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Proposed declaration on non-violence for
local Government election candidates

Disqualification for election to local authorities.

Government decision 20/2/1984 not to meet deputations which
included members of Sinn Fein.

Taoiseach's letter dated 6/3/1984 to Galway Co. Councillor
saying that Government would meet Sinn Fein Councillors if they
publicly dissociated themselves from violence.

Proscribed organisations in Republic Northern Ireland and
Britain with relevant Acts.

1982 Assembly election - results showing Sinn Fein's vote and
number of seats won.

1983 and 1987 Westminster elections - Sinn Fein's result.

1984 European election result.

1985 District Council election - Sinn Fein result.

Received from J. Guinness, Dublin,
13.10.87

Disqualifications for election to local authorities

A person is disqualified for election if he -

- (a) is under 18 years of age;
- (b) has, within the previous five years, been sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour without the option of a fine, or to any greater punishment and not received a free pardon;
(a) and (b) - Article 12 of the Schedule to the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898);
- (c) is convicted of making a false statement for the purpose of obtaining expenses for attending a meeting of a committee of agriculture or a vocational education committee.
(Section 2(7) of the Agriculture (Amendment) Act, 1944 and Section 6(6)(b) of the Vocational Education (Amendment) Act, 1947);
- (d) is convicted of acting as a member of a local authority when disqualified or voting when prohibited - disqualifies for a period of 7 years from date of conviction (Section 94(3) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898);
- (e) has not paid any part of any sum due by him under a charge or surcharge made by a local government auditor (as to commencement of this disqualification see Section 62 of the Local Government Act, 1925);
- (f) was a member of a local authority at the expiration of the previous financial year and has not paid the whole or part of any sum due by him for rates in respect of that year (Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1941);
- (g) is a member of the Permanent Defence Forces or of the Reserve Defence Forces while actively employed (Section 104 of the Defence Act, 1954).

Uachtarán Thoir

Ref. No. S.16201B

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ROINN A
Department of the

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Dublin 2

20 Feabhra, 1984.

cc A.I. Section
Embassy Washington
Embassy London
Return original
to Mr. Kelly

An Rúnaí Príobháideach,
An tAire Dlí agus Cirt

I am to refer to the memorandum No. 1/84 dated the 15th February, 1984, submitted by the Minister for Justice concerning the question of proscription of Provisional Sinn Féin and to inform you that, at a meeting held today, the Government agreed that members of the Government or Ministers of State should not meet deputations which include members of Provisional Sinn Féin unless they publicly disassociate themselves from the IRA campaign of violence.

DERMOT MALLY

Rúnaí an Rialtais

An Rúnaí Príobháideach
An tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha

Mar eolas don Aire.

Handwritten signature/initials

cc PSBIS
FSS
Duffy, Seán
Mr. Ryan
Mr. Kelly

Office of the Taoiseach

6 March 1984

Mr Padraic McCormack
County Councillor
3, Renmore Park
Galway

Dear Councillor

Many thanks for your letter of 2nd March about deputations which include Sinn Fein members.

What the Government seek is simply that those who use the ways of democracy should abide by its rules. Ministers will see deputations including members of Sinn Fein if the persons concerned publicly dissociate themselves from the IRA campaign of violence. I do not wish to be too specific as to how they should do this but I am sure that an unambiguous statement to the required effect recorded in the minutes of a meeting or by the media would be totally acceptable to any Minister who is asked to receive a deputation.

Yours sincerely,

Taoiseach

Private Secretary
All Ministers and Ministers of State

For information

Transcribed copy

Banned organisation

3/5

Prevention of Terrorism Act 1974

IRA proscribed in GB after Birmingham bombings in 1974

INLA proscribed in GB after Airey Neave's murder in 1979.

Banned organisations in Northern Ireland

Emergency Provisions Act 1978 (replaced 1973 Act)

IRA

Cumann na mBan

Fianna na hÉireann

Saor Éire

Red Hand Commandos (banned in 1973 because of assassinations of Catholics)

Ulster Freedom Fighters (banned in 1973 because of assassinations of Catholics)

Ulster Volunteer Force (banned in 1966 - ban was removed by Merlyn Rees in April 1974 to encourage it towards political activity but was reimposed on 3 October 1975 when the UVF claimed responsibility for violence on the previous day in which 12 people died and about 40 were injured, most of them Catholics).

INLA (banned July 1979 after Airey Neave's murder).

Banned organisations in the South

Offences Against the State Act ~~1940~~ 1939.

IRA

INLA

1982 ASSEMBLY ELECTION

First Stormont-type election for Sinn Fein

RESULT

	<u>VOTE</u>	<u>% POLL</u>	<u>SEATS</u>
OUP	188,277	29.7	26
DUP	145,528	23	21
SDLP	118,891	18.8	14
<u>Sinn Fein</u>	<u>64,191</u>	<u>10.1</u>	<u>5</u>
Alliance	58,851	9.3	10
W. Party	17,216	2.7	-
Other unionists	35,968	5.7	1
Others	4,198	0.7	-

Both SDLP and Sinn Fein fought election on abstentionist policy and consequently did not take their seats. Sinn Fein ran on "Brits Out" call and the SDLP said Assembly would be unworkable because it refused to give nationalists the two necessary ingredients for even getting it off the ground, i.e., power sharing and an Irish dimension.

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1983 AND 1987 WESTMINSTER ELECTIONS

RESULTS

	<u>VOTE</u>		<u>PERCENTAGE</u>		<u>SEATS</u>	
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1987</u>
OUP						
(£ Kilfeddar)	259,952	276,230	34	37.8	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>
DUP	152,749	85,642	20	11.7	<u>3</u>	3
SDLP	137,012	151,487	17.9	20.7	1	3
<u>Sinn Fein</u>	<u>102,601</u>	<u>83,389</u>	<u>13.4</u>	<u>11.4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Alliance	61,275	72,671	8	9.94	-	-

Sinn Fein continues to decline in popularity from their peak in 1983.

A comparison of their vote shows that trend:

<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1987</u>
64,191	102,601	91,476	75,625	83,389

1984 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTION

	<u>VOTES</u>	<u>SEATS</u>
DUP	230,251	1
SDLP	151,399	1
OUP	147,169	1
PSF	91,476	-
Alliance	34,046	-

Sinn Fein were predicting that their vote would continue to grow and that they would take the nationalist seat from John Hume. The result was a clear victory for the SDLP with their vote increasing by 10.1% against the SDLP total in the 1983 Westminster Election. Sinn Fein, on the other hand, suffered a drop of 10.9% on their 1983 total of 102,600.

District Council Elections 1985

1. The 566 seats on the District Councils, elected on 15 May last, are divided as follows:-

	1985	1981	1977
OUP	190	151	178
DUP	142	142	74
SDLP	101	104	112
PSF	59	-	-
Alliance	34	38	70
IIP	4	21	-
WP	4	3	6
Others	32	67	86
TOTAL	566	526	526

2. The 1985 election left the following 8 councils under nationalist control:- Derry, Down, Fermanagh, Magherafelt, Moyle, Newry and Mourne, Omagh and Strabane. Fermanagh had been unionist controlled while Omagh and Moyle had been split. Dungannon, now split, was unionist controlled. The remaining 17 Councils are unionist controlled.
3. The results for the SDLP are mixed. They can point out that overall they lost but 2 seats and that their vote held up in what for them are difficult political circumstances (Chequers and no clear result to the Anglo-Irish process). They gained a seat in Banbridge and for the first time ever have a seat in Ballymena. On the other hand they are in a slightly weaker position in Derry where they now have 14 seats out of 30 against 13 out of 27, in Down where they have 10 out of 23 against 9 out of 20 and in Newry-Mourne where they lost control of the Council and now have 14 seats out of 30.
4. In terms of percentage of nationalist votes and share of nationalist seats Sinn Fein did best in the Westminster Constituencies of Mid Ulster (Omagh, Strabane, Magherafelt and Cookstown) and Fermanagh-South Tyrone. They are the largest nationalist party in Omagh and Fermanagh (nationalist controlled), Belfast, Cookstown (unionist controlled) and have the same number of seats as the SDLP

(155,353) is down on their 1981 performance (176,816) but up on their 1982 Assembly results (145,478) and their 1983 Westminster results (151,749). It is of course down on Paisley's personal result in the 1984 European Parliament election (230,251)

May 1985

Percentage of first preference votes

	1985	Euro-election 1984	Westminster 1983	NI Assembly 1982	Local Govt 1981
Off U	29.8	21.47	34.00	29.70	26.50
DUP	24.3	33.60	20.00	23.00	26.60
SDLP	17.8	22.09	17.90	18.80	17.50
SF	11.8	13.34	13.40	10.10	—
All	7.1	4.90	8.00	9.30	8.90
IIP	1.2	—	—	—	3.90
WP	1.6	1.27	2.00	2.70	1.80
Others	6.4	3.21	4.70	6.30	16.10

Numbers of councillors elected per party compared with 1981

	1985	1981	Gain/Loss
Off U	190	151	+39
DUP	142	142	—
SDLP	101	104	—3
SF	59	—	+59
All	34	38	—4
IIP	4	21	—17
WP	4	3	+1
Others	32	67	—35

*Faith Turner,
18/5/85.*