

Irish Republican Publicity Bureau

11 August, 1971

We have been asked to issue the following statement:

I.R.A. PROPOSES STEP TOWARDS POLITICAL SOLUTION

The war declared on the Irish people by the British Army in the occupied area of our country has now reached a critical stage. Every hour brings a mounting toll of casualties in death, destruction and homeless. At this critical juncture in the life of our Nation, the Army Council of the Irish Republican Army strongly appeals to the Irish race, at home and abroad, to give every assistance to the people whose gallant resistance to aggression of a foreign power has won the admiration of all.

The root cause of foreign aggression is historically rooted in the unnatural division of our country and its domination by British Imperialism. It has taken fifty years of corrupt, rotten government, North and South to expose the futility and injustice of the 1921 settlement. The immediate cause of the current aggression is found in the meeting which took place in London last Thursday when the British Prime Minister Mr. Heath gave a free hand to General Tuzo and Mr. Faulkner to crush all opposition to British Rule in the Six Counties.

But the British Government miscalculated badly. The immediate and deadly resistance of our beleaguered people to the criminal act of jailing hundreds without trial has shocked and stunned world opinion. The Army Council expresses the highest admiration for the heroic resistance of the people and are grateful for the magnificent support given to the active service units of the Irish Republican Army. The Council re-affirms its pledge of loyalty to the beleaguered people and is confident that the indestructible bonds of comradeship forged in the heat of battle will ensure the total and final defeat of British aggression.

The vital role now being played by units of the I.R.A. is spearheading the resistance of the people will be intensified. All other units have been ordered on full alert. Our paramount objective is the protection of human life from the marauding soldiers of the British Army and the sectarian-driven bigots of Unionism. The ultimate aim of these forces is the destruction of Irish people, their homes, and livelihood. Much has been endured at the hands of the British forces but irrespective of the cost, the Irish people will not flinch from any suffering, shirk any responsibility or weaken in their determination to achieve the status of a free and independent Nation.

The Army Council believes that the time is now opportune for the people themselves to demonstrate their effectiveness in the political sphere as well as in the military aspect of the struggle. The time is past for futile trips to Dublin and Westminster to indulge in meaningless talk of reforms, conferences, and British Bills of Rights. We therefore propose, that the people of Ulster establish forthwith a Provisional Parliament to exercise jurisdiction over the historic province of Ulster and thus take the first positive step in fifty years towards establishing a National Parliament representative of the whole people of Ireland. We call upon the people of our sundered province to take immediate steps to bring this proposal into operation. The people of the beleaguered areas now under attack can give the lead by selecting their own representatives forthwith.

We appeal to the Protestants of Ulster to involve themselves with their fellow-countrymen in establishing a Provisional Parliament. For too long, British politicians and sectarian perverts have divided our people in order to secure their own vested interests irrespective of the cost to Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter. The agony and suffering of our people recognises no religious divide. In this time of strife, we appeal to all Irish people to unite for the defeat of British Imperialists who have in the past and are even now exploiting irrelevant past dissensions to maintain their presence and influence in Ireland.

In conclusion, the Army Council appeals to all Irish people at home and abroad to involve themselves actively through the Republican Movement in the great historic task now confronting us. A new Ireland is being forged amidst pain and suffering and no Irishman, worthy of the name, can fail to play his part.

Signed: P. O. Néill
Runai, I.R.P.B.