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Workers' Party of Ireland

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Workers' Party Press Release : De Rossa Pays Tribute to Sean Garland

Workers Party of Ireland

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THE WORKERS' PARTY

PAIRTI NA nOIBRI

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PRESS RELEASE

Thursday May 2nd 1991

DE ROSSA PAYS TRIBUTE TO SEAN GARLAND

The President of The Workers' Party, Proinsias De Rossa TD, has issued the following statement:

Sean Garland advised me last year that he would not be seeking reappointment as General Secretary when his present term of office expires. I had hoped that it would be possible to persuade him to remain on, but I, and other colleagues who tried to do so, have been unsuccessful.

I very much regret his decision, but I quite understand his reasons for wanting a change after 14 years in such a demanding position. The personal sacrifices he made and the commitment he put into that job over 14 years were enormous. I am very happy that he is determined to still play an important role in the Workers' Party, and that his extensive knowledge and political experience will continue to be available to us.

I, and every other member of the Party, owe Sean Garland an enormous debt of gratitude. His achievements as General Secretary have been exceptional. Sean was at all stages - through good times and bad - a rock of common sense and sound political judgement.

During his 14 years in office he played a pivotal role in transforming the rather loose organisation we had at that stage into an effective, disciplined political party, which has even won the grudging respect of our political opponents. It was while he was General Secretary that we won our first seat in the Dail and subsequently built that up seven, broke through the barrier into the European Parliament, and more than doubled our local authority seats.

On behalf of all party members I want to thank him for his contribution as General Secretary and I look forward to him continuing to make a vital contribution to the development of party.

ends.

Tony Heffernan - Press Officer