

G. G. LA I G H M A h - E I R E A N N .
(Irish Republican Army)

Statement from the Army Council-Easter Sunday, 1942.

To-day Commemorations are being held throughout Ireland, in Great Britain and wherever else any mass of Irish exiles foregather.

Easter Sunday was chosen as the day of National Commemoration of our illustrious Dead because at Easter 1916 the Republic of Ireland was proclaimed in arms by the National Revolutionary organization acting in the name of the Irish people.

We come to these patriot graves to salute the memory of our dead comrades; to honour the principles of Pearse and Clarke, MacDiarmada, Connolly, Plunkett, MacDonagh and Ceannt and all the heroes who down thro' the generations gave their lives that we might be free; to review the unfulfilled tasks that still remain to be completed by us, and in these holy and sacred spots to gain fresh inspiration and courage to complete the work for which our comrades so nobly gave their lives.

We deem it appropriate to set out the four objects of the Irish Republican Army as laid down in our Constitution:-

(1) To guard the honour and uphold the sovereignty and unity of the Republic of Ireland.

(2) To establish and uphold a lawful Government in sole and absolute control of the Republic.

(3) To secure and defend civil and religious liberty and equal rights and equal opportunities for all citizens.

(4) To promote the revival of the Irish language as the everyday language of the people, and to promote the development of the best mental and physical characteristics of our race.

These, too, were the objects for which our martyrs and heroes gave their lives. These objects remain unachieved to-day. Until we achieve them the Proclamation of 1916 will remain for us the fundamental declaration of the right and authority of our Nation to fight for its unalienable right to sovereign independence.

Our country is still unfree. Two Partition assemblies to-day jail, persecute and even murder Republican citizens and soldiers in an attempt to maintain their usurping rule. In gaols and internment camps in Ireland and England there are over one thousand faithful soldiers and citizens of the Republic, amongst the latter twenty brave and heroic women. We salute these heroic men and women and assure them that despite coercion, despite persecution, despite defamation and slander, despite the woundings and murders of our comrades, the struggle for Irish freedom will go on until victory crowns our efforts.

England is still the one and only enemy of Irish freedom. She and she alone holds us in bondage. Her Imperialism is the root cause of all our National and social evils. To break the connection with England, to get rid of her invading forces, to prevent her dragging Ireland into a war indeference of her Empire, these are our immediate objects. To all that is best in Ireland, and to all members of our race abroad in every clime we appeal for the fullest support in this sacred task.

Doubt and despair sometimes creep into the hearts of our people. Disillusionment dulls the edge of enthusiasm - reverses react on confidence and there are those who will feel that destiny is working against those who fight for their country. Remember, however, that Tyranny never ultimately triumphed, Freedom never ultimately failed. The Cause of Right is a just cause and we, the soldiers of the Irish Republic cannot fail. Our Cause is a great and a glorious one and if we have the will and determination to win, victory will yet be ours.

This generation of Irish youth is presented with great opportunities - opportunities that the brave men and women of our Movement in other years worked and prayed for. Let our young men then join the Army of the Republic, let them prepare themselves well for the immediate tasks that lie ahead and with God's blessing on our work, we will bring to a successful conclusion the task so glorious set on foot by Pearse and Connolly and their comrades in that glorious year of National Resurrection twenty-six years ago.

Issued by the Army Council of
the Irish Republican Army.