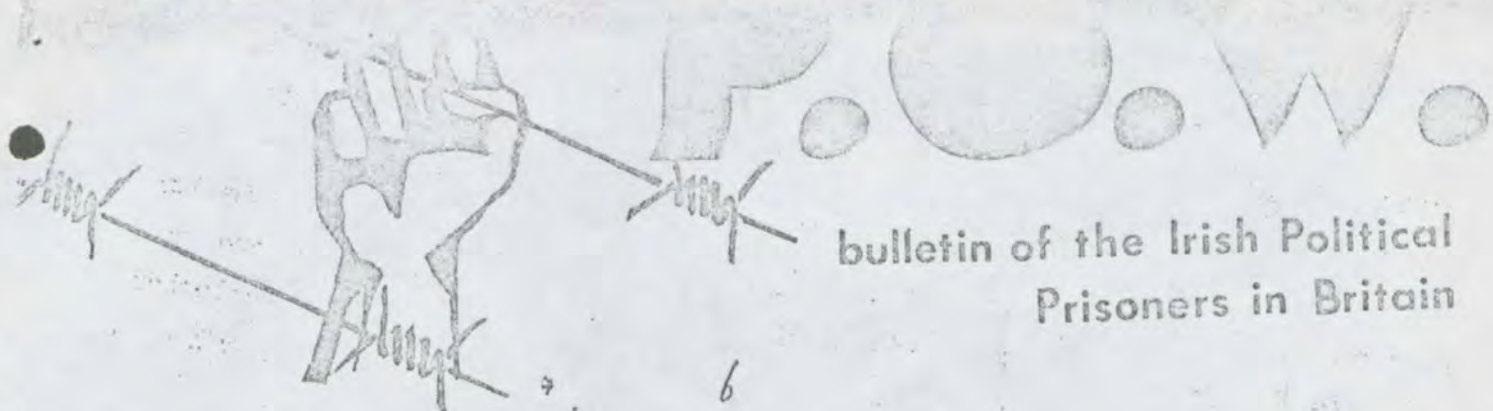


# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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## bulletin of the Irish Political Prisoners in Britain

Letters from Irish POWs incarcerated in prisons in England.

December 1932

A chara, I wish to state emphatically that I fully support Sinn Féin's decision to contest the coming elections. The time has surely come when paying lip-service to the establishment of honest political leadership for our people is not enough.

Everyone must get out and work to ensure success. It is not enough for republicans to say, with reference to the Army, action speaks louder than words. We must never forsake action, but the final war to win will be the savage war of peace. To those of us who have struggled for years in a purely military capacity it must be obvious that, in the final analysis, if we do not provide honest, recognisable political leadership on the ground, we will lose that war for peace.

Sinn Féin intervention is overdue, and fully deserves our utmost confidence and support. I ask the editorial board of AP/RN to devote much more space to debate on the pros and cons of involvement in the coming elections. We must speak to all the people, not just republicans, in easy-to-understand language. I am a little disappointed in the lack of continuity in such debate. I am, however, very appreciative of the contributions to the letters page. In that respect, I hope John Doyle's point about fraternal debate is duly noted.

One of my comrades here, hopes that Sinn Féin will put out pamphlets explaining fully the decision to contest. I am sure that is in hand. I echo Danny Morrison's words that this election has nothing to do with Prior's assembly but is about who speaks for the oppressed.

I believe it is a golden opportunity to establish an embryo of our future government. It will certainly let us know just how much more work we must do in the political field. I would like to congratulate all the Volunteers who have never flinched from their chosen duty. Keep up the good work, comrades, who dare to speak of '98 or any other year for that matter.

May I send fraternal greetings to all my old comrades wherever they are, I could not have known better men or women.

Finally, a word of warning to all republicans. Please don't make false promises or rash threats, don't underestimate your enemies, and be a little more vigilant in your personal security.

Brian Keenan, Leicester Prison, England.