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THE ORGANISATION AND THE NEW POLITICAL SITUATION IN IRELAND

It has always been the policy of the Organisation to make use of all instruments, political, and otherwise, which were likely to aid in the attainment of its final end, i.e.

"A Free and Independent Republican Government in Ireland".

The Supreme Council decided that no action for or against the present peace treaty be taken by the Organisation as such, but issued the following statement to members of Dail Eireann who were also members of the Organisation.

THE STATEMENT

The Peace Treaty.

"The Supreme Council, having due regard to the Constitution of the Organisation, has decided that the present peace Treaty between Ireland and Great Britain should be Ratified."

"Members of the Organisation however who have to take public action as representatives are given freedom of action in the matter."

By Order - S.C. 12.12.1921.

In order to avoid mis-interpretation of this statement it may be necessary to draw particular attention to the fact that this instruction was issued only for the information of T.D's. who are members of the Organisation and it left those free to act as they wished in the matter of voting for or against the Treaty.

It also is pointed out that some such situation as that presented on the agreement to the Treaty was obvious from the date of the termination of hostilities, and the agreement to the truce, and that it would not be expedient for the Organisation to interfere in a situation that may have the result of bringing Ireland nearer to that final end above mentioned. Until the present issues are clearly defined, which cannot be until the draft Irish Constitution can be considered by the Supreme Council, and when the Council may be in a position to judge what use can be made of the new position in the matter of gaining our ultimate aim the sole policy of the organisation shall be, to maintain in the Organisation itself, in the Army, and in the nation as a whole, that unity which is so essential to ultimate success, so that these forces may be available to support the Republic when the proper opportunity arises

Pending the situation that will be created when the Irish Constitution has been drafted.

1. The Dail shall continue to be recognised as the Government of the Irish Republic.
2. Members of the Organisation in the I.R.A. shall continue to receive routine military orders through their authorised military officers.
3. When the proposed Irish Constitution is published the policy to be adopted by this Organisation will be discussed in accordance with article 35 of the I.R.B. Constitution.

By Order

SUPREME COUNCIL

January 12th, 1922.