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Materials

Workers' Party of Ireland

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## Recommendations of Ad - Hoc Committee on Dublin Organisation

Sinn Féin The Workers Party

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON DUBLIN  
ORGANISATION

On Saturday 2nd July '77 a meeting of the five Dublin Candidates and their Directors of Election, plus representatives of the North and South City Comhairle Ceanntar, was called by the Dublin Organiser. The purpose of the meeting was to hear reports from each area and to discuss improvements in the Dublin organisation in general and with a view to the Local Elections due in 1979.

Reports were given by the five areas and as these are similar to those given at Mornington on 9/7/77 they need not be repeated here. The following is a list of the notable points made. 1) Necessity of effective CAB work. 2) Need for central constituency premises. 3) Importance of an active LOCAL Director of Elections. 4) That careful consideration be given to the pros and cons of Second Candidates in Local Elections. 5) Need for central direction and planning during elections in the Dublin area.

Following the reports a general discussion took place on the number of areas to be contested in the Local Elections. Two main views were put forward. 1) That we now select the areas where we are strongest and put all our energies into them. This would ensure we were not spread too thin on the ground and would also ensure a concentrated campaign with an enhanced chance of success. 2) That we decide now in principle to contest all nine city areas plus two in the county. As an organisation already exists in the five previously contested areas the task would be to ensure that the organisation developed in the other six areas over the next two years. Six months prior to the elections the position would be reviewed and final decisions taken on the number of areas to be contested. The meeting decided to recommend the second approach.

The other main discussion was about how Dublin should be organised. It was decided in principle to recommend that a single Comhairle Ceanntar be set up in place of the two now in existence. This was decided because there was no central body to co-ordinate the Dublin organisation, and also because the two Comhairle Ceanntar was a duplication which the Party could not afford in terms of personnel.

Questions were raised concerning the Party name, and the role and contents of the UI and the IP. It was decided that matters were outside the scope of that meeting.

Before the meeting closed it was decided that further meetings should be held by a committee of those present, to draw up an agenda in the form of recommendations for a meeting which could be called by the two CC or by the Coiste Scasta. Two such committee meetings were held, on 11/7/77 and 19/7/77. Present were Gerry Doherty; Peter Kane; Paddy Keating; Pr. De Rossa; Anne Cooney; Noel

The following matters were discussed and recommendations made.

#### DUBLIN COMHAIRLE CEANNTAR

That a single CC be established with a six person officer board. That it have the same geographical area as the two have at present. That one of the officers have special responsibility for elections. That the PRO have special responsibility for research and for providing an "information bank". That the usual sub-committees be set up and that an additional one, an "election" committee, be added with a specific short term function.

There was a lengthy discussion about this committee and whether it should be "permanent" or short term. Some felt that a permanent committee would undermine the importance of the CC itself, while others felt that a permanent group was needed to keep constituencies active on election work.

Finally it was agreed to recommend a three person committee to examine all Local Election areas to find out; Active Membership; Supporters; Potential Candidates; Election History; Potential for IDYM; Potential premises; Current and Potential Local Issues.

Representation on the Comhairle Ceanntar should be by one delegate from each Constituency Council. That a Constituency Council be set up in each Local Government Electoral Area. That two members from each cumann in such area be represented on the Council. That selected candidates be automatically on the Council and should have a vote. That the Council provide from that representation an officer board of Chairperson, Secretary and PRO. The basis functions of the Council would be to ensure that cymainn operate properly. That paper sales, CAB, education, and finance plan is carried out. To coordinate activities where necessary, and generally ensure the development of the Party and the promotion of our candidates. It was also recommended that one of the Council officers should be responsible for youth. Where an IDYM branch existed the officer would liaise with them and where none existed the officers job would be to seek ways of having one established.

The Ad-Hoc committee is to have a final meeting on Wednesday 27/7/77 at 7pm to have a final check through these proposals before passing them on to the Comhairle Ceanntar (North and South City) and to the Coiste Seasta. It is hoped to have Tomas MacGiolla and Dessie O'Hagan present at that meeting.