

United Ireland Association

London Area Council

31, Daleside,
Chelsfield,
Kent.

Tele. FN 56227

19th March, 1969.

Present Situation in Six Counties

On Sunday 2nd March 1969, the London Area Council of the United Ireland Association sponsored a delegate conference of all Irish Organisations in the Greater London Area, the Home Counties, and the South of England.

The object of the Conference was, as mentioned in the circular of invitation, to afford the Irish Organisations an opportunity of discussing the current situation in the Six Counties and to decide on the best form of action they might take to express their dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs.

The organisers felt that events in the Six Counties were reaching a stage where they became the concern of all responsible Irishmen and women throughout the world, but particularly in this country where the presence of a large emigrant Irish population could be utilised to bring pressure to bear on the U.K. Government. Under these circumstances it seemed the time was ripe for a Conference of the organised Irish to discuss the matter.

In the event, the conference was successful. Twenty six Irish Organisations attended, representing a cross-section of Irish opinion from Social, Cultural, Intellectual, Irish Development, Sporting, Welfare, Professional and National Sources. A free and lively discussion was held, and diverse opinions were expressed, opposed and eventually coalesced.

As a result the following resolution was proposed and unanimously adopted - "We the representatives of Irish Organisations in London and the South of England regard with sympathy and strongly support the strenuous efforts being made to win justice and democratic rights for all the people under the control of the Six County Government and in particular we pledge our support in Britain ~~FOR~~ Civil Rights ~~in~~ in the Six Counties. Furthermore we are of the opinion that partition is the first and foremost root cause of the unhealthy and unwholesome community relations in the Six Counties and in order to eliminate discrimination and bigotry and to establish the full and free exercise of democratic rights in the Six Counties this root cause must be eliminated."

To implement the resolution, it was proposed that a committee be set up. This proposal was also accepted, and passed unanimously and the following committee was elected:-

Mr. P. O'Suilleabháin (C. na hÉ.), Mr. M. Casey (U.I.A.)
Proinnsias MacCába (U.I.A.) Mr. P. O'Connor (U.I.A.) Dr. R.
O'Moore (N.U.I) Mrs. M. Martin (N.U.I.) Sean Ó Rafteri
(Connradh na Gaeilge) Mr. J. Conway (G.A.A.).

It was agreed that the committee would have the power to co-opt such extra members as they might deem fit to enable the resolution to be implemented. It was also agreed that the resolution itself would be the terms of reference for the committee, and that the committee would report progress to conference.

The newly elected committee met in the Irish Club on Wednesday 5th March. Sean O'Rafteri was elected Chairman pro tem. and Mrs. M. Martin Secretary. The terms of reference were discussed, and agreed; future action to implement the terms of reference was discussed and agreed; and finance discussed and agreed. A name and title for the new committee was also agreed on. It was felt however that before a permanent executive committee could be set up the representation on the elected committee should be expanded, and

that all decisions taken should be subject to approval by the expanded committee. The names of the co-opted members were discussed and agreed on subject to their acceptance, and the date of the next meeting, wherein the permanent officers will be elected was fixed for 20th March 1969.

It will be appreciated that this communication comes from the United Ireland Association and is not to be taken as an official communication from the new committee.

Future communications will be authorised by the new committee.

Frank J. McCabe
National Organiser United
Ireland Association