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In reply to the Press, Mr. de Valera stated today that the Irish Government had not been consulted either by the British Government or the American Government with regard to the coming of the American troops to the six counties.

Everyone knew, he said, that Ireland had twenty years ago been partitioned and the six counties cut off from the rest of the country by an Act of the British Parliament despite the expressed will of the Irish people.

When the United States was entering the last war, President Wilson declared that America meant to fight for democracy and for the right of peoples to national self-determination. The Irish people took him at his word, and in the General Elections of December, 1918, by an overwhelming vote (more than three for to one against) declared for National Independence and for the establishment of a Republic. This decision was reaffirmed after two years of conflict with Britain in the General Elections of 1921 when the Partition candidates returned were less than one-fourth of the total representation.

Nevertheless, the British Government cut the nation in two and set up a separate Parliament for six of the thirty-two counties. These six counties formed no natural historic or geographic entity. The area was chosen solely with a view to securing a majority within it for the anti-national minority. In one-half of the area, including the city of Derry and the whole territory adjoining the boundary with the twenty-six counties, a majority of the inhabitants are against partition.

To partition the territory of an ancient nation is one