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N.I. body explains reasons for Dublin protest

Belfast members of the Left-wing group who occupied the Department of External Affairs building in Dublin last Tuesday in protest against "the undemocratic claim of the Southern Government to rule over Northern Ireland" issued a statement yesterday to "clarify the nature and objectives" of their association. Several members of the group—the Workers' Association for the Democratic Settlement of the National Conflict in Ireland—were arrested during the demonstration after they had chained themselves to statues and radiators inside the Department's headquarters at Iveagh House.

Yesterday's statement said that the association's policy was based on the recognition that there were two nations in Ireland. The only genuinely democratic basis for a settlement of the national conflict was full recognition of the right of the Ulster Protestant nation to remain as part of the United Kingdom State for so long as it desired, which meant that the Southern Government must accord full *de jure* and *de facto* recognition to Northern Ireland: Full democratic rights for the Catholic national minority within the Northern Ireland—U.K. State: and full democratic rights for the Protestant minority in the Southern State.

The association stressed that it did not maintain that "the two nations in Ireland" should forever remain separate but that any unification into a common State must be on the basis of agreement. If it was to be truly voluntary, this meant accepting that the present answer of the Northern Protestant community was "no."