

BACKGROUND:

JAMES CHICHESTER CLARK resigned as Prime Minister in 1971. He was replaced by BRIAN FAULKNER.



Unionists were pleased. They felt that Faulkner understood the situation in Northern Ireland a lot better and was better supported. He also promised solutions to the increasing violence.

Faulkner was determined to control the situation and decided to use the old tactic of INTERNMENT - arresting without trial. This had worked before in Northern Ireland. This time however the results would be dramatically different:

1) BACKGROUND



1971



3) WHAT WERE THE REACTIONS TO INTERNMENT?

1) UNIONISTS :



- They were happy to begin with. They had wanted tougher action and they felt this would have worked. They wanted an end to the IRA and its violent campaign

2) NATIONALISTS



- They viewed internment as bias and one sided. Not one loyalist was lifted during the process.
- Nearly all those arrested had little connection to the violence
- IRA membership soared
- The moderate nationalist SDLP pulled out of Stormont in protest. They started a campaign to stop paying rates (taxes). Catholic children stopped going to some schools. This was an effort to protest and put pressure on the government.
- Civil rights marches began again

3) INCREASED VIOLENCE



- internment made the bad situation in Northern Ireland terrible!
- there was a massive increase in violence. Up to 143 people were killed (a fivefold increase)
- Terrible attacks like the MCGURKS BOMBING occurred killing 15 people.
- There was an increased IRA car bomb campaign
- There was an increase in LOYALIST violence

4) ARMY REACTIONS



The army were unhappy about internment believing it to be problematic. however, their response to it made things worse. They reacted harshly, banning marches and using CS gas against anti internment marches at MAGILLIGAN.

4) RESULTS

Far from ending the Troubles the introduction of internment enflamed an already dangerous environment.

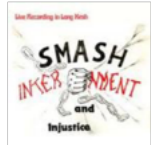
1) Violence increased massively. There were FOUR DAYS rioting and violence in which 20 civilians, 2 IRA members and 2 soldiers were killed. 41 soldiers would be killed in the months after internment

2) The British army's reputation with nationalists was now at rock bottom. It had imposed the Falls road curfew previously but now with internment it seems that it was siding with the unionist government and acting like an occupying army.

3) internment itself was a poor policy. It was highly one sided with not one single loyalist interned until 1973. The intelligence used was poor and out of date. Few of those arrested had any connections to violence. Some were even NICRA members. Interrogation techniques were used against them.

4) internment led to more civil rights marches which increasingly were attacked by an increasingly hostile army. In January 1972 one NICRA March protesting at internment was involved in an incident with the British parachute regiment in which 14 unarmed protesters were shot dead. The event became known as BLOODY SUNDAY.

5) IRA and LOYALIST paramilitary groups increased massively in support



Faulkner launched OPERATION DEMETRIUS on 9th August 1971

This was intended to round up significant numbers of trouble makers in a secret sweep. They would be held without trial and it was hoped that this would remove the key troublemakers from the streets.

HOWEVER, it was against the advice of the British army who felt their intelligence information was outdated and who viewed it as creating more trouble and alienation of the catholic community.

Nevertheless the internment operation went ahead. Up to 342 men were arrested in dawn raids by the British army and placed in internment camps.

Unionists were happy 😊

Nationalists were outraged 😡😡

