

DECLARATION *of* PRINCIPLES  
ADOPTED BY THE  
NATIONAL CONVENTION  
*of the*  
FRIENDS OF IRISH FREEDOM  
HOTEL ASTOR, NEW YORK  
DECEMBER 10 and 11, 1921

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We, the delegates of the Friends of Irish Freedom, assembled in Regular Biennial National Convention at New York, December 10 and 11, 1921, make the following declarations in the light of contemporary events as they affect the permanent peace of the world:

DEVOTED TO IRISH INDEPENDENCE

The Friends of Irish Freedom is an American organization established on March 4, 1916, devoted to the maintenance of American ideals of liberty and to the assistance of the people of Ireland in the application of those ideals to the Irish Nation.

PACIFIC FOUR-POWER TREATY

We condemn all alliance with Imperialism as contrary to the tradition and welfare of the United States. We renew the pledge of our 1919 Convention to combat all attempts to involve us in entangling alliances with Foreign Powers.

We denounce the Four-Power Treaty proposed at Washington on December 10, 1921, as a betrayal of American principles and a repudiation of the people's verdict of 1920, and call upon the Senate of the United States to refuse to ratify the same. Such Treaty, if ratified, involves, among other things:

- (a) The abandonment of Washington's policy of no entangling alliances.
- (b) The abandonment of the Monroe Doctrine.
- (c) The seizure from Congress of its sole right to declare war.
- (d) The guarantee of the territorial integrity of Imperialistic Nations.

ENTANGLING ALLIANCES

Contemplating with satisfaction the overwhelming defeat at the last election of the League of Nations, we pledge intensified opposition to any and all movements designed to effectuate, under any guise, such foreign alliances.

### 5-5-3 NAVAL TREATY

As sincere advocates of peace throughout the world, we favor universal disarmament, but we condemn as dangerous to our security the plan ascribed to and submitted by Secretary Hughes to scrap a great portion of the American Navy. America would thus concede to Great Britain undisputed control of the Seas at the very moment when Naval primacy was about to pass to the United States. If there is not to be complete disarmament, which we assert there cannot be until the causes of armament have been removed by the destruction or disappearance of Imperialism, then we demand an American Navy adequate to the National Defense and capable of upholding the rights and the interests and of safeguarding the policies of the United States.

### BRITISH WEST INDIES

In view of British protestations of amity towards the United States and as a vital necessity for our national security, we demand that Great Britain yield independence to the peoples of the various islands of the West Indies, and of Bermuda, now possessed or controlled by Great Britain or with the approval of said people cede such islands to the United States.

### FOREIGN LOANS

We oppose the Penrose Bill and all other measures designed to effect a cancellation or funding of the foreign loans of over ten billion dollars made by this country or the interest thereon, and we likewise oppose any postponement of the payment of these loans.

### PANAMA CANAL TOLLS

We insist upon the right of the United States to exempt its Mercantile Marine from any tolls for passage through our Panama Canal, and we urge the enactment into law of the Borah Bill as passed by the Senate.

### IRISH REPUBLIC SUPPORTED

On Easter Monday, 1916, the Irish Republic was proclaimed, and, as reaffirmed in Dublin by the Constituent Assembly of January, 1919, it was only the fruition of the aspirations, the sacrifices and the struggles of the Irish Nation toward independence for over seven centuries.

This organization has kept the faith which we pledged to the Irish Republic. We have given all of the moral and material aid within our power, consistent with our duties and responsibilities as American citizens, in support of the Irish Republic. We will continue to give that support to those who carry forward the fight for complete National Independence.

### RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE INALIENABLE

True to American ideals of liberty and educated to the practical blessings of independence in this Republic, we assert that the right of the Irish Nation to independence is absolute and inalienable. We

denounce the savage warfare waged for the past two years against the people of Ireland by the British Army with its auxiliary mercenaries. That warfare violated all the rules and usages prevailing among civilized nations, and we believe the world will not regard as binding upon the Irish Nation any contract or agreement in derogation of national rights which representatives of Ireland may make with England under coercion, terrorism or duress.

### ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT

The Irish representatives at a conference at London with members of the British government, have agreed on terms of peace and signed an agreement which has yet to be ratified by Dail Eireann and by the British Parliament. By the expressed terms of this agreement (which has been published in full with the signatures of the Irish and English representatives attached), Ireland is to remain in the British Empire, under the designation of "The Irish Free State," on condition that her representatives swear fealty to the King of England, who is given authority to appoint a Governor-General to function as representative of the English crown in Ireland. The principal ports, coastal fortifications, sub-marine cables and wireless stations are to remain under the military control of England, and it is also provided that Ireland is to pay a proportion of the enormous British Public Debt.

We reiterate our belief that the manhood of Ireland enrolled in the Irish Republican Army, and the womanhood of Ireland who have endured untold suffering and made sacrifices unsurpassed in history, never intended that their blood and the lives of their kin should be given for a change in the character of English rule in Ireland or for any measure of freedom less than National Independence.

### NO FOREIGN DICTATION

We denounce any suggestion emanating from any source whatsoever that citizens of the United States of Irish blood may be controlled in their opinions or political actions respecting the welfare of these United States by any external influence or pressure. The political actions of American citizens of Irish blood are influenced solely by American considerations and we resent the sinister purpose of England in bringing to a so-called settlement her relations with Ireland at the precise moment when the Armament Conference at Washington reaches its critical stage. It marks another step in England's attempts to control the foreign policy of this country.

### FOR AMERICAN IDEALS

We appeal to our fellow citizens in America for support of the principles enunciated in this declaration: a virile and truly American policy in the United States; and all the moral and material aid which properly may be given by American citizens to those in Ireland who continue the struggle for Irish independence. Expressly disavowing the intention to interfere with or dictate the decisions of the people of Ireland as to the form of Government under which they may live, we retain as American citizens our unalterable faith in the Republican institutions of liberty here established. Our belief remains unchanged

and unchangeable, in the blessings to accrue from the establishment in all lands of forms of Government modelled upon the Government of the United States, and we pledge to such republican party in Ireland as may carry forward the traditional struggle for liberty a continuance in full measure of that hearty support which we have given in the past.

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