

PRESS RELEASE

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Green Paper Solves Nothing

Speaking in Tuam last night, Ruairi' O' Brádaigh, President of Sinn Fein, made the following comments on the Green Paper:

Having failed to disrupt the Sinn Fein Ard-Fheis last week-end by forcible entry and continued occupation of our head-office at Kevin Street, Dublin, Mr. O'Malley is to try once more to extend his role as Britain's policeman in the 26 Counties.

He is in the best British tradition in dealing with the Irish people by reaching for yet another Coercion Act. If Mr. O'Malley had any knowledge of Ireland's struggle for freedom, he would realise that coercive legislation solves nothing and will serve only to complicate and aggravate the underlying problem - the continued operation of British imperialism in our country.

Mr. Childers has long been a protagonist of government by force. He was the foremost in advocating internment without trial in 1970, thus paving the way for Mr. Faulkner's disastrous and bloody enforcement of August, 1971.

This week-end Messrs. O'Malley and Childers are joined by Mr. Lynch in seeking to parallel active physical collaboration with British forces in the field, with political collaboration with the British Government in endorsing Mr. Whitelaw's Green Paper.

The Green Paper solves nothing and merely postpones facing up to the basic facts of the situation. In collaborating with the British design, the 26 County government is doing the Six-County Nationalists a grave disservice. They are attempting to sentence a future generation to endure from the very beginning again, all that this generation has suffered.

Politicians of all parties in Leinster House are not and have not been involved in the struggle in the Six Counties. Having sat on the fence for more than 50 years, they are at present engaged in a cynical attempt to cash in politically on the sacrifices of recent times, now that solutions are being talked about.

The people of the North, both Nationalist and Unionist, do not want Southern politicians or their 26 County state and Constitution. Republicans see the proposed link-up between both existing states in the form of an all-Ireland Council simply as a means to extend the life of the present bankrupt partition system of Government, North and South.

The vast majority of the Irish people reject Britain's arrogant claim to sovereignty over part of Ireland as put forward in the Green Paper. As one Northern spokesman put it, it merely seeks to perpetuate Britain's grip on Ireland, although in a less partisan way.

Britain has yet to face up to the ultimate reality:- acknowledge the right of the whole people of Ireland, acting as a unit, to decide their own future; declare a timetable for the withdrawal of her forces and announce a general amnesty.

This would mark not just a "milestone in Anglo-Irish relations," as Mr. Childers put it, but a turning-point for the better and an end to the violence we have known as a people for 800 years.

One final point: acceptance of the Green Paper by the Dublin Government clearly means all-out collaboration with Britain as the arrest of Maire Drumm of Belfast indicates so obviously.