

There are different aims<sup>10</sup> on each side. The IRA thinks of a war against the British troops and wants them to leave Northern Ireland forever. The Protestants do not want a united Ireland, they are afraid of a strict rule of the Catholic Church, which plays an important role in politics and life in the Republic. Their attacks are directed at Catholics, especially members of the IRA.

There has also been some pressure on the government in England to withdraw<sup>11</sup> troops from Ulster to prevent further deaths of British soldiers. A lot of English people think that the Irish should be left to solve their own problems.

Since 18 months there have been talkings about a peaceful solution<sup>12</sup> between the different sides, but these attempts are difficult because of all the hatred, bitterness and intolerance that has come up over the years.

#### Questions on the text:

- 1.) Who was Saint Patrick and what did he do in Ireland?
- 2.) Which faith did he give the Irish?
- 3.) When did England become a Protestant country?
- 4.) Where was the greatest resistance against Protestant rule?
- 5.) What happened during the time of "plantation"?
- 6.) What happened when the Irish rebelled against British rule?
- 7.) What did the Great Potato Famine mean for most Irish?
- 8.) Explain what Sinn Fein is.
- 9.) What was established after the war for independence?
- 10.) Which part did and still does belong to Britain?
- 11.) What do you know about the number of Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland?
- 12.) Give me the other name for Northern Ireland.
- 13.) Give me the names of the two capitals of the two Irish states.
- 14.) How do the Catholics in Northern Ireland feel?
- 15.) Explain what the IRA is and tell me what their aims are.
- 16.) What are the Protestants afraid of if Ireland becomes united?
- 17.) What do a lot of British people think of the Irish problem?
- 18.) Describe the situation in Ireland at the moment.