

BRITISH TROOPS IN DERRY

THIS IS A GREAT DEFEAT FOR THE UNIONIST GOVERNMENT. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER IT IS A VICTORY FOR US. A GOVERNMENT WHICH CAN ONLY BE MAINTAINED BY THE USE OF ARMED TROOPS IS NO LONGER A LEGAL GOVERNMENT. WHAT WE HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE IS WHETHER WESTMINSTER IS PREPARED TO ADMIT THIS. FOR THE MOMENT THE FIRST PRIORITY IS THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE OF DERRY. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NO-ONE SHOULD ATTACK THE SOLDIERS. IN THE PRESENT STATE OF TENSION IT COULD LEAD TO A BLOODBATH. DO NOT LISTEN TO RUMOURS.

At the moment the situation is fluid. It is clear that the official news reports and comments are not reliable. These are the FACTS as we know them:

300 SOLDIERS of the Prince of Wales Regiment moved into the streets of Derry at about 5p.m. today.

They are under the command of the army C.O. At the moment they are stationed at: the end of the bridge, Guildhall Square, Waterloo Place, bottom of Great James's Street; they are armed with sub-machine guns and CS anti riot gas. There is a machine gun nest on the Ulster Bank building directed at William Street. Barbed wire barricades have been erected at most of these points.

MEETING WITH THEIR C.O.

The C.O. has seen a deputation and told them that the army is waiting for reinforcements, that the police have been withdrawn, the specials have been disarmed. There are no orders for the army to enter the area.

THE SOUTH

The Irish Army has announced that troops are being moved to the border to guarantee the field hospitals.

LONDON

The British Home Office has said that the troops were brought in at the request of the Inspector General of the R.U.C. They make it clear that the army's presence is a short time operation to restore law and order. When this is achieved they will be withdrawn. The British Govt. has also reaffirmed its support for the Government of Ireland Act 1949 and said that there can be no reconsideration of the constitutional position unless this is approved by a majority of the people in both parts of the country.

IMPORTANT

The presence of the troops solves nothing. We must not be fooled by anyone into taking down the barricades. WE DO NOT GO BACK TO SQUARE ONE.

It is good that we have a rest from fighting, but at least a token force must man the barricades tonight. Others must hold themselves ready to come out if necessary. We do not know what is going to happen.

The barricades must only come down on our terms. The first thing we must demand is the release of all prisoners taken over the past four days and a clear and unequivocal statement that there will be no prosecutions. It would be disastrous tactics for anyone to go out with the idea of attacking the troops. Anyone setting out on such a venture should be stopped. But, we stress again WE DEFEND OUR AREA AGAINST ANYONE.