PEOPLE OF ALL IRELAND, AT HOME AND IN EXILE, TO ASSIST US IN THE EFFORT WE ARE ABOUT TO MAKE IN GOD'S NAME, TO COMPEL THAT EVACUATION AND TO ENTHRONE THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF

THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMY
COUNCIL OF OGLAIGH NA H-EIREANN
(IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY)

STEPHEN HAYES,	PATRICK FLEMING,
PEADAR O'FLAHERTY,	GEORGE PLUNKETT,
LAWRENCE GROGAN,	SEAN RUSSELL.