

The Troubles

1972

*Westwood
MUNC VII*



Ireland 1972
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Delegates,

Since WestwoodMUNCVII is being run as an entirely crisis-based conference, it is crucial for newcomers to be familiar with the rules of procedure, as it does diverge from some of the more traditional general assembly procedures. Please see below for a quick rundown of most of the rules we will be following for the duration of the conference:

I. Overview:

Crisis committees are run differently from “normal” Model UN committees. Because they run at a very fast pace, each committee is run in a series of moderated caucus, designed to maintain a rapid flow of debate, helping delegates adjust to crisis updates and such. The rest of the committee follows normal parliamentary procedure with a few notable exceptions.

II. Format:

As previously stated, the format of debate differs slightly from a general assembly in a crisis simulation. There is no speakers list and therefore, the default method of debate is the moderated caucus. Chairs will require the first motion being a round robin so as to ascertain the positions of others in the committee. This will serve as a good jumping off point to see who delegates are most likely to work with and who is most likely to get in the way of achieving their goals. After that, delegates will be able to motion for the “traditional” (un)moderated caucuses, round robins, straw polls, voting procedure, etc. In order to make any of these motions, a delegate must be recognized by the chair after raising their placards. Points and motions may be made between speakers, though note

that right of replies are rarely granted and are only allowed when serious insult to national or personal integrity has occurred.

III. Public Directives:

Delegates do not work to pass resolutions. Rather, they will pass a series of directives that are binding, take effect immediately and can potentially alter the course of events for the entire crisis simulation. A directive is a specific action that the committee wishes to take. Unlike resolutions, directives do not include preambulatory clauses; instead, delegates will directly state specific orders, similar to operative clauses, following the title and the sponsors and signatories list.

IV. Personal Directives:

Additionally, individual members of the committee may pass personal directives depending on their particular position, potentially contributing to individual crisis arcs. These directives can range from allocating funds for renewable energy to carrying out assassinations. These actions do not need to be passed by the committee at large and their effectiveness is determined by their feasibility and the crisis staff. It is suggested that delegates refrain from sharing what personal directives they are planning as they should be used to achieve personal objectives that might not always align with the interests of the committee as a whole. These directives are sent to the crisis backroom, who determines whether or not the directive will change the course of the committee.

V. Communication:

Communication is an essential part of any crisis simulation, and is especially a vital tool when delegates are required to respond to crisis updates. At the beginning of the conference, delegates will be provided with a pen and a pad of paper. They may use the paper to write notes to each other, write up directives, or organize thoughts. Regarding note passing: delegates may pass notes to each other during committee while other members are speaking, but this privilege may be revoked by the chair should it distract from the debate. Specifics about note passing will be addressed at the beginning of the first committee session by the chair. Technology, like computers and cell phones, are not allowed during debate.

VI. Conference Prep:

In order to prepare for this conference, it is *strongly* recommended that each delegate consolidate their thoughts and strategy by writing a position paper. Delegates that do not submit a paper by the deadline below will not be eligible for awards. Position papers should:

- Be 1-2 pages in length single spaced, 12 point font
- Describe your role's position and what they contribute to the issue
- Address specific questions from the Background Guide that are relevant to your role
- Outline your role's likely optimal resolution and steps you need to take to achieve it
- MLA or Chicago style citations along with a Works Cited or Bibliography

Please email your position paper to your chairs no later than ***11:59 pm on Sunday, April 21st*** so that they have adequate time to read them. To qualify for any awards you must submit a

position paper by emailing it to 24jdullea@wpsstudents.org or 25bmurphy@wpsstudents.org.

Once again, please feel free to email your chairs or crisis director with any questions you may have regarding conference policies or procedures.

Best,

WestwoodMUNCVII Staff

Dear Delegates,

My name is Jack Dullea and I am thrilled to be chairing The Troubles: 1972. I'm currently a senior at WHS, and I've been involved in Model UN at our school since sophomore year. I've also enjoyed participating in football, rugby, track, chorus, and theater. I started our school's Irish Cultural Club, as I'm really interested in Irish history and culture.

During this committee, I'm looking forward to hearing creative proposals for solving the sectarian violence that enveloped Northern Ireland during the late 20th Century. Nations around the world are still reconciling with their complicated colonial pasts, and this reality is relevant in modern day Ireland. Catholics and Protestants often feel alienated from one another, and many people across the island still long for a single, unified nation. As a result, I will ask delegates to consider the gravity of this topic and the many individuals who have a personal relationship with the conflict, refraining from harmful or discriminatory language. We want to ensure that this committee is a fun and rewarding experience for everyone.

I love Model UN because of the extensive research, public speaking, and interpersonal skills it develops. As a result, I cannot wait to see how you all show an advanced understanding of the content, a mastery of spoken rhetoric, and an open-minded approach to collaboration. Good luck with preparing, and feel free to email me at 24jdullea@wpsstudents.org with any questions or to submit your position paper. Reminder for all delegates: position papers are due by Sunday, April 21st at 11:59 pm in order to be eligible for awards.

Best,

Jack Dullea

Dear Delegates,

My name is Braedan Murphy, and I am elated to be co-chairing the Troubles Committee this year. I am a junior at Westwood High School and I have participated in Model UN since my sophomore year. Outside of MUN, I enjoy running in cross country, skiing, and playing Quizbowl packets in the Trivia Club. Researching the Troubles has been incredibly rewarding and I cannot wait to see how this committee will turn out.

There is a reason why this issue persisted for thirty years: it is complicated. Centuries of colonization, religious divisions, and violence have preceded this era, so it will certainly be important to understand the context and perspectives of each sect. Moreover, the regional groupings by which the positions are listed are hardly clear-cut boundaries as nuanced positions regarding human rights and political autonomy encompass a wide range of attitudes.

Most important, however, is that every delegate enjoys this committee. Jack and I welcome exciting debate, and whether Stormont is preserved or a unified Ireland emerges, I hope everyone has a lively and memorable experience. Please feel free to reach out to me at 25bmurphy@wpsstudents.org with any questions or position papers. I eagerly await WestwoodMUNC VII, I look forward to seeing you all on April 27th.

Sincerely,

Braedan Murphy

Committee Overview

The history of Irish-British relations is long, complex, and bitter, dating back to the era of Oliver Cromwell's rule over England. The relationship between Great Britain and Ireland has been connected to many of the difficulties that have plagued the Emerald Isle, from widespread poverty to famine. In the 20th century, agitation against British rule grew significantly. While the Republic of Ireland eventually emerged as an independent state in 1949, six of the island's counties remained part of Great Britain as Northern Ireland, or Ulster. Many in both the Republic and Northern Ireland were unhappy with the political situation of the North. Growing sympathy for Republican and nationalist causes contributed to division and dissatisfaction: by the 1960s, frequent violent clashes between Irish-identifying Catholics and British-identifying Protestants erupted throughout Northern Ireland. Despite efforts by government officials and activists alike to lift Catholics up from their status as second-class citizens, conflict persisted into the 1970s, eventually leading to a policy of internment and the disposal of British troops onto the isle. Considering that in 2024 Northern Ireland elected a nationalist as First Minister, the complexities of the region's politics have continued to develop to the present day. This committee will take place in 1972, the most violent year of the conflict. Beginning with Bloody Sunday, numerous shootings and bombings plagued Northern Ireland throughout the year. As a result, delegates from the British, Northern Irish, and Irish governments will be tasked with ending the torrent of extremist violence in Ulster while simultaneously advancing their political causes. Nationalists and unionists in Northern Ireland will be forced to compromise in order to end paramilitary action within each group.

The Rise of Irish Nationalism

Interest in nationalism on the island can be traced back to the Easter Rising of 1916, an uprising in Ireland. In the midst of World War I, a group of Irish republicans staged an insurrection against the British government, but the uprising was unsuccessful in removing the British government's power in Ireland. Although it had limited support in the beginning, the British government's decision to execute the leaders of the Easter Rising resulted in a swell of nationalist support. From 1919-1921, the Irish War of Independence brought numerous clashes between the Irish Republican Army, a militant nationalist force, and the British Military. In 1921, the twenty-six county Irish Free State was established, with six counties on the island still a part of Great Britain. From the beginning, division in Northern Ireland was apparent. The Protestant loyalists, descendants of old British landowners in the North, felt a deep connection to their British identity. Contrastingly, the minority of Catholics, many of whom longed to share in the new Southern Irish identity, were unhappy with the continuation of British rule. The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 had quelled the initial conflict, but it had not yet addressed the underlying division present in Northern Ireland.

20th Century Ulster

The new government established in Northern Ireland made efforts to suppress Catholic influence, with the state's parliament a permanent Unionist majority. Catholics in the North were denied civil rights, with a Protestant police force in the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), high Catholic unemployment, and limited housing for Catholics.¹ With Catholics unable to influence the Northern Irish government at Stormont, many became disillusioned with government and

¹ McKittrick, David, and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: New Amsterdam Books, 2002, 11-18.

few strides were made for civil rights. In 1949, Ireland officially became independent from the Commonwealth as the Republic of Ireland, further complicating Northern Ireland's position. As Catholic dissatisfaction and Stormont dependence on England grew, Westminster officials became annoyed and frustrated with the issue.

1960s Ireland & Civil Rights

The 1960s brought major changes and progress in Catholic-Protestant relations. Northern Ireland's PM Captain Terence O'Neill made efforts to modernize and industrialize the region, allowing it to slowly catch up to other European nations.² However, O'Neil realized that Ulster would have to modernize its social policy as well. He began making concessions to disillusioned Catholic citizens and built a closer relationship with Ireland, but it was in vain.³ Nationalists believed he was not doing enough, while loyalists believed he was granting Catholics too much. Later in the '60s, uncontrolled, outright violence between the two religious sects and the RUC would break out. In 1968, a left-wing protest led to violent clashes with law enforcement: this brought the world's attention to Ireland, considering influential figures like Gerry Fitt were among those assaulted by the police.⁴ 1969's Battle of the Bogside in Derry was escalated by loyalist marchers' advance into the Catholic neighborhood, with nationalists clashing with RUC officers on the scene.⁵ The 1960s were the first period where political relations went from bad to worse in the North, with outright violence erupting frequently at the end of the decade.

² David McKittrick and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: New Amsterdam Books, 2002, 26-27.

³ J. Wallenfeldt. "the Troubles." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, February 29, 2024.
<https://www.britannica.com/event/The-Troubles-Northern-Ireland-history>.

⁴ David McKittrick and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: New Amsterdam Books, 2002, 41-42.

⁵ David McKittrick and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: New Amsterdam Books, 2002, 54.

British Troops On the Ground

The August 1969 decision to send British troops to Northern Ireland followed in the wake of frequent violent outbursts throughout the year. Initially, Catholics welcomed the troops who replaced the Protestant-dominated RUC. The decision to bring troops to Ulster meant that British officials had decided to become more directly involved in Northern Irish affairs. In response to the events of August 1969, Irish Taoiseach Jack Lynch considered sending troops or arms to Northern nationalists, primarily as a symbolic gesture of support.⁶ Ultimately, he decided to set up field hospitals on the border to provide care to those injured during violent clashes. The Irish government was in a precarious position, as they now had to take some action in preventing violence while simultaneously withholding military commitment to the North.

During 1969, the IRA also found itself in a difficult position, staying mostly quiet amid division within the organization. The IRA split into the leftist, diplomatic Official IRA and the traditional, militant Provisional IRA as a result of conflict inside the nationalist movement⁷. Over the next two years, the IRA would engage in many attacks, often targeting British soldiers in the area.

Internment

In 1971, the Stormont government, with the support of Westminster, arrested hundreds of Northern Irish citizens who were thought to have connections to the Irish Republican Army. The first six months of the officially named “Operation Demetrius” endeavor brought 2,400 arrests,

⁶ David McKittrick and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: New Amsterdam Books, 2002, 58.

⁷ David McKittrick and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: New Amsterdam Books, 2002, 60.

and it was plagued with inefficiency due to outdated intelligence about IRA members.⁸ The arrests were also blatantly partial, with no loyalists arrested over the course of the anti-paramilitary effort.⁹ The failure of the Ulster law enforcement to carry out the order appropriately and the rampant bigotry present in arrest-making enraged the Catholic community, with many violent outbursts between the troops and the IRA.¹⁰

Bloody Sunday

On January 30th, 1972, the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (IRA) organized a protest against internment in Derry, Northern Ireland. RUC officers and soldiers from the British Parachute Regiment were on the scene to ensure that the protests did not become violent. The marchers intended to travel through the Bogside, a Catholic region of the city, but most were redirected by law enforcement. However, a few young protestors went into the Bogside and confronted the Parachute Regiment, antagonizing them with rocks and insults. The soldiers responded with rubber bullets and water cannons. Eventually, after unclear circumstances, 21 soldiers fired 108 rounds, killing 13 people. After the dust had settled, the results were catastrophic for the future of peace in Northern Ireland. The IRA rapidly increased its membership, and many others grew more supportive of its cause. The rest of 1972 was laden with bombings and shootings, many of which motivated by revenge after Bloody Sunday. The ramifications of the tragedy played a decisive role in informing the perspectives of all three governments and the Northern Irish people. The British government faced widespread criticism

⁸ David McKittrick and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: New Amsterdam Books, 2002, 68.

⁹ David McKittrick and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: New Amsterdam Books, 2002, 70.

¹⁰ Ibid.

due to their blatant excessive use of force. The Northern Irish government had to brace for the incoming paramilitary response in the face of decreased British military support. The Republic of Ireland had to shed its role as a bystander and take a firm stance on violence in Ulster, making efforts to support nationalists.

Questions to Consider

1. Should the Northern Irish government continue to operate out of Stormont, or should the UK take on a more aggressive role?
2. How can hostility and discrimination between religious groups be minimized moving forward?
3. Should the Republic of Ireland have a more significant influence on Northern Irish Affairs?
4. How can each government ensure that terrorist and paramilitary groups end their violent campaigns?
5. Should Northern Ireland remain a part of the United Kingdom?

Positions

Northern Ireland Unionists

- Brian Faulkner (Prime Minister):
 - As the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland from 1971 to 1972, Brian Faulkner was a skilled politician with questionable loyalties to the Unionist party and was described as the last chance to preserve the Stormont system. Pragmatic as he was, Faulkner's administration attempted to walk the tightrope of British demands for reform and peace and the growing Protestant demand for increased pressure against Catholic resistance. His controversial policy of internment would serve to further fuel the now omnipresent street fires in Belfast, Derry, and the like.¹¹
- William Craig (Ulster Vanguard):
 - William Craig was the former Home Affairs minister under Terence O'Neill and later a leading figure in the Ulster Vanguard movement, a staunch anti-nationalist group with paramilitary affiliations. Craig voiced some of the more extremist Protestant demands for Stormont in direct opposition to the IRA and represented a more radical branch of Northern Ireland's Unionist sentiments.¹²
- Ian Paisley (Democratic Unionist Party):
 - A protestant priest turned political activist, Ian Paisley's long-standing conservative protest against the Unionist Party's slow reformation in favor of catholic rights has appealed to an ever-growing base since the 1960s. With each step Northern Ireland took towards Catholic integration, Paisley, appealing to

¹¹ McKittrick, David, and David McVea. Making sense of the troubles: The story of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Chicago: New Amsterdam Books, 2002, 65.

¹² Martin, Douglas. "William Craig, Politician in Northern Ireland, Is Dead at 86 (Published 2011)." The New York Times, May 7, 2011. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/07/world/europe/07craig.html>.

Protestant fears, fervently disputed it. Paisley's influence since grew to the extent of forming the Democratic Unionist Party, a conservative sect of the Unionist party, and winning a seat in Stormont in 1970.¹³

- Jack Andrews (Deputy PM):

- Sir John Lawson Ormrod Andrews was born into Ulster's political society, and by the 1960s he had risen through Stormont and contested the position of Prime Minister alongside O'Neill and Faulkner. He would never become the head of state, but Andrews was nevertheless an influential leader during the early years of the Troubles. He was a staunch advocate for an inclusive government, declaring the unionist cause outward-looking rather than sectarian and denouncing Paisley's divisively exclusive protestant unionism. As Deputy Prime Minister under the Faulkner administration, Andrews was a crucial advisor who was instrumental in mediating the tension in Northern Ireland.¹⁴

- John D. Taylor (Minister of State):

- John D. Taylor, an ardent Unionist, was appointed first Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1969 and Minister of State in 1970. Both positions involved Taylor in much of the security issues in Northern Ireland, and in this role, he was a passionate proponent for a stern reprisal against growing instability. Moreover, he was a persistent opponent of the expanding British involvement in security as it began to supersede Stormont's authority.¹⁵

¹³ McKittrick, David, and David McVea. Making sense of the troubles: The story of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Chicago: New Amsterdam Books, 2002, 33.

¹⁴ Dempsy, Paucic, and Shaun Boylan. "Andrews, Sir John Lawson Ormrod ('Jack')." Andrews, Sir John Lawson Ormrod ('Jack') | Dictionary of Irish Biography, October 2009. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/andrews-sir-john-lawson-ormrod-jack-a0162>.

¹⁵ Lynn, Brendan. "Taylor, John." Edited by Martin Melaugh. CAIN, January 19, 2003. <http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/othelem/people/biography/tpeople.htm>.

- Sir Graham Shillington (RUC):
 - With his leadership during the “Battle of Bogside” in 1969, Sir Graham Shillington quickly rose through the ranks of a newly reorganized command structure for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the Northern Irish policing force that dealt with controlling the chaotic state. Shillington would struggle to control the rising deaths and anarchy, attempting to recruit new officers and rearm the force. Between the numerous terrorist and counter-terrorist groups clashing and the increasingly engrossed British Army, Shillington is left in a position of deteriorating command.¹⁶
- Gusty Spence (UVF):
 - While Spence was in jail during 1972, he remained *de jure* head of the Ulster Volunteer Force, a Unionist paramilitary group that served as the loyalist counterpart to the IRA. Spence was a devoted Northern Irish Unionist who believed that any steps toward Catholic equality would further the nationalist cause.¹⁷ A man with significant military experience, Spence helped orchestrate the murder of IRA members and a few random Catholics over the course of the Troubles. As head of the most influential loyalist paramilitary group, Spence has the potential to play a significant role in the continuation or ending of sectarian violence.¹⁸

Northern Ireland Republicans

- John Hume (SDLP):

¹⁶ “Obituary: Sir Graham Shillington.” The Guardian, August 16, 2001. <http://www.theguardian.com/news/2001/aug/16/guardianobituaries>.

¹⁷ McDonald, Henry. 2011. “Gusty Spence obituary | Northern Ireland.” *The Guardian*, September 25, 2011. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2011/sep/25/gusty-spence>.

¹⁸ Maume, Patrick. 2009. “Spence, Gusty (Augustus Andrew).” Dictionary of Irish Biography. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/spence-gusty-augustus-andrew-a9899>.

- John Hume, a moderate Catholic nationalist deeply concerned with human rights and aiming for Irish unity, won his seat in Stormont in 1969. Alongside other reform-minded politicians such as Gerry Fitt, Hume co-founded the Social Democratic and Labour party. With the influx of violence from both the IRA and Stormont, Hume would denounce both parties' actions and call for peaceful negotiations. However, with the introduction of the internment policy Hume and the SDLP would leave Stormont in protest.¹⁹
- Gerry Fitt (SDLP):
 - Gerry Fitt can be best encapsulated by his fiery spirit and unrelenting opinions. A Catholic MP elected in 1966, he was a unique minority in parliament: Fitt sought reform within the Unionist system and with London as an axis point, and he regarded Dublin's involvement in Northern Irish affairs with hostility. He was a hard-pressed critic of Catholic oppression and personally participated in protests, joining John Hume in forming the Social Democratic and Labour Party despite their differing political views. These two frequently disagreed, yet provided a powerfully efficient force for reform within Stormont. Fitt proved to be a volatile opposition to Unionists, but his nuanced position would often put him at odds with Nationalists as well.²⁰
- Cathal Goulding (OIRA Chief of Staff):
 - Goulding holds a longstanding history with the IRA, participating in the early border campaign before being arrested, ultimately allowing him to avoid criticism

¹⁹ Ryder, Chris. "John Hume Obituary." The Guardian, August 3, 2020.
<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/aug/03/john-hume-obituary>.

²⁰ McHardy, Anne. "Obituary: Lord Fitt." The Guardian, August 26, 2005.
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2005/aug/26/obituaries.uk>.

for its ultimate failure. He would subsequently rise through the ranks of the IRA up to Chief of Staff in 1962. Goulding pioneered the novel approach to the IRA's political and social pressures in Northern Ireland in favor of traditional violent measures. However, with the outbreak of violence in 1969, he would be challenged by traditionalist factions in Northern Ireland for his policies to prevent the supply of arms for militant groups and refuse the combative defense of the Catholics during the discord. Goulding's restrained approach would see the removal of traditionalist figures from the Official IRA, subsequently resulting in a schism between the OIRA's approach to political resistance and the Provisional IRA's traditional violent opposition.²¹

- Ruairí Ó Brádaigh (Provisional Sinn Fein President):
 - Ó Brádaigh was a staunch traditionalist IRA member, advocating for continued military opposition to Stormont until the liberation of Northern Ireland. Ó Brádaigh participated in earlier sectarian violence in the 1950s, but with the transition to political objectives and the ultimate schism from 1969-1971, he would become the president of the Provisional Sinn Fein, the political branch of the IRA. He detested Goulding's social movements, instead opting to refuse political negotiations until the PIRA had completely freed Northern Ireland from the control of Britain and permanently declared the dominance of Republicanism throughout Ireland.²²

- Austin Currie (SDLP):

²¹ White, Lawrence Williams. "Goulding, Cathal." Goulding, Cathal | Dictionary of Irish Biography, October 2009. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/goulding-cathal-a3552>.

²² McHardy, Anne. "Ruairí Ó Brádaigh Obituary." The Guardian, June 5, 2013. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/05/ruairi-o-bradaigh>.

- Austin Currie, another founder of the SDLP, was a young, talented, and popular Catholic politician who would become the face of the Irish civil rights movement with his famed 1968 housing protest. Currie called attention to the corruption within the process of allocating housing, highlighting the social injustices within Northern Ireland and forcing London to confront the turbulent political and humanitarian crisis. Currie's role in the SDLP would further promote his battle for reform to establish humanitarian relief and social equality.²³
- Seán Mac Stíofáin (PIRA Chief of Staff):
 - English-born but with an Irish mother, John Stephenson grew up with a fanatical devotion to the Republican cause, visiting Dublin and joining the IRA. As a display of his anti-English sentiment, he changed his name to Seán Mac Stíofáin, and he would go on to participate in arms raids, resulting in his imprisonment. By 1969, Stíofáin was refuting Goulding's progressive policies, and alongside other traditionalists, he formed the PIRA, taking the role of Chief of Staff. Stíofáin would take a direct role in galvanizing the public with propaganda and supplying the PIRA with desperately sought-after weaponry with the sole vision of Stormont and London's capitulation.²⁴
- Roderick O'Connor (Nationalist MP)
 - Beginning in 1969, O'Connor served as chairman of the nationalist party in parliament. In parliament, he had legislative authority along with other lawmakers at Stormont. While he removed himself from other new nationalist groups like the

²³ McHardy, Anne. "Austin Currie Obituary." The Guardian, November 10, 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/10/austin-currie-obituary>.

²⁴ McHardy, Anne. "Obituary: Sean MacStiofain." The Guardian, May 21, 2001. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2001/may/21/guardianobituaries.northernireland>.

SDLP, O'Connor remained committed to advocating for independence from Britain. Historically, he attempted to unify the nationalist wing of Northern Irish governments. Over the course of The Troubles, the minister is expected to advocate for the republican cause and will not be swayed by the intersectional labor and civil rights efforts that might appease some of his peers.²⁵

United Kingdom Officials

- Harold Wilson (Leader of the Opposition, Labour Party):
 - In his role as English Prime Minister from 1964-1970, Harold Wilson proved to be far more hostile to the unionist government than his predecessors. Wilson pressured the O'Neill administration to make major reforms under the threat of London involvement. Wilson was far less subdued by Northern Ireland's strategic importance as a buffer for the Republic of Ireland and demanded Stormont amend its blatantly corrupt government. After losing the 1970 election, Wilson would be the head of the opposition and continue to denounce the injustices of Stormont and go so far as to propose partial unity on the island.²⁶
- Edward Heath (Prime Minister):
 - With the Conservative victory in the 1970 election, Prime Minister Edward Heath was thrown between a rock and a hard place. The first few years of his administration dealt with easing pressures from the Taoiseach (the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland) and restabilizing the anarchic state of Northern Ireland. Heath's initial position viewed the situation as a question of security

²⁵Lynn, Brendan 2017. "O'Connor, Roderick Hugh (Roddy)." Dictionary of Irish Biography. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/oconnor-roderick-hugh-roddey-a6612>.

²⁶McKenna, Fionnuala. "Events: UWC Strike: Wilson, Harold. Speech, 25 May 1974." CAIN, 2023. <https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/events/uwc/docs/hw25574.htm>.
McKittrick and McVea. Making sense of the troubles 45.

rather than politics, but slowly evolved to pressure Sormont not merely for reforms, but also for Catholic representation. Although this approach might have ideally seen peace, with Faulkner's resistance and heightened violence, such as with Bloody Sunday, it has now become irrefutable to Heath that direct English involvement or Irish unity are the sole solutions to end the chaos.²⁷

- Reginald Maudling (Home Secretary):
 - Maudling's predecessor, James Callaghan, had been consumed by the violence in Ireland, attempting to expedite reforms and sue for peace as the conflict blew out of proportion. In contrast, Maudling displayed great intelligence but lacked the initiative and effort to direct improvements. The difficult circumstances in which Maudling was thrust into made his few attempts at mediation futile, and by 1972 he matched the Prime Minister's disposition for direct rule.²⁸
- Sir John Peck (British Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland):
 - Sir John Peck was a vital bridge between London and Dublin as his ambassadorial work conveyed the Taoiseach's position to Westminster during this time of political dissonance. Although Peck held his critiques for Lynch's decisions, he outwardly called attention to the Republican Leader's constant internal struggle with the North's deterioration and level-headed approach to the circumstances. In the aftermath of Bloody Sunday, the British embassy in the Republic of Ireland was burned in protests, but Peck maintained his post and continued negotiations.

²⁷ McKittrick and McVea. Making sense of the troubles 62.

²⁸ Ibid.

With the constant disorder from the Stormont system and his Republican sympathies, Peck falls in favor of direct British rule.²⁹

- Rafton Pounder (Westminster MP for Belfast South):
 - Pounder served as an MP in Westminster from 1963 to 1974 who advocated for Unionist interests. In his early life, he was involved in many conservative and Unionist groups, shaping his political philosophy. While he explored conservative ideas beyond Ulster affairs during his time in Parliament, his pro-British ideology steered many of his policy-making decisions. He clashed with other conservatives who had grown tiresome from dealing with Unionist demands, and he pressured the government to enact measures to increase security in Northern Ireland.³⁰
- Bernadette Devlin McAliskey (Westminster MP for Mid Ulster):
 - An ambitious Northern Irish Catholic, Devlin joined the civil rights movement in 1968 at age 20 and was elected to parliament the following year. Her career was defined by her commitment to the Northern Irish humanitarian cause. Devlin used her seat in parliament to publicize and legitimize her battle for equality, so much so that she was arrested in 1970 for her criticism following the battle of Bogside. Present in Derry during Bloody Sunday, Devlin was outraged by the callousness of London, famously slapping Reginald Maudling in the House of Commons after being denied an opportunity to speak on the event. Devlin's passion for the marginalized in Northern Ireland compels her demands for reform and equality.³¹

²⁹ Hourican, Bridget. "Peck, Sir John Howard." Peck, Sir John Howard | Dictionary of Irish Biography, 2009. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/peck-sir-john-howard-a7252>.

³⁰ Brendan Lynn. 2009. "Pounder, Rafton John." Dictionary of Irish Biography. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/pounder-rafton-john-a7449>.

³¹ "Bernadette Devlin McAliskey." Bernadette Devlin McAliskey | Ulster Museum. Accessed February 18, 2024. <https://www.ulstermuseum.org/stories/bernadette-devlin-mcaliskey>.
Holland, Kitty. "Bernadette McAliskey: 'I Am Astounded I Survived. I Made Mad Decisions.'" The Irish Times, September 22, 2016.

Republic of Ireland

- Jack Lynch (PM or Taoiseach):
 - Characterized by his level-headed modesty, Jack Lynch held a robust political career under the Fianna Fáil party, proving his competency to govern as Minister of Education, then Industry and Commerce, and finally Finance prior to his election as Taoiseach in 1966. Lynch was described as a compromise candidate and was expected to have a short-lived administration, but the re-election of Fianna Fáil in 1969 bolstered his standing. With the heightening of tensions in Northern Ireland from 1969 onwards Lynch would be tasked with restraining the enraged members of parliament and the public. Although compelled to affirm Irish ant-partition convictions, he did so with an emphasis on peaceful unification with long-term agreement from both North and South. Despite deteriorating Anglo-Irish relations, Lynch remained a vital proponent of peaceful negotiations to calmly soothe the unprecedented disarray.³²

- Eamon de Valera (President):
 - Eamon de Valera was a critical leader in the birth of Ireland as a sovereign nation, participating in the Easter uprising and the Irish Civil War. His contributions to the tumultuous history of the Republic of Ireland landed him in a position of great influence since the nation's inception, serving as Taoiseach and later President from 1959 to the current crisis. The father of Fianna Fáil with perpetual

<https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/bernadette-mcaliskey-i-am-astounded-i-survived-i-made-mad-decisions-1.2798293>.

³² Fanning, Ronan. "Lynch, John Mary ('Jack')." Lynch, John Mary ('Jack') | Dictionary of Irish Biography, February 2010. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/lynch-john-mary-jack-a4947>.

conservative attitudes, de Valera prioritized the needs of the existing independent Irish nation over unification, proving to be a great inspiration for Jack Lynch and his policies.³³

- Jerry Cronin (Minister for Defense):

- Cronin was appointed to his position as Minister for Defence after the turmoil of the arms crisis saw Jack Lynch reorganize the cabinet in a bid for solidarity. He was consequently given the responsibility of modernizing the Republic of Ireland's defense force and countering the pressing demand for military aid in Northern Ireland.³⁴

- Patrick Hillery (Minister for External Affairs):

- Hillery played a central role in his direct negotiations with the UK, with his frequent protests for London's mismanagement of the situation pressuring for the immediate rectification of conduct on an international stage. Hillery was a crucial ally for Lynch during the arms crisis, sharing a firm yet peaceful approach to the resolution of the Northern Ireland impasse.³⁵

- Erskine H. Childers (Deputy PM):

- As Tánaiste, or Deputy Prime Minister, Childers held staunch anti-violence opinions regarding the unification process and candidly denounced the arms crisis and its participants. His calm and solemn demeanor instilled confidence in his speeches as he condemned the divisive effects of the IRA's skirmishes.³⁶

³³ Fanning, Ronan. "De Valera, Éamon ('dev')." De Valera, Éamon ('Dev') | Dictionary of Irish Biography, October 2009. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/de-valera-eamon-dev-a2472>.

³⁴ Cronin, Maurice. "Cronin, Jeremiah (Jerry)." Cronin, Jeremiah (Jerry) | Dictionary of Irish Biography, October 2009. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/cronin-jeremiah-jerry-a2218>.

³⁵ Maume, Patrick. "Hillery, Patrick John." Hillery, Patrick John | Dictionary of Irish Biography, June 2014. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/hillery-patrick-john-a9635>.

³⁶ Maume, Patrick. "Hillery, Patrick John." Hillery, Patrick John | Dictionary of Irish Biography, June 2014. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/hillery-patrick-john-a9635>.

- George Colley (Minister for Finance):
 - Colley was a conservative party man in the Fianna Fáil who aligned with the Lemass policies for cooperation with their northern counterparts. In the 1966 bid for Prime Minister, Colley competed with Jack Lynch, ultimately losing by a significant margin. Despite this, Colley would later support Lynch due to their mutually-held aspirations for peaceful unification. Moreover, Colley's deep-seated rivalry with Charles Haughey further incentivized his endorsement of Lynch during the arms crisis. He would then be appointed Haughey's seat as Minister of Finance and continue his approval for Lynch's policies concerning Northern Ireland.³⁷

- Michael Yeats (Cathaoirleach of the Seanad):
 - Yeats served as an Irish senator in the 1960s and 1970s. As a member of Fianna Fáil, a conservative Republican party in Ireland, Yeats promoted the party's interests during his time in the Seanad. In 1969, he became Cathaoirleach of the Seanad. In this role, he had control over the course of debate and led the group. This legislative authority gives him power in working with the Seanad to address pressing Irish policy issues.³⁸

³⁷ Maume, Patrick. "Colley, George (Joseph Pearse)." Colley, George (Joseph Pearse) | Dictionary of Irish Biography, October 2009. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/colley-george-joseph-pearse-a1845>.

³⁸ Helena King. 2016. "Yeats, (William) Michael Butler." Dictionary of Irish Biography. <https://www.dib.ie/biography/yeats-william-michael-butler-a9839>.

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