

*Rod Eley*

## Letter of Congratulations of Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) to Sinn Fein

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*Below is the full text of the letter sent by Rod Eley, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist), on Thursday, 2 December 1999, to Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Fein.*

Gerry Adams M.P.  
Sinn Fein  
535 Falls Road  
Belfast BT11 9AA

Comrade Gerry, A Chara,

On this historic day which sees the end of British direct rule in the north of Ireland, please accept the congratulations of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) to Sinn Fein, the Ard Chomhairle, and to your comrades in the negotiations over the years, such as Pat O'Doherty, Mitchell McLaughlin and the others.

The initiative which your party adopted around 1985 to explore the possibility of a peace process has been vindicated in the developments over recent years, such as the Good Friday Agreement and its culmination in today's devolution. This imaginative policy, beginning with your discussions with John Hume of the SDLP,

helped unlock the completely intransigent situation of stalemate over the future of the country, which had become so deeply entrenched by that time.

We are sure, as is Sinn Fein, that the new dispensation should open a path to the Irish people for the achievement - in the not too distant future - of the overall democratic solution to the problem of foreign interference, divide and rule and occupation by British imperialism, which has bedevilled our country for so long: national reunification in sovereign independence.

Of course, as we all realise, this is only the beginning of a new level of the struggle for Irish freedom. Our party will do all it can in its own way, as will Sinn Fein, to overcome the inevitable obstacles that anti-democratic forces are bound to throw up to block the path of progress. But, without succumbing to amnesia about abiding political realities, surely the recent engagement with the need for change of quite of a number of political forces, which hitherto had refused to acknowledge the need for any change at all, seems to expand the scope for a democratic discourse in Irish society and augur well for the future.

Please pass on our party's best wishes for every success to Sinn Fein's new ministers in the devolved government, Martin McGuinness and Bairbre de Bruin. Sinn Fein and indeed the new government as a whole can be assured of our party's support in all honest endeavours to meet the democratic challenges which lie ahead to improve the lot of all the people of Northern Ireland, as well as make the cross-border institutions a reality and a bridge towards reunification and national sovereignty of the Irish nation as a whole.

Is mise le meas,

Rod Eley

General Secretary

Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist)