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## News Desk



### Dominic Bradley MLA

**11th February 2007**

#### BRADLEY: HAIN GESTURE AT CROKE PARK WOULD BE WELCOME

SDLP Normalisation Spokesperson Dominic Bradley said a gesture by Peter Hain in connection with the 13 people murdered by British forces in Croke Park in 1920 would be a small but positive step.

He was commenting on a media report that the Northern Ireland Office is considering a plan for Hain to lay a wreath and issue an apology in Croke Park before the England – Ireland rugby game in two weeks time.

He said: "The GAA has shown leadership in normalisation at several levels, and it is fitting that others – not least the British government – should respond in a positive way. Such a gesture would be a simple recognition that what happened in 1920 on the original Bloody Sunday was wrong by any human standard.

"Unfortunately, the response to such a gesture from certain unionist quarters is as predictable as it is depressing. The call to keep politics out of sport is simply nonsense, not to mention a bit late – politics intruded into sport in no uncertain manner when armoured cars machine-gunned the terraces. The GAA has demonstrated it has the strength of character to move on, to adjust to new circumstances and new opportunities. Others should match it."

**ENDS**

**11/02/07**