



IBRG.

IRISH IN BRITAIN REPRESENTATION GROUP

'NORTHERN IRELAND' - POLICY

The IBRG was born as a result of the Irish people's wish to have a voice in Britain which will express all aspects of their lives. Our life in Britain and Ireland in general is underscored and structured by Britain's relationship to Ireland. This relationship has historically been one of intervention on the part of Britain and it is this intervention which has resulted in the situation in Ireland itself and our position as members of the Irish community in Britain. The IBRG recognises that the statelet of 'Northern Ireland' was deliberately created by the 1920 Government of Ireland Act and maintained against the wishes of the majority of the Irish people. The IBRG also recognises that the war in 'Northern Ireland' is a direct result of a British colonialisation policy and we therefore maintain that any just and lasting solution must include a recognition of the island of Ireland as a single, independent, sovereign political unit. The IBRG recognises that the continuing war in 'Northern Ireland' has led to attacks on the civil liberties and political rights of Irish people living in Britain. Britain must withdraw militarily, economically and politically from 'Northern Ireland', and recognise the Irish people's right to self-determination.

We therefore see an ending of the war and a political solution in the Six Counties as a priority for all Irish people in Britain.

- We call on the British Government to withdraw - immediately and unconditionally - from Ireland militarily, economically and politically, thus allowing self-determination for the Irish people as a whole.
- We call on the British Government to end all repressive measures that deny human and political rights to Irish people - including the PTA, non-jury courts and the Emergency Powers Act.
- We call for the banning of plastic bullets.
- The IBRG recognises that many Irish prisoners held in both British and Irish jails as a result of the war in Ireland were wrongly convicted and we call for an immediate and unconditional release for these prisoners.
- We also call on the British and Irish Governments to give Irish prisoners the right to opt for repatriation to Ireland or to be transferred to prisons near their homes as they wish. Further we call on the Governments when Britain is withdrawing from Ireland to grant an amnesty to all Irish political prisoners.
- We express condemnation of the way the Irish and the war are represented in the British media. We condemn the use of censorship as a tool in Britain and Ireland.

- The IBRG denies the right of the Loyalist minority in Ireland to veto progress towards a united and independent Ireland and calls on the British Government to repeal the 1949 Government of Ireland Act.
- Ireland should remain neutral as long as the majority of her people so wish and Irish neutrality should on no account be used as any kind of bargaining counter.
- The IBRG calls on all political parties, trade unions and other organisations to support this document.
- The IBRG will continue to encourage more informed debate and discussion of Ireland in Britain, and to involve the representatives of all communities in Ireland.

JP/IBRG
July/Julil 1983