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**Title:** Letter circulated from Clann na Saoirse to all members of the Fianna Fáil parliamentary party, condemning remarks made by Minister for Education Brian Lenihan in an interview with the *Daily Telegraph* on the independence movements in Scotland and Wales.

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CLANN NA SAOIRSE.  
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92, Upper Dorset Street, Dublin 1.

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Gúthán: 335247.

27th June, 1968.

A Chara,

*I would like to suggest that the resignation should not be announced*

*Japca*

The National Executive of Clann na Saoirse, meeting in Dublin on 26th June 1968, decided, after careful consideration, to request all Dáil Deputies who are members of the Fianna Fáil Parliamentary Party to call for the resignation of Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., as Minister for Education and member of the Government for the following reasons:-

That Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Education, in a reported interview with the English newspaper "Daily Telegraph," associated himself with the Prime Minister and Civil Defence Chief of the Six Counties (Northern Ireland), Capt. Terence O'Neill and Sir Cecil Bateman respectively, in advising the Scottish and Welsh people to retain their links with England. This interference in Scottish and Welsh affairs at a time when the long struggle for independence in these countries is at a critical stage is open to the interpretation that Irish Government policy is to act as an ally of England in hindering the attainment of independence by Scotland and Wales. Such an impression would be disastrous for future good relations between the Irish Republic and the other Celtic countries who have always looked for inspiration and leadership from Ireland in this matter.

The Minister, in his advice to Scotland and Wales on the desirability of independence, referred to the issue as being between material benefits and emotional attractions, (presumably meaning patriotism), and indicated his preference for the former, which surely showed that he was out of step with Irish traditions and Christian principles. It is fortunate for Ireland that sentiments of this nature were not held by the leaders of the country from 1916 to 1921, during the Economic War, or in the Emergency of 1939-45, and particularly that they are not held by the Nationalists in the Six Counties of North East Ulster to-day or any hope of the unification of Ireland under an Irish Government would cease to exist.

Furthermore the English controlled press has made the fullest use, not only of the Minister for Education's damaging statement in this connection, but also his highly controversial remarks regarding modern Irish history in his insinuation that Ireland would have been content with Gladstone's Home Rule Bill containing a limited form of self government, which, in actual fact, would have been similar to an enlarged Stormont subservient to Westminster and lacking all the essentials of nationhood. Surely a strange outlook for a Minister in a Government backed by a political party which owes its existence to the Republican tradition of Tone, the Fenians, the I.R.B., and the men of Easter Week!

In all these circumstances it is essential that the Government dissociate itself from the Minister for Education's views so that the opinions expressed by him will not be taken as Government and Fianna Fáil policy.

We therefore ask your support in retrieving this shameful situation by removing Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., from the office of Minister for Education and member of the Government.

Is mise, le meas,  
*G. Kennedy Scott*  
 (G. Kennedy Scott), Chairman,  
*James Normile*  
 (James Normile), General Secretary.