

# Sinn Féin



The **UNCENSORED**  
voice of West Belfast

PUBLISHED BY WEST BELFAST SINN FÉIN  
147 ANDERSONSTOWN ROAD, BELFAST BT11.

Issue No. 10

NOLLAIG 1991

# Nollaig Shona

In a Christmas message the West Belfast MP Gerry Adams has praised the people of the area and has paid tribute to their courage and determination to secure a real and lasting peace in Ireland.

Gerry Adams said:

"At this time of year we particularly remember those from our area who have suffered and continue to suffer the effects of British rule and the conflict which it causes. For families who have lost relatives Christmas is a particularly poignant time and our sympathy is with them.

So also with our political prisoners and their families. We welcome, of course, the temporary release on Christmas parole of some republican prisoners serving indeterminate life sentences.

The arbitrary and selective nature of the releases continues to be a source of major disquiet, leaving as it does many life prisoners behind bars and consequently depriving their families, once more, of a happy Christmas. All political prisoners, in Ireland, England and further afield, should be unconditionally released. To all those political prisoners, particularly those imprisoned far from home, in England and further afield, and their families, we send a particularly deep felt greeting this Christmas.

We also send a very special greeting to three of our prisoners, Paul Holmes, Roy Walsh and Billy Armstrong, who have spent almost 19 years in prison in England. There is no clearer indication of the anti-Irish racism of the British penal system than the savage treatment of these three men. During their 19 years in prison they have been consistently denied transfers to the North where they could at least have been closer to their families. Already 19 years in prison, they have been told that they will not be considered for release before 1995, by which time they will have spent 23 years in prison.

Yet another year of British war has passed and the people of this area and other nationalist areas of the North remain unbroken. The British, with their unlimited resources, have failed to suppress the nationalist desire for freedom, they have failed again to stabilise their sectarian state. They must understand that, for northern nationalists, there is no going back to the era of subservience and passive submission. We have consistently demanded our full civil and national rights and will do so until they become a reality. The British must realise this and confront these central political issues. The Six-County state is a failed entity. It is the sectarian and oppressive creation of Britain. It can be dismantled by Britain and, in this way, democracy, independence and peace can be returned to the Irish people.

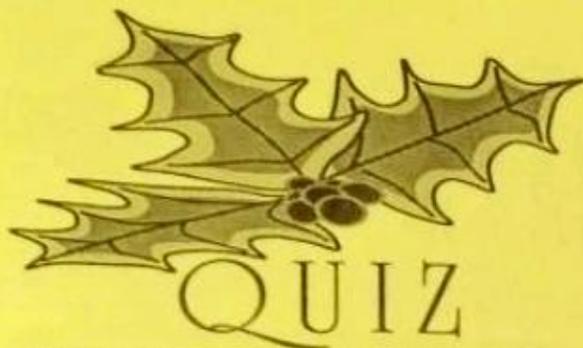


● GERRY ADAMS MP

By adopting such an imaginative approach, the British government could, for the first time, contribute to the creation of peace in Ireland.

The determination of the people of this area not to be intimidated, their refusal to accept cosmetic reforms and alterations to the sectarian state has confounded both the British and their native apologists. We have already seen the British try to undermine and reject the democratic rights of the people of West Belfast to elect Sinn Féin representatives. Next year we will see determined efforts by the British and their local supporters to impose their own, sponsored candidate on the people of this area. What they fail to understand is that, despite British disapproval, the West Belfast seat now belongs to the West Belfast community, it is our property not theirs. Let's keep it that way.

Beannachtai na Nollag daoibh go leir.



1. Who wrote the music of the National Anthem?
2. Name the Irishman who was honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize, the Lenin Peace Prize and the American Medal of Justice.
3. The song *The Wearing of the Green* refers to which Irish patriot?
4. What language is the *Book of Kells* written in?
5. The Celts believed in life after death in another world. What was the other world called?
6. Where was the 1947 All-Ireland football final held?
7. Which county is the only one in Ireland surrounded by counties which don't touch the sea?
8. Irish whiskey loses what to become Scotch whisky?
9. Where in Europe was the Celtic language first spoken?
10. Name three streets in the lower Falls with three letters in them.
11. What Irish writer is depicted on the front of an Irish £10 note?
12. What is Ireland's smallest county?

#### ANSWERS

1. Patrick Heaney
2. Sean MacBride
3. Napier Landy
4. Latin
5. Tir na Nog (Land of Youth)
6. New York (Polo Grounds)
7. Louth
8. Jonathan Swift
9. Ton Street, Bow Street, Or Street
10. Germany
11. £, A, W
12. Louth



**Torchlight Vigil for  
Republican prisoners**  
7pm Wed Dec 18th  
**DUNVILLE PARK**

**JANUARY:** Now, just imagine your small country, as perhaps, the Republic itself and suddenly you wake up one morning to find somebody else's tanks in your streets... — British Tory MP, Teresa Gorman, on RTE's *Questions and Answers*, Monday, January 14th.

**FEBRUARY:** I just can't get it out of my head that when [Prince] Charles made his first parachute jump his legs got tangled in the cords and he came down head first — and they immediately made him commander-in-chief of the Parachute Regiment. — Gene Kerrigan.

**MARCH:** As far as I'm concerned, the only thing the Irish government done for me was help to keep me in prison. They never helped us from very early on; if they had've done it wouldn't have taken us 16-and-a-half years. But when we did ask them to help they turned their back on us and that's the God honest truth about it. I hope and pray that they never extradite another Irish man or woman to England because the English government and the English judiciary are not fit to judge Irish people. — Paddy Hill of the Birmingham Six.

**APRIL:** Don't let any group be left out of the negotiations. It is important that everybody be able to express their feelings. It is our experience in Southern Africa that when people are excluded from talks, they are not likely to look kindly on the results. — South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Dublin's Christchurch Cathedral about the Brooke Initiative.

**MAY:** We support the security forces in Northern Ireland. We applaud particularly those members of the RUC who go about their business impartially and professionally. — Workers' Party Presidente, Proinsias de Rossa.

**JUNE:** One hundred and fifty people have been murdered by state security forces in the North in the last 20 years and there have been scores of indirect killings manipulated by the British intelligence system. Nobody cares except Amnesty International. The Church should at least support Amnesty if they are going to do nothing about it themselves. — Fr Raymond Murray speaking at an International Church conference in Maynooth (The Sunday Press) June.

**JULY:** No number of tanks or bullets or armies can overcome the spirit of a people determined to resist... The lesson of this century is that countries put together artificially will fall apart. — Margaret Thatcher, not talking about the North of Ireland.

**AUGUST:** The reason large numbers of Catholics and nationalists do not join the UDR is the same as why Blacks in South Africa do not join the 'security forces'. They do not want to hit themselves over the head with a rifle. — Bernadette McAliskey speaking on RTE radio's *This Week* programme.

**SEPTEMBER:** Police like I've never seen anywhere in the world: with riot shields and tear gas because that's the only way they can control the population. — Sky News' Eastern Correspondent, Dan Damon, who was speaking on Thursday, September 19th, about Yugoslav police oppression of Albanians in Kosovo province. Desperate Dan obviously hasn't seen the RUC in action.

**OCTOBER:** I think it would be better if there was a complete blackout where the media is concerned in Northern Ireland. — Former British direct-ruler Jim Prior on Channel Four's *Pack Up the Troubles* programmes.

**NOVEMBER:** Why is it that Irish politicians and the Dublin media are so ready to criticise Irish law and the Irish courts whenever Britain's will is not done? I wonder if it has anything to do with those politicians and media folk not having been taught Irish history beyond 1921. — Frank Dolan in the London-based *Irish Post*, November 23rd.

**DECEMBER:** The Roman Catholic Church is the problem in our province. Rome's aim is to destroy Protestantism, our children and our children's children. — DUP Councillor Ray Gillespie, a former B-Special.

Look back at '91