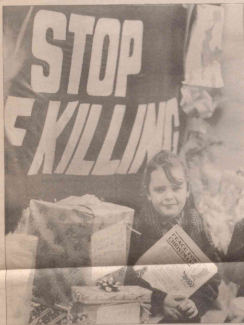


**Dermot Nally
Papers**

UCDA P254/98

Christmas Message



Picture by Gavin Finn

Natalie Gallagher (45), Henrietta Steele, Dublin, at the New Cosmos shopping at Christmas Cards and signing of Messages of Peace, from the people of Dublin to the people of Northern Ireland, at the Christmas Tree, in Grafton Street.

Hume confirms secret meeting with SF leader

By GEORGE JACKSON

SDLP leader John Hume last night confirmed that he had a secret meeting with Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, their first joint meeting since last Wednesday's Downing Street declaration.

Mr Hume said both he and Mr Adams were committed to continuing their peace process.

"We met obviously in secret, last Wednesday's Joint Declaration and we have made clear that we will continue our commitment to the peace process and we will meet again to review future developments when Sinn Féin carry out, as they have said they are doing, their in depth consultation of the situation," said Mr Hume.

"Given the nature of our organisation, I expect there to be so in depth and naturally my hope is that at

the end of the day their response will be a positive one," said the SDLP leader.

Asked on what he based his hope Mr Hume replied "As I have said repeatedly I have been engaged in very intensive dialogue with Mr Adams over a long period of time to the point where we were able to say that we had made substantial progress in a peace process."

I have said throughout that when you are engaged in that type of intensive dialogue you can make your own judgement. I have made my judgement very clear that Mr Adams is very serious and so are the people that he is representing in their commitment to bring the conflict to a total end.

I have said throughout that I am not a pessimist for the IRA or Sinn Féin. My hope is that there will be a total cessation of violence and

that the detailed consideration that is now going on within their ranks will lead to that. That is my hope and my prayer," said Mr Hume.

BERNADETTE MALES RTÉ's former chief news MP, said the Major-Reynolds declaration had spread fear and despair in both communities and would not lead to a solution.

Ms Mahoney said the new nothing in their declaration where, she said, meant "absolute nothing."

She told BBC Radio Ulster she believed the intent of the 12 point declaration was to "look as if you are doing something while doing nothing."

Ms Mahoney said people had been caught up in a short-term where people were starting to believe things were happening which were not.

Taiseach to take action on security if the initiative fails

BY KEN WHELAN

ALBERT REYNOLDS said there was no available military solution for either side in the Northern conflict but he did not rule out the possibility that new and harsher security measures might be taken by both Governments if the Declaration was rejected.

The Taoiseach, however, dismissed intervention as an option by Dublin and London to a rejection by the paramilitary movement, he said, had acted as a recruiting agent for the paramilitary.

In an RTE interview last night he called on the IRA to pursue the legitimate aspirations of the nationalist community in Northern Ireland around the six state.

The Downing Street Declaration averting the self-determination demands of the nationalist community in the north and south, he said and he urged Sinn Féin and the Provision to turn their backs on violence and pursue political dialogue.

Mr Reynolds estimated that most of what was contained in the John Hume-Gerry Adams dialogue of the past year was contained in the Declaration.

The Downing Street Declaration was just the beginning of the peace process, he said, and he warned that there was still a good distance to go.

The Taoiseach called on both Northern communities to so avoid the talk and work out their mutual differences.

Mr Reynolds, who was being interviewed by Brian Farrell on RTE television, added that there was no "spark fire" along in Northern Ireland but he emphasised that the declaration was a start to the solution of the conflict.

Reynolds said his approach to Northern Ireland required an even-tempered approach and he added that this was certainly the Declaration.

He described the Declaration as open-handed, pragmatic, logical and contemporary.

The Taoiseach said he was unwilling to condemn the Irish people north and south in another 25 or 30 years of conflict.

The past 25 years of conflict had not advanced anything.

Nothing is fine but you have to state people before you state people. Mr Reynolds ruled out intervention without trial as a response by Dublin and



Albert Reynolds

London to a rejection by the paramilitary to the Declaration.

Intervention, he said, had acted as a recruiting agent for the paramilitary in the past and that was a big mistake.

Mr Reynolds did not

dismiss the possibility that new and harsher security measures might be taken by both Governments if the Declaration was rejected.

Mr Reynolds saw outside help arriving within the European Union, contact and welcomed President Deleah's commitment of European financial aid for Ireland in the event of a negotiated settlement.

Mr Reynolds stressed the role of Mr Major in the negotiations.

Mr Major brought no baggage to the table, he said, and was open to considering the lack of understanding which the British had brought to the problem in the context of understanding how Irish people thought, the psychology of Irish people, the psychology of the light for Irish freedom.

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Irish prisoners to play crucial role in any peace deal

THE IRA prisoners in Britain and Ireland will play a crucial role in whether the movement accepts the joint peace declaration.

By DIARMAID MACDERMOTT

The prospects of early release for the IRA prisoners is one of the factors which could greatly influence the leadership to accept a peace deal. While neither the British or Irish governments have made public any decision on the prisoners, the IRA leadership will play a crucial role in the event of a decision of violence the prisoners issue will be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

A large number of IRA prisoners in the Maze are due to be taken to be temporarily released this week for Christmas.

It is likely they will be released, clearly by the republican movement on what attitude should be adopted towards the peace declaration.

There are now around 480

IRA prisoners in jails in Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic.

By far the largest group are the inmates of the Maze prison outside Belfast.

The prisoners there are kept in constant touch with the IRA leadership on the outside through well established lines of communication which have existed for years.

The current Office Commanding the IRA prisoners in the Maze is a Belfast man from the Twickenham area serving a life sentence.

He will pass on to the prisoners the views formed by the IRA leadership on any peace deal.

But unlike the period of hunger strikes in 1980 and 1981, the prisoners will not determine the leadership's decision.

One republican source said yesterday: "The prisoners will accept whatever orders come in from the outside."

"It's not like the hunger strike when the prisoners themselves embarked on a course of action which was against the IRA leadership's own wishes."

"The prisoners are a disciplined lot who will obey the leadership whatever decision is reached."

It is known that many of the prisoners are primarily in favour of the IRA reaching a peace deal with Britain.

There are hopeful that any deal with Britain will result in their early release.

There are around 30 republican prisoners in jails in Britain including Patrick Finney, convicted of the 1981 Dublin bombing during the five years for explosives offences.

Street, Jack and Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer serving long sentences for conspiracy to cause explosions.

It is thought that in the event of the IRA accepting the deal, the prisoners in Britain will immediately be transferred to Northern Ireland.

Their sentences will then be reviewed and many who have served long years in jail could expect an early release.

Overall the IRA would have immediate release for a large number of prisoners following large sentences for conspiracy to cause explosions.

The authorities in the Republic would also be expected to follow suit.

Democratic Left's warning to Sinn Féin

By KEN WHELAN

DEMOCRATIC LEFT leader, Deputy Prime Minister, Denis Austin, has said that Sinn Féin and Gerry Adams should not be allowed to pick and choose about what they find acceptable in the Downing Street declaration.

He also accused David Sinn Féin should not be given an "ideal draft of Article 1" to deliberate on whether to take up the peace offer.

He said that Sinn Féin would not be able to do so without the consent of the majority of the

EAMONN HOLMES profiles the four leading Irish officials who helped to negotiate the Joint Declaration.



■ NOEL DORR



■ MARTIN MANSERGH



■ SEÁN Ó HUIGINN



■ DERMOT NALLY

NOEL DORR

DEPARTMENT OF Foreign Affairs Secretary Noel Dorr has been at the centre of every major Irish foreign policy initiative for the past 20 years. He has worked closely with a number of Taoisigh since the early '70s.

He admits the Northern problem has been his passionate interest over the years since his involvement in the negotiations for the Sarsfield Agreement.

A retiring, unassuming and self-effacing man, he has developed his position as "a cross between a diplomat and a politician."

While ambassador in London, he was one of four officials — Dermot Nally was another — involved in the Anglo-Irish Agreement. A close colleague said of him at the time: "He ate and drank, slept and drowned the agreement."

Mr Dorr was Ireland's permanent representative to the UN when the Taoiseach of the day, Mr Charles Haughey, involved Ireland in controversial secret talks during the Falklands. Mr Dorr was in 1982. As President of the UN Security Council in April, 1984, and August, 1986, he led important initiatives on Namibia and Lebanon.

He was assistant secretary and then deputy secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1974 to 1980 when he became Ireland's Permanent Representative to the UN, a position he held until 1983.

He was Irish ambassador to London from 1983 to 1987 when he returned home to take up his present position.

MARTIN MANSERGH

The disclosure on the BBC's Panorama programme that Dr Martin Mansergh was the Taoiseach's key channel of communication in the negotiations for the Joint Declaration provided the pivotal role he played in the recent discussions for the Irish Government.

Dr Mansergh has been a leading figure in Fianna Fáil for over a decade but he has strongly nationalist approach left him a lonely figure.

A nationalist by training Dr Mansergh is an unlikely member of the governing wing of Fianna Fáil. He is an Anglo-Irish, English educated, Protestant from a landed family in Tipperary.

The Mansergh family have been landowners at Carrane, near Tipperary town, since the 1700s and have been looking towards the Church of Ireland in the area.

He was born in Clonmel in 1926, and educated at Clonmel and at Oxford University.

He came to Ireland to join the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1954 where he came to the notice of Charles Haughey who invited him to join the Taoiseach's office when he took power in 1980. His duties involved speech writing and dealing with Anglo-Irish matters.

When Mr Haughey lost his position in June, 1981, Mr Mansergh took the very unusual step for a career diplomat by accepting his position to work as an adviser in the Fianna Fáil leader. He has been in that position since, remaining to serve Albert Reynolds.

SEÁN Ó HUIGINN

LITTLE is known of Seán Ó hUiginn, the fourth member of the Irish negotiating team, and the Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary.

He is the former Irish representative at the Anglo-Irish Secretariat at Maryland which arose from the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

He is now the head of the Anglo-Irish section of the key players in drawing up the Government policy on Northern Ireland.

The department yesterday declined to provide any further biographical details of Mr Ó hUiginn, pointing out that it is not the practice to release such details about civil servants.

"Civil servants act on behalf of the Minister of their Department and not on their own initiative and it would be inappropriate for them to appear to take credit," a spokesman said.

DERMOT NALLY

people of Northern Ireland."

He spent the last 12 years in the Cabinet. From 1981, after the Anglo-Irish Agreement, he was the Taoiseach at the top table, meticulously recording the minutes of the day.

His diary of these years would make interesting reading, but as a firm supporter of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, it is unlikely he will spill many secrets.

He attended every European summit meeting except one, since Ireland joined the EC in 1973. He was also a member of the Cabinet since 1980.

He was a member of the Anglo-Irish Secretariat in London. He was the first of the good relationship he enjoyed with Mrs Thatcher.

Christians Eve jailhouse party raises hackles

From GREG BARKIN in Belfast

THE British Government is to throw a Christmas Eve party for inmates and their children at a 'model' prison in the North.

The Northern Ireland Office confirmed yesterday it has called in Santa Claus to hand out presents to the kids at Maghaberry on Christmas afternoon.

But the historic annual gesture at the Co Antrim jail has angered inmates at all other prisons.

Prisoners at the Maze and the Crumlin Road establishments are fuming at the NIO's lack of goodwill towards them.

A spokesman for legalists said: "The wankers that some prisoners are to meet their families at a Christmas party inside a jail, while others are being ignored."

We are not pleased and we're not the various governors of our feelings."

The inmates at Maze and BNP Belfast are supported by Belfast Deputy Lord Mayor Hugh Nesbitt.

Alderman Smith, an independent councillor, said: "All prisoners should have the same status. This will be particularly cruel for inmates at the Crumlin Road where people are on remand."

And William Smith of the Inland prisoners group says: "You all added: 'The authorities are once again being totally unreasonable about this matter.'"

"We should the group of prisoners get such a privilege when others are ignored," he said.

The Northern Ireland Office has defended the Santa Claus party for inmates at Maghaberry.

A spokesman said the idea started last year with a Christmas Eve party for children of prisoners in this year. This is the first time this has happened inside any prison in the United Kingdom, he said.

"It may be extended in the future, but it is still at an experimental stage," the spokesman added.

In under-18s prison officers told the Maze and Belfast Prison were not suitable for a large children's party.

The block at Maghaberry where loyalists and republicans live in an integrated system, will be held in the prison