

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1 9 8 2 - 1 9 8 3

11 MAY 1982

DOCUMENT 1-252/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr Richard BALFE

pursuant to Rule 47 of the
Rules of Procedure

on British military and judicial policy
in the North of Ireland

PE 78.860

The European Parliament,

- A. Noting that 34 English Conservatives and 3 Scottish Conservatives, being 61% of the Tory Members in the Parliament have tabled the following resolution without any signatures from any other Party or nationality:

"The European Parliament

- recognising the severe provocation and deaths suffered by British troops in Northern Ireland,
- recognising their sacrifices in the maintenance of peace there,

Expresses deep dissatisfaction that a British Labour MEP labelled these troops as 'murderers'".

- B. noting the terms of that resolution, and noting that :

(1) Private Christopher Wilson, aged 20, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was gaoled for life, for the murder of a young man, after a row at a 'disco'.

(Irish Times, 15th January 1982)

(2) Staff Sergeant Stanley Hathaway, aged 38 and Sergeant John Byrne, also aged 38, were sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering two catholic farmers on October 23rd 1972. (The Guardian, 16th January 1981)

(The Irish Times, 16th January 1981).

(3) Two former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of three members of a popular Irish band, 'The Miami Showband'. These members were machine-gunned to death, the other members of the band being able to escape. At the time the murders took place, James McDowell and Thomas Crozier were members of the Ulster Defence Regiment, but by the time they came to trial they were no longer members.

(4) A British soldier, David Walter Scott, aged 21, was sentenced to five years imprisonment for the manslaughter of a civilian who was shot dead in a bus, as it passed an army post in Derry.
(Irish Times, 1st March 1977)

(5) There are at least two cases of soldiers stationed in the North of Ireland who are awaiting trial on charges of murder and/or manslaughter,

1. Notes that the Tory resolution was tabled with the selectivity they demonstrate when dealing with human rights,
2. Resolves to hold a debate on British military and judicial policy in the North of Ireland.

