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Workers' Party of Ireland

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Workers' Party Press Release: Sean Garland Not to Seek Reappointment

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THE WORKERS' PARTY

PAIRTI NA nOIBRI

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PRESS RELEASE

Thursday May 2nd 1991

W.P. GENERAL SECRETARY NOT TO SEEK REAPPOINTMENT

The General Secretary of The Workers' Party, Sean Garland, has issued the following statement:

"When I deliver my General Secretary's Report to the Ard Fheis at the weekend I will be publicly telling our members, what I have already privately told many of my comrades - that I will not be seeking reappointment to the position of General Secretary when my present term of office expires in about six weeks time".

"I have occupied the position of General Secretary since 1977 - a period which has seen a dramatic growth in the strength of the party. In 1977 when I took over as General Secretary, we were still largely in the political wilderness. Since then the party has grown in political and ideological strength. We are now a formidable political power in the Dail, we hold a seat in the European Parliament and are represented on the most of the major local authorities. Despite the appalling problems in Northern Ireland, the party there has remained politically strong and is showing considerable potential for further development.

I am proud that I have been able to make a contribution to the development of the party during these 14 years. However, I am a firm believer in the principle of rotation of responsibilities, and I believe that now is an appropriate time to make way for a new General Secretary who can assist the party through its next stage of development.

For many years now I have expressed a wish to relinquish the position and each year I was persuaded to stay on for another year. In 1990 I made it clear that this would be the last year and it will be the responsibility of the incoming Ard Comhairle to appoint a new General Secretary.

I wish to emphasise that it is my intention to remain actively involved in The Workers' Party. I was elected to the Ard Comhairle for a two year term last year, and I will be available for re-election to the Executive Political Committee if the members so wish.

I want to thank all the fine and outstanding comrades with whom I have been privileged to work over the past 14 years, and I look forward to contributing with them to the continued development of the party.

ends.

Tony Heffernan - Press Officer

SEAN GARLAND: SOME BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Sean Garland was born in Dublin in 1934 and is married with one child.

He became active in republican politics in 1953, and was involved in the IRA border campaign between 1956 - 62. He was interned without trial between August 1957 and March 1959.

On his release he became active in the Republican Movement once again and was one of those responsible for the change in direction in the 1960s, which saw Sinn Fein become deeply involved in social and political issues in both Northern Ireland and the Republic.

He was appointed National Organiser for Sinn Fein in 1967, and following the departure of the Provisionals in 1969/'70, he played a leading role in formulating policy and developing the organisation throughout the country.

Sean Garland was appointed General Secretary of 'Official' Sinn Fein (as it then was) in 1977. At the Ard Fheis in the same year he proposed the name change to 'Sinn Fein The Workers' Party', and at the 1982 Ard Fheis to 'The Workers' Party'.

He is a member of the Ard Comhairle, the Executive Political Committee (EPC) and the Executive Management Committee (EMC). Sean Garland has a particular interest in international affairs and has travelled extensively on behalf of The Workers' Party.