

R E P U B L I C A N

B U L L E T I N.

IRISH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER.

Friday, 15th June, 1973.

30,000 People Assembled in Bodenstown Churchyard on Sunday 10th June to pay honour and tribute to Theobald Wolfe Tone - the Father of Irish Republicanism who was murdered by the British Crown Forces in 1798.

The oration was delivered by Martin McGuinness from Derry who said;-

"Once again we are gathered at the grave of Wolfe Tone to pay tribute to his memory and what memories he has left us. What an impact he has had on Irishmen for the past 175 years.

We see him and his comrades climbing into the cave hill and promising never to desist until Ireland was free. He has showed us the road we must travel, the long straight road with no turning. What better way can we pay tribute to Tone's memory than to promise him from this holy spot that we will not desist until the last link which chains us to England is severed for good and all, politically and economically. If we all are determined then we can bring Tone's dream to fruition in a comparatively short time.

In honouring Tone we give the lie to those who accuse us of being sectarian. We denounce sectarianism in all its forms. The pride we feel for our Protestant leaders of the past is too strong for us to be even remotely involved in bigotry or sectarianism. When we read of Tone, Emmet, Davis, Mitchel and George Plant who was executed by the Free State in the 40's and realise how they inspired those who came after them, we praise them, thank them and we try to emulate them. Any man who claims to be a Republican and gets involved in sectarianism is denying the real meaning of Republicanism and has no place in our Movement.

We appeal to the Protestant people of the North to join with us and let us go forward together to the New Ireland. Our policy programme Eire Nua gives all the guarantees that they can not be discriminated against as they would still be in a majority in Dail Uladh.

To my mind the only real proposals as a solution to our problems are the ones put forward by the Republican Movement. Four provincial parliaments with central government. Politicians North and South, Protestants and Catholics realise this, as we find ~~them~~ from their recent references to the New Ireland.

There can be no solution within the context of a six county solution. The future of this country and its people is in a Democratic Socialist Republic. This is what we must strive for, fight for and if needs be die for.

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"Far too many sacrifices have been made, far too much suffering has been inflicted on our people by our so called protectors the British Army; far too many of our young men and girls have been tortured, far too many of our comrades languish in English and Irish gaols for us to accept anything less than complete Freedom and Independence.

To our comrades in Long Kesh, interned and sentenced, to our comrades in Crumlin Road, Armagh and those in Mountjoy, The Curragh and in English prisons also the Dallas five, we send greetings and a promise to work and fight unceasingly for your release. We will continue to condemn and make public the unchristian conditions which keep you apart from your loved ones and prevents you from even meeting them on visits. We condemn the brutal and savage treatment meted out to you, the cold blooded, premediated torture which drove young Patrick Crawford beyond the limits of endurance. These diabolic methods will not go unpunished, nor will they be accepted passively. Neither the British Army or native traitors can break that spirit or crush their resistance.

We in the Republican Movement long for peace, we desire peace more than any other group. There are no S.D.L.P members or Bishop Dalys in Long Kesh. It is Republicans who suffer most under these conditions, but we desire a just peace, a lasting peace and have put forward our proposals on many occasions to bring peace about. We repeat them again now:-

1. A Declaration of Intent.
2. A withdrawal of troops from our streets as a preliminary to their complete withdrawal from Ireland.
3. The immediate release of all Republican prisoners sentenced and unsentenced.

The acceptance of these proposals by England will bring the long awaited peace we all search for, a rejection means the continuation of the struggle and certain death to British soldiers.

In our meeting last year with Whitelaw and other British Representatives we submitted the above demands for ending the struggle. There was no bargaining, I mention this to give the lie to those who have accused us for negotiating while the internees were still incarcerated. I repeat there was no bargaining. The S.D.L.P. use this to justify their own miserable and futile cringing and crawling. There was no bargaining, nor will there be an bargaining in the future. Any solution which does not guarantee full freedom is only a stop gap and means further bloodshed and loss of life.

From the soldiers of the Irish Republican Army who risk their lives and freedom daily I bring these messages:-

To the British Government we say that we are in a stronger position than ever before and we shall not end this just war until you withdraw your murderous army and recognise the right of the Irish people to settle their own affairs.

To the Free State Government we say that we are ashamed that you who regard yourselves as Irishmen are condoning the murder and imprisonment of your fellow Irishmen by a foreign foe and indeed you yourselves have your own Long Kesh in Co. Kildare.

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The freedom fighters of the North also condemn the Quisling Free State regime's collaborative policy with mother England. These Quislings stood idly by while John Bull's army brutally murdered 13 innocent people on the streets of the Bogside, stood idly by while the Republican people of Belfast were being burned out of their homes, stood idly by while England's murder squad the S.A.S. daily maimed and murdered the people of the six counties.

These hypocrites now intend to add insult to injury to further degrade our Patriot dead and the common name of Irishmen by handing over to our oppressors freedom fighters who have sought refuge in this part of Ireland. I speak of Roisin McLaughlin of Belfast, Father Burns of Glasgow and Seamus O'Neill of Derry to name but a few.

To the people of the 26 Co. we say that, at present in the North of Ireland the British Army are daily murdering and imprisoning your fellow Irishmen, have been doing so for the past 2 years. The freedom fighters of the Six counties demand that you take some course of action to impress on your cowardly Government that unless something is done by them soon to remove the British Army by force of arms the people of the 26 Co. shall be regarded as cowards and traitors with a few honourable exceptions.

Like Tone we demand full freedom and independence. If this is not the real meaning of Bodenstown, then we are wasting our time here.

b Let us leave Tone's grave, a place described by Pearse as the holiest spot in Ireland, more determined than ever before to break the connection with England- the never failing source of all our political evils.

Mrs Drumm Warns about Extradition.

The extradition to the North of two people against whom orders had been made would mean an extension of the fighting in the North to the 26 Cos., said the Vice President of Sinn Fein Mrs Maire Drumm at a rally in Galway on Saturday night. 9/6/73

Referring to the extradition orders against Mrs Roisin McLoughlin and Father Burns she said: "We have suffered too much in the last five years to cry any more. All we know now is resistance and fighting, and we will fight to the death."

Mrs Drumm said that if the Government in the South allowed the extradition of Mrs McLaughlin and Father Burns, it would be risking a head-on confrontation with the people of Belfast and Derry, backed by those in Dungannon and other areas.

She made an allegation of widespread co-operation between the British and Irish troops on Border duty, and said that paratroops regularly crossed the Border to fraternise with the Irish Army. A woman had taken photographs of British and Irish soldiers together and she had the picture as proof.

"We have not come to ask for help to fight, because we can do that ourselves. We have continued the fight for the last five years and will go on until we get what we have set out to achieve" said Mrs Drumm.

Guns were needed in 1969, she said, but now the people of Belfast and Derry were far better armed than the troops.

Statement by Priests on Hanged Internee

Patrick Crawford the young internee who was found hanged at the Maze Prison, formerly Long Kesh internment camp, last week was not a member of any illegal organisation, according to a statement issued by nine priests who claim to visit the camp regularly.

They said that he was interned at the beginning of April, and after two months in the "inhuman and degrading conditions of Long Kesh, the psychological pressures were unfortunately more than he could bear. Death was his hopeless protest against the whole situation of which Long Kesh is the symbol"

Crawford, said the priests, had been detained without trial in Compound 5, Long Kesh, now called the Maze Prison. They added that they did not want their names and addresses published as the present situation in Northern Ireland would expose them and their families to unnecessary risks, but they issued their names to the press.

"We have been ministering to the spiritual needs of the internees for many months. Our belief that it is morally *wrong* of their liberty without a fair trial within reasonable *time*, has been reinforced by our experiences there. Since November, 1972 the substitution of the mock judicial procedures of the Commission for a proper trial has aggravated the condition of the internees.

Overcrowding in the five internee compounds becomes worse each day, as more men and boys as young as 16 years of age, are interned. Add to this the periodic, and increasingly frequent raids of the British Army, which seem calculated to terrorise the internees. In the face of all this we can only say that we are grateful to God that there have not been more fatal tragedies.

Drastic action is urgently required to remedy this intolerable situation.

"We are sending a report to the British Prime Minister, Mr Heath giving our assessment of the situation in Long Kesh. We are asking him to bring internment to an end, once and for all. In the interim, we demand an immediate improvement in the living conditions of the internees and more humane treatment of their visitors.

The I.R.A yesterday welcomed a Vatican Secretariat statement that Sunday's world day of prayer would help in "correcting the often simplistic and exaggerated impression given by many newspapers and television reports that the conflict in Northern Ireland is mainly a religious one.

The I.R.A. said: Such an impression has been carefully fostered by all British and most Irish news media with the resulting damage to the whole Christian foundation in Ireland.

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Until the struggle is clearly recognised as one between this country's right to self-determination and England's colonial policy to hold us in subjection the Christian churches will have little influence on the course of events".

The statement said that the conflict could be ended by Britain when their three demand were met. These were an acknowledgment of the right of the Irish people to self-determination, a commitment to withdraw troops by a specific date; and a general amnesty for all political prisoners.

The Irish Republican Publicity Bureau issued a statement on 13th June replying to Mr Eddie McAteers call for peace talks between the I.R.A. and the British Army in which they stated that "the Republican conditions for an end to the conflict have been publicly stated on numerous occasions and as late as last Sunday in Bodenstown, Co. Kildare.

"When talks were held last summer" the statement continued "Mr Whitelaw undertook to convey the British Cabinet's reply to the Republican demands by July 14th last. No reply was ever received. The British Army pre-empted the situation by breaking the truce on July 9th and subsequent British aggression has done nothing to alter the Republican demands.

"A belated positive response to those demands now would receive the careful consideration of the leadership of the Republican Movement",

Following the advertisement in last week's issue of the New Statesman calling for the Withdrawal of British Troops from Northern Ireland, to which more than 100 British people appended their names, a demonstration took place in Westminster last Sunday afternoon as a declaration was hung on the railings outside Parliament. The ceremony was the latest public expression of a growing feeling in Britain of disenchantment with Northern Ireland in general and disillusion in particular with the continued presence of the British Army.

British attitudes towards the troops in Northern Ireland have made almost a 180-degree turn since August, 1969. The potential significance lies in the fact that it articulates an attitude which is already widespread but which up to now has had little organised expression. Thus, it may well lead to others giving public voice to the same sentiment.

It will certainly encourage Mrs Margaret Chaston from Reading who has a son serving in the British Army in Northern Ireland who placed a small ad in the personal column of the Daily Mirror last month asking other soldiers wives and mothers who wanted the Army withdrawn to contact her with a view to raising a petition. Since then she has collected 20,000 signatures.

The attitude of ^{British} soldiers' families and of Army wives in particular, is obviously crucial to the morale of the troops "in the field"; which makes it all the more disturbing (from the Government's point of view) that it is precisely those who are most enthusiastic about "bringing the boys home". Following the death of a soldier in a booby trap explosion in south Armagh what a British newspaper described as a near riot took place when British army wives confronted their M.P. in Aldershot. This went almost entirely unreported in Britain. Mrs Chaston's petition, the rage of British Army wives and the talk in a thousand British pubs, these are the reasons behind this demonstration and the

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advertisement in the New Statesman.

During the past seven day Units of the I.R.A. caused heavy damage to commercial and Stateproperty by widespread bombing attacks.

During the same period I.R.A. Actice Service Units carried out numerous attacks on the British Armed Forces.

The Following statement was issued last week by the O.C. 1st Batt. Belfast.I.R.A.

1. We were in no way responsible for the hatchet attack on A Alliance candidate or any other intimidation of voters. We strongly disapprove of intimidation.
 2. Alliance Party and Malachy McGurran of Republican Clubs stated it was Provisional I.R.A. who were responsible. McGurran on television that night referred to the hatchet men of the Provisionals. We would like to see their proof.
 3. We strongly disown those claiming to be supporters of ours, carrying out acts such as these, and will take action against them.
 4. The person who threw the hatchet is known to us. He has no connection with us whatsoever and he will be punished.
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