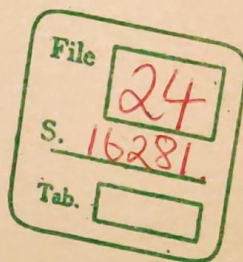


SF REMARKS

ON

"ARMED STRUGGLE"



struggle
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(24)

Sinn Féin remarks on the "Armed Struggle"

extracts from various sources - incl D/ Justice material

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"Who here really believes we can win the war through the ballot box? But will anyone here object, if, with a ballot paper in one hand and the armalite in the other, we take power in Ireland?

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SF Ard Fheis 29 October 1982

the following resolution was passed:-

"Candidates in national and local elections must be unambivalent in support of the armed struggle"

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Extract from The Long War - by Brendan O' Brien

referring to Gerry Adams first address to a SF Ard Fheis (1983) , quoting Adams:-

"I would like to elaborate on Sinn Féin's attitude to armed struggle. Armed struggle is a necessary and morally correct form of resistance in the Six Counties against a government whose presence is rejected by the vast majority of the Irish people" the applause in the packed Mansion House was sustained. " there are those who tell us that the British Government will not be moved by armed struggle. As has been said before, the history of Ireland and of British colonial involvement throughout the world tells us that they will not be moved by anything else. I am glad therefore of the opportunity to pay tribute to the freedom fighters, the men and women volunteers of the IRA"

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extract from Observations of the Irish Government" to the European Commission on Human Rights, in the case of Betty Purcell & others V. Ireland, re: Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.

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The President of Sinn Féin, Mr. Gerry Adams, is on record as supporting the activities of the IRA. In the report in the 30 January 1989 issue of the Irish Times of his address to the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis he is quoted (see Annex 10) as saying:

When I was elected as President of Sinn Féin, in my first Ard Fheis address I elaborated on my attitude to armed struggle as a necessary and morally correct form of resistance in the Six Counties against a Government whose presence is rejected by the vast majority of Irish people. This remains my position.

Mr. Adams is also quoted as saying that he wished to speak "directly to active service volunteers of Oglagh na hEireann" with regard to civilian casualties and went on to say

"You have a massive responsibility. At times the fate of this struggle is in your hands. You have to be careful and careful again ... it is a responsibility of leadership to lead from the front on this crucial issue as much as any other.

Nothing I say should be interpreted as condemnation of the IRA ... The men and women volunteers of Oglagh na hEireann have my continued loyalty.

As I remind them of their responsibilities I salute them as freedom fighters. faced with numerically superior forces and beset by many difficulties, the ability of the IRA to survive and to remain intact in defiance of all that the British Government has done this last 20 long years is a tribute to the

courage, tenacity and resourcefulness of its volunteers"

In an article in the Irish Times of 24 November 1986, reference is made to an interview with Mr. Adams in the Belfast weekly newspaper, the Andersonstown News, in which he is quoted as saying that he would leave Sinn Féin if they were to renounce the IRA campaign. He is also quoted, (see Annex 11) as saying

"My own position on the armed struggle is that it is a necessary form of resistance in the Six-County area

against the British presence and in pursuance of Irish independence - armed struggle becomes unnecessary only when the British presence is removed."

February 1992

extract from SF document "towards a lasting peace in Ireland"

Armed Struggle

Armed struggle has, throughout history and in all parts of the globe, been seen as a legitimate component of people's resistance to foreign oppression. In Ireland, it was armed struggle which created the conditions for the removal of British jurisdiction over the 26 counties and the emergence of a separate (if truncated) Irish state.

The Guardian - 21 June 1993

commenting on remarks by Martin Mc Guinness at Bodinstown Wolfe tone commemoration "Sinn Féin's vice-president Martin Mc Guinness, said yesterday the British establishment had been shaken to its foundations by the IRA's military campaign he said " we come to Bodinstown in good shape, strong, united utterly determined and confident that we are winning the struggle to break Britain's will and finally achieve the freedom of our country. "

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quoting from statements made by Gerry Adams previous day at a "Washington breakfast":-
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armed struggle. Whether they exercise that right or not is a
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