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*Northern
Ireland*

Telephone: Belfast 23351

CIVIL
RIGHTS *Association*

2 Marquis Street,
Belfast, BT1 1JJ.

22nd December, 1971



Mr. Jack Lynch,
Leinster House,
Dublin.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a copy of a document issued by this Association
at a press conference this week.

Yours faithfully,

Edurna Stewart

Honorary Secretary.

NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATIONA PROGRAMME FOR PEACE THIS CHRISTMAS

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association believe that lasting peace and stability for this Christmas and the years to come, can only come about by the carrying through of the policy outlined below.

We make the following preliminary observations:

1. Peace can only be initiated by the British Government. The Constitutional political and other anomalies of Northern Ireland as a unit of Government are the creation of successive British Governments; they and they alone have the power, if they can find the will to provide for peaceful advance in Northern Ireland.
2. There can be no negotiations in any shape or form with the British Government until they give evidence of sincerity by ACTION on the reform problem in Northern Ireland. The great emphasis on "talks" is dangerous in that it suggests that talks are necessary before anyone knows clearly what needs to be done and whose task it is to do it has been evident for many years, and is more so now in the present crisis.

Therefore the British Government must:-

1. Immediately bring Internment to an end.
2. Withdraw troops from anti-Unionist areas and end immediately the policy of military saturation and repression of these areas.
3. Legislate at Westminster to remove the powers of Internment from Stormont and abolish the Special Powers Act in its entirety.
4. Pass legislation at Westminster to make clear that the British Government does not stand in the way of peaceful constitutional progress towards a united Ireland; this will entail a law to have Proportional Representation in all elections, and legislation that the political rights of all groups including those opposed to the present state, are guaranteed from interference or suppression by anti-democratic laws.

If the British Government moves immediately over the Christmas period to make these demands a reality, they will be responded to. We believe that violence and support for violence will end and the civil disobedience campaign could be wound up.

Following these steps, and only following these steps a Conference should be called, at which representatives of the people's organisations must be present. This conference could concern itself with the political demands. The NICRA would present its further proposals towards abolishing the remaining apparatus of repression, and eliminating sectarianism and discrimination. (see attached policy document).

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PAGE 2

We repeat that should action on this programme be taken immediately, an end to the violence can be ensured and the mass civil disobedience campaign brought to an end.

But we must also state that while remaining opposed to violence, as we have always insisted, the civil disobedience campaign will be escalated, if the answer to our proposals is negative.

We intend to encourage more and more methods of expressing total withdrawal from the State, and we also intend bringing the civil disobedience campaign into the streets in a programme of marches throughout Northern Ireland. This campaign will begin on New Year's Day, with a mass rally and March to Falls Park in Belfast. Routes and dates for other marches will be announced later.
