

LONDON REGIONAL COUNCIL PAPER ON NORTHERN IRELAND (SIX COUNTIES)

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What follows is an ammended version of Lambeth IBRG's paper submitted to  
the LRC meeting on 12/6/'83. It has been adopted as the LRC paper to be  
sent to the IBRG conference (National Question) which is being held on  
2/7/'83.  
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The IBRG recognise that the statelet of " Northern Ireland " was deliberately created by the 1921 British Government and against the wishes of the Irish people. The IBRG also recognise that the conflict in " Northern Ireland " is a direct result of a British colonialisation policy and we therefore maintain that any lasting solution must include a recognition of the island of Ireland as a single, independent and sovereign political unit. We maintain that the problems of the Northern Irish community are the internal, domestic problems of the Irish people and are the concern of no other country.

- 1) We condemn violence by all the combatents in " Northern Ireland ". We recognise, however, that the primary violence of British State repression is generating, and will inevitably continue to generate, a violent reaction from the Northern Irish people as long as the repression continues.
- 2) The IBRG calls for the British government to make an immediate declaration of intent to withdraw from Ireland, and for a phased withdrawal of troops lasting a period of no more than two years from that date.
- 3) The IBRG recognise that many Irish political prisoners held in both British and Irish jails as a result of the " Northern Ireland " conflict were convicted on very dubious evidence. We call for the immediate, unconditional release of these prisoners and we insist that any just solution to the problem must include an amnesty for all political prisoners, their release and repatriation, where appropriate.
- 4)a The use of no-jury Diplock courts, the offences against the State Act (26 counties), the Emergency Provisions Act and all the other repressive measures only perpetuate the conflict in " Northern Ireland ".
- 4)b Developments in the use of detention, house-searching, exclusion and prosecution since the Prevention of Terrorism Act was introduced in 1974

clearly indicate that the Act is being used unjustifiably and indiscriminately against the Irish community in Britain and as yet another repressive tool in " Northern Ireland ". We are concerned at proposals to widen the scope of the Act and maintain that the police already have adequate powers without recourse to such legislation.

We call for the dismantling of repressive state machinery and the immediate repeal of those Acts.

- 5) The use of plastic bullets in " Northern Ireland " has so far led to 14 deaths ( and 7 children ) and 260 serious injuries including blinding. We call for the immediate withdrawal and banning of this lethal weapon and welcome the similar demands made by the European parliament, NCCL, Labour Party, Young Liberals etc.
- 6) The facts about " Northern Ireland " are routinely distorted in the British media and censored in the Republic. The IBRG believe that free and unbiased reporting and discussion is essential for a solution to the " Northern Ireland " conflict and we call upon both governments to desist from political manipulation of the media.