

Connolly Commemoration Meeting, Londonderry, Sunday, 21st July, 1968

Headquarters,
The Royal Ulster Constabulary,
"Brooklyn", Knock Road,
BELFAST.
BT5 6LE

24th July, 1968.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs.

On Sunday, 21st July, 1968, a meeting was held in the Car Park, Foyle Street, Londonderry, to commemorate the centenary of the birth of James Connolly, a Socialist Republican leader who was executed after the 1916 rising in Ireland. The meeting commenced at 3.30 p.m. and was attended by about 350 people. At the commencement of the meeting about 150 Unionist, including some Nationalists, were observed standing on the opposite side of Foyle Street. This group gradually dispersed shortly after the start of the meeting.

The meeting was addressed by Finbar O'Doherty, Derry (Chairman) - Communist

- ✓ Betty Sinclair, Belfast - Communist
- Roddy Connolly, Dublin - Son of James Connolly
- Sean Nolan, Dublin - Communist
- Janet Wilcock - Northern Ireland Labour
- ✓ Eamon McCann, Derry - Socialist Republican
- ✓ Gerry Fitt, M.P., Belfast - Eire Labour

The main theme of all their addresses was anti-Unionist, anti-Nationalist and pro-radical. Some of Mr. Fitt's utterances were of a seditious nature which could have easily led to serious disorder and unrest in the community. I attach a copy of his address, mentally noted by a member of the Force on duty at the meeting, which ended at 5.30 p.m. without incident.

I also attach photostat copy of two pamphlets distributed at the meeting -

Not attached to this copy. { (1) Connolly's teachings and today's workers' struggle
(2) Derry salutes Connolly 1968

W. Metzger C.I.
for Inspector General