

Committee: Historical Security Council (HSC)

Issue: The Issue of the Northern Ireland Riots

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Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

It is my utmost honour to welcome you all to the 4th annual American College of Greece Model United Nations. My name is Apostolos Krystallis and I am currently attending the German School of Athens (DSA) as an 11th grader. I will be serving as one of the Deputy Presidents of this year's historical security council.

I would firstly like to congratulate you not only on your participation in this 4th ACG-MUN conference, but also on your passion to attend the conference through a computer screen, which multiplies the difficulties usually faced.

The Historical Security Council (HSC) carries out the same function as the Security Council, only it does so with a historical theme. This means that the HSC takes place in the past and not the present, 1969 to be specific. It is already a hard and challenging committee to debate in, but the factors that come in to play due to the historical theme make it even harder. For three days, you must forget anything that has taken place after 1969 and focus only on that year's international dynamics.

Overall, MUN is a great opportunity to further your public speaking and English skills, whilst you also get to know our world from a different perspective: that of politics and international relations. It is quite common for students partaking in a conference going in the first day as their normal selves and emerging as changed individuals. I, therefore, wish to applaud your focus and commitment to MUN once again.

This study guide deals with the long-time rivalry between the people of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom, concerning Northern Ireland. A rivalry that was only "settled" in 1998, with the Good Friday agreement, and which is bound to heat up once again due to the unforeseen effects Brexit is going to have on the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The focus of the study guide is, however, the events that unfolded in August 1969, just as massive protests for equity and equality were breaking out across Northern Ireland. I have linked all sources at the bottom of this document so that you can further your research, since this study guide will by no means provide enough details for you to be completely ready to debate.

It is my understanding that people have been feeling overwhelmed these past few months, just as I know I have, with lockdown and online schools pressing us all. I, therefore, encourage all of you to contact me in case there are any questions/uncertainties via my email address, which is apostoloskk@gmail.com.

Sincerely yours,

Apostolos Krystallis

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Ireland gained its independence from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in 1922 after the war of Independence that spanned the three previous years. The British gave up control of most of Ireland, except for Northern Ireland, a region best known for its loyalty to the Crown.

Among the main characteristics of the Irish is their immense faith to the Catholic Church, which directly contrasts with the mostly Protestant British. This unfortunate difference, coupled with the fact that Northern Ireland is also claimed by the Irish state, sets the stage for internal turmoil of grand proportions.

Sectarian violence broke out between ethnic Irish residents of Northern Ireland and British citizens in the years that followed 1922, peaking in 1969. The police, security services and political agencies responsible for Northern Ireland have been noted to partake in said violence, mostly in favour of the British. The fanaticism that characterizes these clashes renders the issue extremely dangerous and makes dealing with it of the highest importance.

Ethnic Irish and Catholic residents of the region also face immense discrimination in the workplace and daily life. This results not only in a poor quality of life for those people, but also disproportionate numbers of immigration among them, which in turn causes massive discontent and civil unrest. This unrest peaked in August 1969, resulting in deaths and extensive destruction of property.

The topic at hand must be handled with extreme attention to even the smallest details, since it's quite the controversial issue. Different religions and ethnic backgrounds compose an explosive mix that has already caught fire, though it can be extinguished with the correct decisions.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Sectarian

Any actions undertaken with religious or ideological motives. Sectarian Violence is in this case caused by religious differences and racial beliefs.

Ulster

Ulster is one of the four provinces that constitute the island of Ireland. The province is made up of nine regions, six of which make up Northern Ireland, whilst the other 3 are part of modern Ireland. The division of the province in itself is a problem, since it caused families to split up and land to be given away.

Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), Ulster Special Constabulary (USC)

The Royal Ulster Constabulary was the main police force responsible for policing Northern Ireland. It consisted of overwhelmingly more Protestant than Catholic officers, which resulted in obvious and blatant prejudice against Catholic residents of the region. The Ulster Special Constabulary was the reserve police force, which was also accused of police brutality and prejudice not only against Irish nationals, but also among its ranks.

Ulster Loyalists (Unionists)

Protestant residents of Northern Ireland who were in favour of remaining in the Union were known as Ulster Loyalists (loyal to the Crown). Loyalists were divided into several smaller organisations, the best known of which was the Orange Order, which still survives to this day. The RUC, the UPV, the UVF and other organisations regularly propped up to support for loyalists, who were generally coordinating their actions.

Ulster Protestant Volunteers (UPV), Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), Orange Order

The Ulster Protestant Volunteers, the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Orange Order were some of the paramilitary organisations loyal to the Ulster Loyalists/unionists. They undertook terrorism campaigns and sought to suppress any Irish nationalist and/or Catholic organisation operating in Northern Ireland.

Irish Republican Army (IRA)

The Irish Republican Army, also known as the anti-treatyites, not to be confused with the original IRA of 1919-1921, was a guerrilla fighting force. Its members were known for their discontent with the 1921 peace treaty and fought against British rule of Northern Ireland.

Irish Republicanism (Irish Nationalism)

Irish republicanism and nationalism call for uniting Ireland under the banner of a republic. People choosing to subscribe to that belief are called Irish Republicans/nationalists, not to be confused with the American Political Party.

NICRA

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association was an organisation dealing with the advancement of Irish nationals' civil rights in British-held Ulster. The organisation was formed in 1967 and undertook major campaigns in the coming years.

Sinn Féin

Sinn Féin is the main Irish Republican party, present throughout the Irish Republic's history

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Irish Independence Movement

Easter Rising

The "Home Rule" (Ireland to be ruled as a free state independent from the United Kingdom) movement had been quite popular among the Irish public and politicians throughout the 19th century, eventually culminating in an inevitable uprising, known today as the Easter Rising of 1916. The Easter Rising was partially supported by the German Empire, which saw an Irish revolution in Great Britain's backyard to be of great Strategic Importance, since it would disrupt the British war effort on the Western Front and, if successful, spawn a German ally near Britain. To that effect, Germany supplied the rebels with weapons, ammunition and explosives. The revolution was headed by 16 officers from the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), a nationalist organisation. Among their main demands were requests for the Irish Parliament to be re-established and British Influence on local politics to be halted. In the end, the revolution failed spectacularly due to inadequate preparation undertaken by the rebels, but also a lack of arms and strategic knowledge. All 16 officers were publicly executed in a move that caused massive outrage.

Irish War of Independence

Public support for Irish Independence climaxed after the failed Easter Rising, which expectedly led to another uprising, which this time broke out in 1919. The conflict lasted two years and was fought mainly by the IRA, which had mastered guerrilla warfare practices and was costing the British quite a bit. British High-

Command in Ireland, also known as "The Castle", after their HQ location in Dublin Castle, deployed massive numbers of troops to combat the revolution, which coupled with some police forces already present in Ireland formed a force to be reckoned with.

As was also proven in later conflicts, the manoeuvrable and quick guerrilla forces of the IRA constantly outmanoeuvred the British, resulting in a war of attrition which the British Government sought to put an end to, finding itself in a terrible financial situation due to the Great War, which had just ended a couple of months earlier. Immense public pressure (even the King let his dissatisfaction known) was also mounting, seeing as British forces followed a brutal reprisal policy which called for entire towns to be burned, in case any rebellious activity was suspected to be undertaken by their populace. A ceasefire agreement was therefore reached in July 1921.

Negotiations started immediately, and resulted in a peace treaty in December of 1921, which granted independence to Ireland, but also allowed Northern Ireland to decide whether they wanted to remain in the Union or secede and join Ireland. The local Unionist Government proceeded to opt-out of joining greater Ireland, and thus the Irish



Picture 1: Signing of the Anglo-Irish treaty

Boundary Commission was formed, to agree to the appropriate division of territory between Ireland and Northern Ireland. The treaty would come into effect in exactly a year, on December 6th, 1922. The so-called Anglo-Irish treaty was ratified on the day it came into effect by the Southern Irish Parliament, the Irish lower House and both chambers of the British Parliament, thus giving it complete legitimacy. With the stroke of a pen, the Free Irish State was born and Northern Ireland was detached from Greater Ireland.

Irish Boundary Commission

The Irish Boundary Commission consisted of representatives from the newly founded Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. The Treaty had already designated some borders for the two neighbouring regions, but Irish Nationalists were quite unhappy with the division of Land, seeing as territory that belonged to Northern Ireland incorporated areas with a majority nationalist catholic population. The commission did not give in to any public demands and suggested

relatively small land transfers, resulting in protests erupting from both nationalist Irish and Unionist Northern British people. Wishing to suppress any protests and riots, the commission ruled that the borders drawn by the treaty were acceptable and fixed them permanently. This decision was met by all three representatives from the three belligerent entities and these borders remain intact thus far.

IRA split and Civil War

The ratification of the treaty brought an end to the conflict, not the movement of Irish independence though. The concept of Irish Unification was gathering traction, and a large portion of the Irish population was unhappy with the treaty. Nowhere was this felt stronger but in the IRA, which had now become the nation's official army. Elements of the IRA unhappy with the treaty (the so-called anti-treatyites) split off and formed their own force, which continued under the name IRA. The rest of the original army which remained loyal to the Irish Government was renamed the "Free State Force" or "National Army". The IRA fought a relatively restrained Civil War against the National Army, in which they were defeated not only militarily, but also politically with the election of a pro-treaty government. The IRA continued conducting soft guerrilla warfare aiming to dispose of the British in Northern Ireland and install a Socialist Government in Ireland from 1923 until 1956 when the Border Campaign started.

Northern Ireland 1922 – 1956

Just the next day after the free state of Ireland was formed, on December 7th, the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, James Craig, delivered an Address to King George V, with which he informed of the parliament's decision to opt-out of merging with Ireland, remaining instead loyal to Great Britain. In the years that followed, Catholics, who made up almost 1/3 of Northern Ireland's population, were increasingly discriminated against in the public sector and public life. Areas with a majority of Irish with nationalistic tendencies populations were merged with areas rich in Catholic populations to undermine the vote. Unionist areas were split into smaller voting districts so that it seemed that an overwhelmingly bigger part of Northern Irish society wished to remain in the United Kingdom. Gerrymandering practices like these, coupled with a ban on nationalist political movements and organisations deprived Catholics and Nationalists of political representation. The ban on republican political organisations, together with the 2/3 of the population subscribing to Unionist beliefs meant that Northern Ireland was run as a one-party state for more than 45 years, under the Ulster Unionist Party.

Discrimination in the workplace in the public domain meant that good job opportunities were far and few between, which caused many Republicans to move out of Northern Ireland and into the Republic of Ireland. The police forces were quite biased against ethnic Irish and Catholic citizens, with the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Ulster



Picture 2: RUC armoured car in Belfast after the 1935 Orange Order incident

Special Constabulary (the RUC's reserve force) consisting of overwhelmingly Protestant unionist officers. Finally, Unionist paramilitary organisations like the UPV, UVF and the Orange Order were regularly terrorising Republicans and displaying loyalist strength at every chance. Republicans did little to react to these challenges, since every action could easily prove counterproductive and put them in worse places. The IRA undertook relatively few actions, albeit some sporadic attacks were present. Specifically, an Orange Order parade in 1935 went through a Catholic Neighbourhood in Belfast, instead of through the city centre, which resulted in violence between residents and members of the parade, as a result of which 9 people were killed. Apart from that and WWII, which saw the Luftwaffe bomb the port of Belfast known for its significant maritime significance, the 44 years between the establishment of Northern Ireland and the start of the border campaign saw a lull in the fighting between loyalists and nationalists.

The Border Campaign

IRA rearmament

The Irish Republican Army was, by the early years of the 50s, gearing up to launch a new guerrilla campaign, larger than anyone thus far. For the rebels to meet their goals they needed more and better trained manpower as well as modern equipment. Whilst a new generation of Irishmen, frustrated by their compatriot's treatment in Northern Ireland, joined the IRA, a severe lack of equipment hampered their efforts to install a new, egalitarian governmental system in Northern Ireland. Raids on various military bases around the United Kingdom were therefore organised to capture as much weaponry and explosives as possible. It was deemed that enough equipment had been seized after a year of such raids. Thus, the IRA was, by 1955, ready to launch a new terror campaign into Northern Ireland, aiming to persuade the government to change its stance.

IRA split and 1955 general election

The IRA army council, which served as the organisation's high command, was planning the campaign meticulously, to prevent civilian casualties to the fullest extent possible. Various smaller groups within the IRA were starting to show signs of impatience and anger at the fact that no attacks were carried out, with some of them deciding to take action on their own. These smaller groups carried out sporadic, largely unsuccessful attacks throughout 1955 and 1956, causing the IRA army council to order the campaign to be carried out prematurely in December 1956, fearing that holding back the eager rebels would cause further fragmentation in the organisation. The army council's decision was also motivated by the results of the 1955 general elections, which saw the Republican party, Sinn Féin, win several seats within Northern Ireland. Sinn Féin was dominated by the IRA, who saw the party as their organisation's political wing. The result proved that republicanism was on the rise and that republicans of Northern Ireland.

Attacks and reprisals 1956-1961

The campaign lasted 5 years, between 1956 and 1961. Bombings and attacks were carried out across Northern Ireland, mostly focused on RUC and USC barracks and infrastructure. In the end, over 370 attacks were recorded, with impressively low casualty rates for the guerrillas, but also for the Unionists. The British immediately mounted harsh resistance, which bore fruit early, on January 1st, after an IRA attack directed at the wrong building was intercepted and halted. The 14 rebels conducting the attack were chased back over Irish borders throughout the night by RUC and army personnel. Many of the attackers were injured, two of them fatally so. Their burials were regarded as grand events in the Republic of Ireland, with over 50,000 people attending. Northern Irish authorities responded by carrying out home raids and interning suspected republicans without trial, which was very much the exact opposite of what the IRA sought to achieve. Republicans across Northern Ireland were greatly dissuaded by the state's response, which meant that the IRA found virtually no support in Ulster. Despite lacking Republican support, the rest of 1957 passed with moderate success for the IRA, drawing however to a close with its worst loss of life, after an attempted bombing in December ended with the bomb setting off prematurely and the four rebels who were planting it dying. The following years saw action dropping off, partly because of lack of support, partly because of fear of reprisals, eventually officially over in February 1962, when the secretary of the IRA issued a statement admitting to an overall failure of the campaign to meet its goals and criticising the Irish people for not supporting the fighting.

Unpopularity within the Republic of Ireland

The campaign did not only lack support from Northern Republicans, but also the Republic of Ireland as well. Irish prime minister (also called Taoiseach) John

Costello, fearing that the IRA's activities might cause diplomatic havoc between the UK and Ireland, took some strong measures to punish republican supporters all across Ireland. Using an emergency political act in July 1957, he ordered a massive wave of arrests to take place, which resulted in the IRA losing its leadership, as most of the army council was arrested. The political affiliates of the organisation in the Republic of Ireland, Clann na Poblachta, seized supporting the current government, which meant that the IRA also lost its remaining political support in Ireland. People were intimidated, exactly as had happened on the other side of the border in Northern Ireland, and withdrew their support for the IRA and its activities. Thus, the campaign lost its initial momentum and slowly came to a stop in 1962.

The aftermath of the Border Campaign

All in all, the campaign was considered to be a failure not only because of its lack of support, but also because of wrong aims in the first place. Bombing RUC and British Army infrastructure did nothing to help out the average Republican in Northern Ireland, who suffered under prejudice in almost all parts of social life.



Picture 3: Lisnaskea RUC Barracks after an attack in December 1956

Furthermore, the interventions without trial carried out both in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland intimidated many into withdrawing any support left for the IRA. Finally, the terror campaign served to prove to the Unionists that republicanism was a violent movement that should in no way be allowed to grow in Northern Ireland.

The Civil Rights Campaign

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association was formed in January 1967, pursuing equal political representation and treatment by the police for both Protestants and Catholics, Loyalists and Republicans. They also requested the end of discrimination in the workplace, both in the public and the private sectors. The first year passed by relatively fruitlessly, mainly because of the toned-down action the NICRA undertook, like for example publishing articles and open letters. In August 1968, it was proposed that a march should take place, just as had happened the past decade in the USA. The leaders of the organisation hesitantly accepted said proposal, and a march was planned to take place on the 24th of August between the towns of Coalisland and Dungannon.

Violence broke out as soon as the protestors left Coalisland heading for Dungannon. Protestant loyalists quickly organised counter-protests at the march's end in Dungannon and the RUC were called in to halt the marchers. Since this was the first march for civil rights under the NICRA, the organisation was lousy and the organisers soon called off the protest, not wishing to clash with the police and/or loyalists. Not all protestors adhered though and many of them lied down on the road and sang revolutionary and traditional Irish songs until midnight.

A protest organised by another organisation, on the 5th October 1968, would take place in the Loyalist stronghold of Londonderry (aka Derry). The march was disallowed by the Minister for home affairs of Northern Ireland, William Craig, but the protest was scheduled to go ahead anyway. The RUC attempted to break up the protesters by trapping



Picture 4: Dungannon marchers

between two lines of officers, one ahead and one behind them. The marchers, unable to choose the direction in which they were shoved, ended up in a district of the town called Bogside, where the residents were mostly catholic republicans. The police clashed with many of these residents violently, beating several of them up badly. Pictures of beaten-up residents and marchers after the clash were broadcasted globally, granting the republicans a major victory.

Most of the further marches and protests were met with club-wielding officers of the RUC and angered loyalist militia, ending up in injuries and general chaos. The wider public was appalled by the brutality of the situation, forcing change to take place at a quicker -but not quick enough- pace.

August 1969 Riots

Six bomb attacks took place between April and May 1969. They were all carried out by the UVF and the UPV, who attempted to draw the IRA into the fight by laying the blame of the attacks on them. Some reforms were introduced after this was discovered, since political tensions had reached dangerous levels. Despite the reforms, marches and protests kept being organised, many of them erupting in violence between loyalists' militias, who were either supported by or supporting the RUC, and the protestors. The first minister of Northern Ireland resigned in protest against the marches, which only escalated the situation further.

Battle of Bogside

A loyalist organisation called the "Apprentice Boys of Derry" started a protest march against the NICRA on August 12, 1969. They elected to pass through the majorly catholic district Bogside, where brutal clashes had erupted less than a year before. Residents of Derry



Picture 5: Republican student during the Battle of Bogside

began tossing stones at the loyalists. The RUC attempted to beat the Catholics back into Bogside, supported by loyalist militias who broke windows and burned homes in the district. Thousands of Catholics mobilised to defend their homes with stones, Molotov cocktails, road barricades and were even calling for help from Ireland. The RUC used especially aggressive tear gas to force the Republicans to stand down, which only succeeded briefly. The NICRA supported protests across Northern Ireland, to ease the pressure on Bogside.

Battle of Belfast

Republicans in Belfast were heavily outnumbered and encircled by loyalists and began fearing a potential pogrom, just as had happened in Derry some hours earlier. Nationalists occupied buildings across the city and clashed with angry mobs of loyalists, militias and the RUC. Armoured cars with heavy machine guns were deployed on the 13th, in response to which the Republicans called in the IRA and started using grenades and Molotov Cocktails. Machine gun fire penetrated the thin walls of many buildings, wounding dozens and killing a nine-year-old. In another district, attempting to quell an IRA pocket of resistance, the armoured cars killed two civilians and, whilst IRA return fire killed an officer. The 14th found loyalists burning catholic ghettos and business, whilst fighting took place openly on the streets. Loyalist and Catholic snipers took cover in ruined buildings and shot at anyone they perceived to be the enemy. More IRA troops found their way into the city, spreading death and destruction along the way. The British Army was called in on the 15th, but the response was delayed by logistical problems, whilst RUC officers withdrew, believing that the army was to substitute them shortly. Thus, loyalist militias roamed freely across Belfast and the whole of Northern Ireland, clashing with IRA fighters and armed civilians. Two young Catholics and an IRA member were killed by loyalist snipers. The army was finally

deployed on the evening of the 15th and fighting started dying down, ending on the 16th.

Aftermath

Overall, 8 people were killed and hundreds injured across Northern Ireland, in an entirely avoidable clash. The Republic of Ireland was quick to denounce the violence and set up field hospitals along the border, whilst the



Picture 6: British Army personnel in Belfast

British public called for reforms in Northern Ireland immediately. British-Irish relations suffered a great blow. Most of all, Catholic and Protestant residents of Belfast and Derry started living in mistrust of each other, and the government was perceived to be openly biased against Catholics after the RUC cooperated with militias and the mob to raid Catholic homes and districts. Many Catholics immigrated over to the Republic of Ireland after their homes were destroyed and burned to the ground.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Ireland

The Irish Republic played a key role in the events that unfolded in August 1969 in Northern Ireland. Their support of Catholics and denouncing of violence gave Catholics a new hope for equality, many of them returning to Ireland after their homes were wrecked.

The United Kingdom

The UK, of which Northern Ireland is a part, mismanaged the protests and miscalculated their political movements, resulting in the rioting that took place. The RUC and its reserve force are extremely biased and should be reformed, at the very least. Reforms are necessary in the political life of Northern Ireland in general.

Irish Republican Army

The IRA actively partook in and instigated the riots, causing widespread damage and deaths. Their actions during the border campaign and the riots are regrettable and condemnable.

Royal Ulster Constabulary and Ulster Special Constabulary

The RUC and the ULC carry a big part of the blame after their heavily biased officers failed terribly at peacekeeping the NICRA protests. Their history taken into account, it is obvious that their actions during the Rioting were to be expected and managed better, not only by the command of the force, but also by the government.

British Army

The British Army was deployed during the last days of the confrontation and managed to restore some order to Northern Ireland. Its mission is to keep peace and order among the warring factions and to do so with the utmost level of neutrality and professionalism.

Ulster Protestant Volunteers, Ulster Volunteer Force and Orange Order

Loyalist organisations such as the Orange order the UVF and the UPV partook in violent clashes against Catholic and Republican minorities, collaborating with the RUC for them to scare away ethnic Irish residents of Northern Ireland.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1916	Easter Rising, exponential rise of anti-British sentiment in Ireland
December 6 th ,1922	Establishment of the Republic of Ireland and the province of Northern Ireland
1955	UK General Elections trigger rapid growth of Sinn Fein popularity
1956-1961	IRA Border Campaign ravages over Northern Ireland, resulting in IRA unpopularity with all parties
August 24 th ,1968	The first Civil Rights march is carried out
October 5 th ,1968	Derry march is halted by RUC officers, descends into sectarian violence
April-May 1969	Loyalist militias carry out bomb attacks designed to entangle the IRA into violence

12 th -16 th August 1969	NICRA marchers and Loyalist counter protestors clash in Derry, causing brutal fighting to break out across Northern Ireland. 8 people lose their lives, immense property damage is sustained and the British Army are called in
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RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

The August 1969 events have yet to be addressed by the international committee. No relevant treaties or resolutions have consequently been drafted or implemented. The UK has signed multiple treaties prohibiting and denouncing situations just like the ones taking place in Northern Ireland for the past 4 decades. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was signed in 1968 and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Racial Discrimination in 1966, which means that technically violations of these treaties were committed, even after their signing.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Given the governmental support the loyalists of Northern Ireland have enjoyed, it is safe to say that not much in the way of a solution to the issue has been attempted. Only PM Terence O’Neill attempted to introduce political and policing reforms in 1968, though his plans were halted by elections, in which he lost in a landslide, since the majority of his constituents disapproved of his policy of bridging the gap between Loyalists and Republicans. His defeat meant that the problem kept spinning out of control, with devastating consequences. Her Majesty’s Government in London has condemned the inequality between Republicans and Loyalists and urged the Northern Irish people and government to find a peaceful solution. The Government’s stance was confirmed by the deployment of the army to help keep the peace.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Possible solutions can be divided into two potential categories: the short-term solutions and the long-term ones. Preventing any further violence and clashes is the biggest priority, since the establishment of peace is needed before any further action is considered.

Establishing immediate peace and order

In order to ensure the halting of violence and establishment of peace, it is important to consider all available tools. Only the British Army is currently deployed on-scene,

and it must be used to its greatest peacekeeping effect. Armed patrols and curfews will be necessary for some time, until the situation cools down. Further forces can be deployed by the UN, preferably some from the republic of Ireland, in order to represent the ethnic Irish element present in Ulster.

Reforming and Reconstructing Northern Ireland

Recognising the issues that have plagued the ethnic Irish population living in Northern Ireland, it is important to ensure a compromise, a societal new deal, if you will, which will lead to equality of opportunity between people of all religions and backgrounds. To that effect, reforms must be made in the political landscape, allowing all citizens to equally vote and be voted for. Furthermore, all gerrymandering practices must be dropped and new voting districts drawn up. New districts must be drawn up based on their population. It is of critical importance that no racial/ religious criteria are considered, since this would only result in further tampering of elections and votes.

Any and all paramilitary groups must be disarmed, since they only serve to promote and cause violence. It is however also essential for Ethnic Irish citizens to recognise that a referendum regarding the unification of Northern Ireland with the UK has been carried out and that its result must be respected. The disarmament of paramilitary groups must be supervised by a third party, preferably one organised and headed by UN officials, ensuring that both sides have indeed given up their violent ambitions.

Policing reforms are of the greatest importance. The RUC and its reserve force must be abolished and replaced by a modern, unbiased force, conscious in regards to its mission. The importance of this issue cannot be overstated, and the creation of new police force must be supervised and headed by a dedicated UN committee, which could also be responsible for bi-monthly reports to the Security Council regarding the progress of its mission.

Both the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic share part of the responsibility for the riots, and must now work together, as they did back in 1924 whilst working on the border. Both nations are urged to concentrate their efforts on bettering their relations and establishing a friendly spirit of cooperation, as well as on allowing Northern Irish citizens to enjoy greater economic freedom, ensuring the flourishing of the interstate relations. Easing border security and promoting travel between Ireland and Northern Ireland are tried and tested methods to achieve this result.

Finally, we must not exclude the possibility of Northern Ireland becoming sovereign state or to be unified with either the UK or Ireland. A new, free and fair referendum must see to this issue. Naturally, this referendum can only take place if accepted by the governments of both the UK and the Irish Republic, but also the local Northern

Irish government. All 3 stakeholders must accept the result for it to gain legitimate respect and to be implemented correctly.

The smooth implementation of these measures could help ease tensions and allow for the gradual establishment of friendly relations between Republicans and loyalists, Protestants and Catholics, British and Irish citizens.

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