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Title: Statement from the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau given to RTÉ [Raidió Teilifís Éireann] announcing the cessation of operations by the Provisional IRA [Irish Republican Army] between 22 December, 1974, and 2 January, 1975.

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Statement from the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau as
given to R.T.E. this morning.

Christmas Truce.

As a result of the Feacle meeting, the leadership of the Republican Movement have ordered a suspension of Offensive Military Action in Britain and Ireland over the Christmas period. A number of points for a ceasefire were presented by the Church Representatives to Republican leaders at the Feacle meeting. These points were considered at length by the Army Council.

Written observations on the points were made and a set of counter proposals drafted embodying the three basic demands of the Republican Movement. These have now been forwarded to the British Government. While unable to agree to a total ceasefire at this stage, the Army Council have decided to order a suspension of operations from mid-night Sunday December 22, to mid-night Thursday, 2 January 1975. This move has been prompted by the courage of positive action of the Church Representatives whose approach, unlike that of others was frank and constructive at all times.

The truce is also designed to give the British Government an opportunity to consider the proposals for a permanent ceasefire. The suspension of operations has been ordered on the clear understanding that a positive response ^{will} is forthcoming from the British Government.

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We have noted ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ a statement from Mr. Rees to this effect and we expect a cessation of aggressive military action by crown forces, an end to all raids, arrests, and harrassment, and no ~~r~~-introduction of R.U.C. personnel in uniform or plain clothes into areas where they are not acceptable.

Any breach of ~~XXXXX~~ these terms will be considered as a refusal to accept the 11 day cessation, and appropriate action will be taken to protect our people. We also trust that the British Government will avail of this opportunity for bringing to an end the evil of internment.

The leadership of the Republican Movement awaits a reply from the British Government to the proposals for a total ceasefire. If there is not a satisfactory reply, by mid-night, January 2, 1975, then the Irish Republican Army will have no option but to resume hostilities.

P. O'Neill,
Rúnaí,
IRPB.

20 Dec 74