

MEMORANDUM

on the

FORMATION OF A VOLUNTEER FORCE RECRUITED FROM

LONDON IRISHMEN

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Recruiting for the Territorial Army is being intensified in London. Young men who do not enlist in some form of National Service are made to feel that they are not doing their duty, and in many cases pressure is being brought to bear on employees by their employers.

Many London Irishmen, for obvious reasons, are unwilling to enlist in the British Army and feel that they cannot conscientiously be expected to volunteer for the British Army. The whole question would become acute if a state of emergency arose.

To obviate these difficulties it is proposed:

(a) That London Irishmen be allowed to volunteer in the Volunteer forces of Ireland.

(b) That a special corps be formed for this purpose.

This would facilitate annual training and encourage a corporate spirit.

(c) That the corps be attached to the corps of Engineers, so that volunteers may make up the deficiency in the period of training by private study of technical subjects in London, where many such facilities exist.

It has been stated that volunteers, who are ordinarily resident outside the jurisdiction of the Irish Government, would not be accepted for the Irish Volunteer Force. Against this the following considerations should be borne in mind:

(a) Conditions governing the Irish Race abroad even yet are very different from those affecting other nations.

For this reason it is not possible to apply to Irish people abroad regulations which are in force in other countries whose peoples have been in possession of their homeland for generations.

- (b) Prospective volunteers would be willing to give up most, if not all, of their annual holidays for training in Ireland. Furthermore, if an emergency arose they would run the risk of losing their civil positions in London. These two conditions should be adequate proof of their good faith.
- (c) Under present laws in England it is quite permissible for London Irishmen to join such a Volunteer force and it is improbable that any serious objection would be raised.
- (d) That exiled Irishmen should enlist in the National Forces is an indication of their belief that circumstances will ultimately permit of their repatriations.