

"The denial of these legitimate demands is an insult to humanity and the Christian name. The British White Paper ignores them completely and in fact, proposes to entrench British rule even further.

"In conclusion we would refer His Holiness to the words of his illustrious predecessor-Pope John XXIII: When an oppressed people are left with no alternative but to resort to the use of force in pursuance of legitimate basic human rights, then they are entitled to do so".

"On the basis of Pope John's words, we pose the question: wherein lies the truth?"

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IN AN EASTER STATEMENT the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau states that the struggle for the freedom of Ireland would be "brought to a successful conclusion in our day with unity in our ranks, strength in our arms and the support of our people". They were confident of the ultimate success of their struggle "and we will pursue it until our ancient enemy recognise that peace must be based on justice- it cannot be founded on bayonets.

The statement went on to say:-Our enemy have paid a high price for their actions against the Irish people. The casualties inflicted and the toll taken of British wealth and prestige had demonstrated the capacity of the people to win their country's freedom.

"Our volunteers have fought hard, conscious of the obligation to protect civilian lives and unmindful of the sacrifices they themselves have incurred, to achieve final victory. Their dedication, courage and fighting ability have made them the true successors of the men of 1916 and assured for all a future in a new and free Ireland

"The Republican Movement has outlined its political and economic proposals for the New Ireland. Account has been taken of the diverse traditions in Ireland and they were confident that those Ulster loyalists who had suffered insult and infamy at the hands of the "Imperial Government" would come to realise that their future lay with the family of the Irish people as a whole.

"The positive, practical proposals of their movement surpassed all others put forward to date and they urged all Irish people to work for their speedy implementation.

"As in previous generations, certain sections of our people remain aloof from the struggle, while others actively oppose it. Church leaders, in particular, have developed a dual standard of morality, condemning the actions of resistance, while excusing the brutality and murder of the enemy. When the war is over, those people shall stand indited before history for the wrong they do to their own people and the comfort they give the enemy.

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"In conclusion we affirm our pledge of loyalty to the people of Ireland. We are conscious of the grave responsibilities which weigh upon our shoulders. We are no different from previous revolutionaries in being condemned by the unthinking, malicious and hostile.

The Republican Movement had been consistent in maintaining the fundamental right of freedom and sovereignty. Acknowledgement of that right by Britain had been and still was the key proposal of our peace plan. History, truth and justice sanction no other course and bitter experience had taught them that without freedom there would never be peace in Ireland.

Great sacrifices had been endured over the last three years for that basic truth- almost 100 of their volunteers had died in action, nearly 1000 lingered in prison camps and the heroic, spendid people of the North had withstood the terror of an "Imperial army".

A call for solidarity with those who were suffering under what he described as the Whitelaw Administration's policy of repression has come from Mr Frank McManus M.P. In a statement he said;

"All remaining concepts of justice were to be set aside by legislation which would replace jury trial by secret courts. The existing courts were handing down more and more savage sentences; conditions for prisoners and internees were getting worse; their legal representatives were denied the basic decencies; the hated R.U.C. was increasingly more in evidence; the British Army had clearly been instructed to stamp a little harder on the tortured minority and, in particular, the Paras had been completely unleashed, with orders to kill.

"This grim threat can only be defeated by the united, determined opposition of all the people." declared Mr McManus.

The Anti-Republican influence of the British Government in America continues unabated. United States District Judge Leo Brewster has refused to transfer the "Fort Worth Five" to a Federal jail near their New York homes.

The five men were jailed indefinitely on contempt charges after they refused to answer questions from a Federal grand jury investigating allegations of gun-running activities between the Dallas-Fort Worth area and Northern Ireland. They are Kenneth Tierney, Paschal Morahan, Daniel Crawford, Mathias Reilly and Thomas Laffey.

In a trenchant oration at ^{the} Easter Commemoration held at the Republican Plot at Milltown Cemetery Belfast, Mr Daithi O'Conaill vice President of Sinn Fein warned the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Whitelaw. "We reject your White Paper, and we will resist and defeat your "terrorists". Mr Whitelaw should not forget that Stormont was brought to its knees, and so shall his corrupt and cruel regime".

"Today the central issue in the war is one of conflict between Ireland's right to freedom and England's determination to keep us in subjection. All other issues are subordinate to this basic point. There can be no compromise on the fundamental issue as to who should rule Ireland- The British Parliament or the Irish People.

IRISH RULE

"We have had 800 years of British ineptitude in ruling Ireland. We have never known rule by the Irish for the Irish. Until we do we shall never enjoy peace and stability in our land."

"The need for unity of purpose in securing a British withdrawal was never greater than at present in view of the British White Paper proposals and the "campaign of terror of the British Army" "Mr Whitelaw believes a whiff of politics backed up with the mailed fist will intimidate one half of us and purchase the other.

"Those who gave a qualified reception to the White Paper are horrified at the brutalities of the Paras in Ardoyne, Newry and Armagh. But expressions of horror are not enough. They will not restore to life the bullet-ridden bodies of Eddie O'Rawe and Brian Smith, or console the grief-stricken parents of young Tony McDowell. Let there be but one message for Mr Whitelaw- we reject your White Paper and we will resist and defeat your terrorists. No significant section of the Irish people wanted a British presence in the country. Even those who had formerly believed in the connection with England had suffered insult and injury at the hands of the British Government.

COMMON ENEMY

"The rejection of the White Paper by the loyalist community was a step towards identifying the common enemy. There were many diverse traditions in the country, and the removal of the British forces would be the first step towards healing the wounds of the divided nation. Respect for the positive traditions of our respective communities will take us far along the road towards formulating a new society which will guarantee peace and prosperity for all. The future of Ireland is the concern of the Irish people as a whole. The future of Ulster can only be determined by the people of Ulster.

"We have outlined our proposals for a new Ulster, and we look forward to the day when fruitful discussions can take place between the leaders of the loyalist and

Republican communities. Then and only then, will peace, reconciliation and reconstruction take place".

More than half of the active strength of the Special Air Service Regiment is at present serving with the Parachute Regiment in the Six Counties.

The number of S.A.S. on duty in the Six Counties has increased because of their withdrawal with ignominy from Oman in the Persian Gulf.

In general it may be said that the S.A.S. is suffering from the illness which has infected every other unit in the British Army—public apathy and disillusionment. Since April of last year recruitment figures to the Army have fallen by an average of 33% while the number of soldiers buying their way out of their units rather than face another tour of duty in Northern Ireland has never been higher.

In the course of a letter to the Irish Times on the 25th April, 1973, Capt. James Kelly exposed the fundamental deception contained in the British White Paper, namely it merely proposes legislative reform without any accompanying political change. He points out that this is yet another attempt on Britain's part to impose her solution on Ireland, and the very opening words of the White Paper contains the usual British arrogance— "It is the responsibility of the United Kingdom Parliament to determine how Northern Ireland shall be governed "AS PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM". He quotes the Financial Times— "The essence of the White Paper is that it asserts the sovereignty of Westminster over Northern Ireland more firmly than at any time since Ireland was divided (By a British Act of Parliament)

Capt. Kelly points out that the obvious British strategy in relation to the White Paper is twofold. Firstly, it seeks to detach public support from the I.R.A. and encourage support for the so-called moderates who are prepared to "buy" the White Paper and increase Britain's chances of imposing her solution. To this end it has stepped up its military activity in certain areas against the I.R.A. with the object of making them unpopular with the local populace. This policy has blatantly backfired and support for the I.R.A. is increasing all the time because of the brutalities and harassment practised by the "PARAS". Secondly, it hopes to secure the support of the 26 Co. Government in repressing Republicans in the 26 Co's so as to weaken the I.R.A. in the 6 Co's. The White Paper actually mentions the joint suppression of the I.R.A. as one of the functions of envisaged "Council of Ireland".

Finally, Capt. Kelly points out the obvious objective of British policy is to secure acceptance of the White Paper by the Cosgrave Government and to enforce its acceptance in the North by the use of military force. If Cosgrave accepts this role at the behest of the British Government he is helping to solve nothing, but adding to seeds of future and continuing violence in Ireland. His final paragraph summarises the situation

admirably- "The reality is that the climate for violence will always exist so long as Britain denies the right of self-determination to the Irish people, and it will deny it so long as the Dublin Government acquiesces in carrying out British policy in Ireland, North or South.

During the week ending Friday, 27th April One British Soldier was killed and three British soldiers and one R.U.C. Constable were injured in actions carried out by volunteers of the Irish Republican Army.

The R.U.C. Constable was injured in an ambush in Coalisland, Co Tyrone on 23/4/73. One soldier was injured in Lurgan, Co. Armagh. In Belfast a soldier was wounded when a British Army patrol was ambushed in the New Lodge Area. In the New Barnsley Estate a soldier was very seriously injured in the stomach by a bullet which passed through his body. This bullet was of a calibre which can penetrate through three inches of plate steel. In Derry a British Soldier was shot dead on the afternoon of 27/4/73. when shots were fired at a British military checkpoint in the Creggan area of the city.
