

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
IRISH JUSTICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

On Saturday, December 6th, Mr. Vincent MacDowell, Vice-Chairman, Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) addressed a group of local representatives of the National Association for Irish Justice at NAIJ headquarters in Manhattan.

Mr. MacDowell stated that there would be a civil rights march on January 1st from Belfast to Derry over the Burntollet Bridge and also from Armagh to Derry. If the marchers did not get through because of the ban on public marches, Mr. MacDowell vowed they would try on the first of every month until they did or were all jailed.

He also stated that the Dublin government has three or four full-time people actively working in the North for the destruction of both the Civil Rights Association and the Irish Republican Army.

According to Mr. MacDowell, the apparent concessions the government has promised are all phony. While they have promised elections in 1971 and a redrawing of the boundaries to end gerrymandering, they are taking away the powers of the local authorities on the other hand. Therefore, even if anti-Unionist people were elected they would not have much power, even as far as deciding where and when to build houses. The B-Specials will be officially disbanded on March 31, 1970. On April 1st, the following day, the Ulster Defense Regiment will be established. They are the same men with new uniforms, better equipment and a new name. NICRA has refused to accept these so-called concessions.

Mr. MacDowell said he could not stress enough how much support the people in the North need from Americans. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the Political Prisoners Defense Fund may send it to: National Association for Irish Justice, 210 East 23rd Street, New York, New York, 10010 and earmark it for the defense fund.

He also stated again that the National Association for Irish Justice is the only organization authorized in the United States to collect money for the Civil Rights Association. "Anyone sending money to any group other than NICRA is indirectly relieving the Northern Ireland government of their responsibility to pay for their criminal acts and are therefore condoning the situation in the North."

"A series of confrontations is expected in the spring", said Mr. MacDowell. When asked what the outcome would be he stated very emphatically, "We won't overturn the rotten society to put Protestants on the bottom. Protestant support for NICRA is rapidly growing."