

**Irish  
National  
Congress**

PO Box No 2814, Dublin 7



**Comhdháil  
Náisiúnta  
na hÉireann**

PO Box No 2814, Dublin 7

JULY 1995

# **BRITAIN MUST MOVE**



**BRITAIN MUST MOVE!**

**1995  
AUGUST  
26  
SATURDAY**

**INCLUSIVE  
ALL PARTY TALKS NOW**

## **ONLY PUBLIC SUPPORT CAN DEVELOP THE PEACE PROCESS**

On Saturday, 26 August one of the most important demonstrations in many years will be held in Dublin. On the nearest Saturday to the first anniversary of the IRA cease-fire, the public will be asked to demonstrate their continuing support for the process and to insist that the British government move to respond to the cease-fires in a meaningful way.

### **PROCESS UNDER PRESSURE**

The British government had promised a courageous and generous response to an IRA cease-fire. Instead they have had to be dragged every inch of the way, delaying for months over words like "clarification", "permanent" and "decommissioning". Likewise they refused to follow the lead of the Irish government in early releases of political prisoners and have withdrawn only 800 of their 30,000 strong military presence. The Irish people can play a real part in advancing the peace process. Our continual public support for it is crucial to prevent backsliding by politicians and deadlock from the British government.

- Peace cannot be built on the status quo of partition;
- All-party talks must be called by the two governments;
- Equality for all in a new agreed Ireland.

# BRITISH GOVERNMENT THREATEN PEACE PRO

At the time of the Downing Street Declaration the British Government promised a generous and imaginative response to an IRA cease-fire. In the Declaration they were responding to the Hume-Adams Initiative which had raised the hopes of Irish people around the world, that the stalemate had been broken and a real peace process was beginning.

Despite the hopes raised by the Hume-Adams Initiative the ink was hardly dry on the Downing Street Declaration, when the British government began to show little regard for the fledgling peace process.

While every other political party received a briefing on the British government's position they, in sharp contrast to the Irish government refused point blank to give any clarification whatsoever to Sinn Féin. This

refusal to act dragged on for months — despite the fact that the British government had spoken to Sinn Féin for months on end when there was no peace process and no sign of an IRA cease-fire.

Eventually 'clarification' did come, but those who thought British government intransigence had ended were to be disappointed. When the historic announcement of an IRA cease-fire came on 31 August 1994, it was welcomed worldwide. The British government stood alone in refusing to recognise its significance and argued for nearly three months about the word 'permanent' as distinct from 'complete cessation'.

Right throughout this period the British government demonstrated their negative attitude. They resisted to the bitter end, the decision by US President Bill Clinton to issue Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams and other senior Sinn

Féin officials visas to enter the USA. At one stage, John Major even refused to take telephone calls from Bill Clinton for over a week. Decisions by the Irish government to repeal Section 31 censorship and begin the release of republican prisoners were met by a similar negative response even if more muted in public.

Now with almost 12 months of an IRA cease-fire behind us the British government are still refusing to fully engage in this peace process. The attempt by the British government to turn decommissioning of IRA arms into a precondition for talks is no more than another delaying tactic. Following on from 'clarification' and 'permanent'. All those involved in talks with the British government up to the time — of — the framework document in February 1995 say the issue was not raised as a precondition, the issue was clearly the calling of and

## An all-Ireland mobilisation

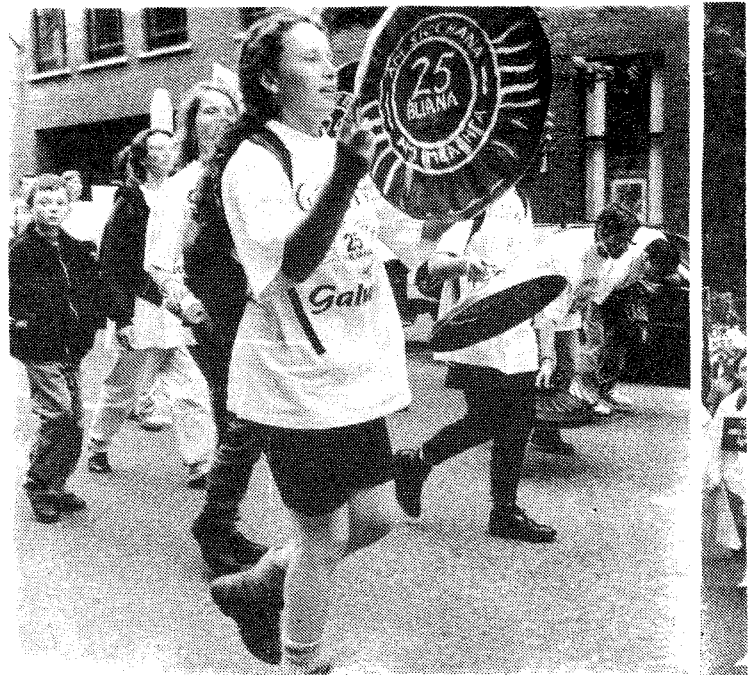
INC Branches all over Ireland are working to build this demonstration. Public meetings have already been held in Derry City and Mullingar. Others are planned for right around the country. All major sporting events are being leafleted. Regular leafleting takes place in many towns and city centres including O'Connell Street, Dublin and Limerick city centre every Saturday. Buses will be running from every corner of the country.

Why not make contact with your local INC branch to help organise for the demonstration. Tel Dublin 8202019 or 8210493 for details of your local branch.

If there is no INC branch in your locality now is the perfect time to start one. Contact the INC at PO Box 2814, Dublin 7 or tel 01-8202019/8210493 for details.

## DONATIONS NEEDED

Major mobilisations, such as the one planned for 26 August do not come cheaply. We have no big financial banker to pay our bills. We only survive on the voluntary contributions of our supporters. Please send what you can to the Irish National Congress, PO Box 2814, Dublin 7. All contributions will be acknowledged.



*Last August approximately 15,000 marched behind  
This year's march, organised by the san*

# T ACTIONS CESS

If the British government wants to show good faith with this peace process it needs to act decisively now. They should

- Begin the release of political prisoners;
- Call, with the Irish government, all-party talks;
- Start the process of dismantling British military installations.

maintenance of a cease-fire. It is easy to be suspicious that if and when the issue of decommissioning is "resolved" — one way or another then the British Government will come up with another excuse.



and the slogan 'Time for Peace — Time to Go'. The team of people can be even bigger.

## PRISONERS MUST BE FREED



The release of Paratrooper Lee Clegg has put international attention on the situation of Irish political prisoners. While Lee Clegg was released after a two-year sentence for murder while wearing a British-army uniform, over 1,000 Irish people remain in British jails. Ten of them, now in their 21st year in jail in England, far away from their families.

Every other international conflict, from South Africa to Central America to Palestine has seen a prisoner release programme as part of the settlement process. The early release of Clegg has increased the pressure for those releases to start now. The British government must follow the lead of the Irish government and immediately start releasing political prisoners. As part of these immediate steps, all Irish political prisoners in jail in England should be transferred to Ireland to serve whatever remains of their sentence close to their families.

Failure by the British government to act on this issue can only be seen as a deliberate snub to the peace process. In the words of Irish Times journalist Mary Holland: "Either the British don't understand, people kept saying, or worse, they do understand and don't care."

### PARATROOPER LEE CLEGG

Convicted of Murder

Served 2 years

Served sentence  
near family

**Now free**

### PAUL NORNEY

Convicted of  
attempted murder

21 years so far  
(in jail since aged 17)

In jail in England,  
continuously being moved  
from prison to prison

**Still in jail**



# INC addresses forum

A delegation from the INC gave an oral presentation to the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation on Friday, 23 June.

Robert Ballagh in his opening remarks said:

"The INC's constitution pledges us to work for peace, unity and justice in Ireland through the exclusive use of non-violent means.

To be successful, non-violent political action must involve significant numbers of people, consequently the INC is proud to have been centrally involved in the two largest political mobilisations in recent years, when thousands of people gathered to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Easter Rising in 1991 and to support the 'Time for Peace — Time to Go' campaign last year.

Undoubtedly, the many events which we organised in 1991 promoted intense debate and created the space where a successful challenge could be mounted against the more idiotic aspects of what is sometimes referred to as 'revisionism'.

At all times, the INC has vigorously and often successfully pursued its nationalist objectives in a peaceful manner, consequently we are convinced that we played a major role in

emphasising the efficiency of non-violent political action for nationalists. We are convinced that the many struggles for justice and human rights, the campaigns against censorship and revisionism, the mobilisation for both peace and British withdrawal from Ireland, all played a crucial role in creating the right political atmosphere where an IRA cease-fire could become a real possibility. Therefore, when the cease-fire was declared on 31 August last year, we in the INC felt not only a keen sense of joy but also a sense of pride, because we felt some sense of ownership in the developing peace process."

Finian McGrath addressed the forum on the economic benefits of Irish unity for people North and South saying:

"All impartial economic observers, including many business people with a unionist background, are now talking about the urgent need for an all-island economy. An all-island economy however, can only fully exist in an all-island political settlement and this settlement has the potential to raise the living standards of the general public North and South."

Donnacha O Beacháin set out the

INC's opposition to "any proposal to dilute the statement of national self-determination set out in Articles 2 and 3. We believe to try and build a settlement on such a basis is wrong in principle, would be doomed to failure and would for those reasons be likely to be rejected in a referendum."

Margaret Urwin and Nora Comiskey addressed the lack of movement from the British government on the peace process:

"Prior to the cease-fire the British government had promised an imaginative and generous response to a cease-fire. Instead they have had to be dragged every inch of the way, delaying for months over words like 'clarification', 'permanent' and 'decommissioning'. It seems now that if the British government do not swiftly move to meaningfully engage in the peace process then no other conclusion can be drawn but that the British government are deliberately seeking to break the peace process by creating preconditions, which were not raised before last August and which cannot be met. Indeed the British government are raising preconditions which are not included in the Downing Street Declaration."

The INC concluded by presenting over 50,000 peace pledges signed by the public over the few months, immediately after the cease-fire and calling for

- Demilitarisation;
- The creation of a new, unarmed and acceptable police service;
- The opening of all-inclusive talks with no preconditions;
- Accepting that on group has the right to veto political progress;
- Ensuring an end to discrimination and equality of esteem.

*If you would like to join the INC,  
fill in the form below and return to:  
Irish National Congress, PO Box 2814, Dublin*

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**MEMBERSHIP FEE £5 WAGED/£3 UNWAGED**

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

