

PRESS RELEASE

from

SINN FÉIN

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SINN FÉIN SPEAKER CALLS FOR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SAYS POLITICIANS ARE SABOTAGING FREEDOM FIGHT

Speaking at meetings in An Rinn and Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Seán Ó Brádaigh, Sinn Féin, said that Republicans were not the only people who thought that we were now engaged in the final round of the long struggle for Irish freedom. The world, he said, was watching the fight in the Six Counties with interest and admiration. Nowhere was support greater than among the Irish in America. The support of all Irish people was necessary at this critical stage.

He said: "There are those in our midst who, unlike Farnell, would put a stop to the march of the nation towards freedom. The bankrupt Leinster House politicians realise now that victory for the Republican Movement in the North will bring with it major changes in the South as well.

"Because they have not the courage to face the British in a clear-cut demand for Irish freedom, because they seek to perpetuate their own privileges in the BBC, they unite in condemning the Republicans of the North and in sabotaging the freedom fight. They also seek to prevent us here in the 26 Counties from helping the freedom fighters. Mr. Lynch rebukes the Irish-Americans and suggests to Senator Edward Kennedy that he minds his own business. Mr. Lynch ignores the lessons of 1921-22 and is prepared to accept any compromise that will secure his own position though it would only sweep the basic problem under the carpet again.

"This is the same Mr. Lynch who had so much sympathy for injuries suffered by British soldiers in the North, who told us 'there is no real invader here', and who accepted the guarantees of the British Government that they would protect the people. Any schoolboy who has read Irish history knows that British troops could never be acceptable as peace-keepers to the vast majority of our people. Any Irish adult who says otherwise is either a knave or a fool. And Mr. Lynch is no fool.

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SINN FÉIN 2a SRÁID CHAOIMHÍN Íoch BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 8

"The leaders of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Labour have forfeited all right to speak for the Irish nation. Their role is one of collaboration with the British in the partition and exploitation of our country. They are digging their own political graves and will go the way of John Redmond. The unfortunate aspect of it all is that so much blood must be spilled and so much suffering endured to win against the combination of British terror and Leinster House collaboration.

"When Sinn Féin says British rule must end it means that the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 must go. This means that the partition structures created by it must be replaced. Sinn Féin proposed a National Parliament with Regional Government and the complete separation of Church and State under a new Republican Constitution. We say that Ulster should have a nine-county parliament with considerable autonomy. Regional Government would restore power to the people and in the case of Ulster would ensure that the interests of the Unionists were not disregarded, but protected. On the basis of present voting patterns, Unionists would have a 52% majority in Dáil Uladh. Membership of the EEC would take power from the people and vest it in the Brussels Commissioners.

"We have spelled out clearly in our policy documents what we mean when we say our objective is a Democratic Socialist Republic. I would refer these who question this or are uneasy about it to a recent survey by Patrick M. Lyons of TCD in which he revealed that 5 per cent of the adult population of the Six Counties own over 47% of total personal wealth. In the 26 Counties the top 5% possess over 71% of the total. Only a system based on nationalisation of finance and key industries and co-operative ownership of industry can ensure justice and a fair share for all.

"Tá stair á déanamh na laethanta seo. Táimid ar thairseach na saoirse. Tá an-ghá le tacaíocht an ríobail sa taobh seo den tír ag an staid seo. Tréigtear na polaiteoirí agus tugtar cabhair d'óglaigh na saoirse.

Ends