

# PRESS RELEASE

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# SINN FÉIN

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## A VINDICATION OF SINN FÉIN POLICY

### SDLP Threat to Withdraw from Stormont

In the Six Counties the Social Democratic and Labour Party has threatened to withdraw from the Stormont Parliament on Thursday next if its demand for a public enquiry into the killing by the British Army of Séamas Cusack and Desmond Beattie is not granted. The SDLP members have also stated that they will set up an alternative administration to look after the affairs of the people.

This is a move towards the policy of Sinn Féin. Indeed, it is a vindication of Sinn Féin policy as consistently enunciated over the years.

Stormont and Leinster House were both set up by the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 and were England's alternative to the 32-County Dáil Éireann. By this means the British Government of the day brought the Irish revolution to a halt and imposed partition rule, with both statelets remaining under British domination.

In the Six Counties the domination has been direct and is supplemented and maintained by Orange bigotry, injustice and corruption on a wide scale. In the 26 Counties the domination has been indirect: while we have had the trappings of freedom our financial and economic systems have been tied to England and economic control of the natural resources and industry is being handed over to foreign speculators.

Since the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Area Agreement of 1965 a deliberate integration of the 26-County and English economies has been implemented. Thus the North is an old colony, the South a new colony. This partition system has worked to the detriment of Ireland and can only end in complete assimilation into the English system once more - another act of Union, probably within the context of the European Economic Community. This of course is not the free Ireland for which our people have struggled for so long.

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Since 1921 Sinn Féin policy has been to abolish the Stormont and Leinster House parliaments and restore the 32-County Dáil Éireann. Sinn Féin has always maintained that this cannot be done by recognising and attending these institutions as minority groups: it can be done only by remaining free of them and convening an alternative All-Ireland Assembly. This policy, known to many as abstention was derided by professional politicians while others within the Republican Movement sought to abandon it. The past 50 years provide many examples of the failure of these who left Sinn Féin to work through the partition system. Now at last the Sinn Féin policy is being vindicated.

Stormont and Leinster House are English puppet assemblies set up in 1920 to subvert the Republic. To restore the Republic they must be abolished and replaced, by creating and exploiting a dual-power situation and working towards making the alternative assembly the de facto government of all Ireland.

Sinn Féin emphasises that it has never in the past nor does it now seek an extension of the 26-County state to include 32 Counties. Sinn Féin aims to create a 32-County Democratic Socialist Republic in which Catholic Protestant and Dissenter will have equal rights and equal opportunities and in which the Social and Economic Programme of Sinn Féin will be implemented.

The abolition of Stormont would open the way to a direct confrontation with Westminster, the original architects of partition government and is an essential step on the road to the 32-County Republic. The withdrawal of the Opposition from Stormont now would remove the mask of democracy from it and hasten its abolition.

It is only two weeks ago since a statement from the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau called on the SDLP to leave Stormont. It is unfortunate that it took the deaths of two Derry men to bring about what has been clearly evident to Republicans for years. Sinn Féin hopes that the members of the SDLP are not shadow boxing or fighting a sham battle but <sup>that</sup> they are really in earnest and will leave Stormont on Thursday next, never to return.

Mr. Jack Lynch's speech on Sunday last falls very far short of expressing the demand of 80% of the Irish people - that Britain should withdraw her forces from Ireland immediately. But then Mr. Lynch's role, like that of his predecessors, is that of a puppet, because that was the role devised for Leinster House by Westminster in 1920.

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