**AMERICAN BREXIT COMMITTEE**

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 **BRITAIN TO DENY IRISH**

**VICTIMS JUSTICE, TRUTH**

**& ACCOUNTABILITY**

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s twin-track foreign policy gambit has Conservatives delaying EU negotiations over Northern Ireland (NI) trade issues while rushing Parliament action on a controversial bill to bury the truth of murder by British security services in NI. This so-called ‘Legacy’ bill is opposed by all in Ireland. Sponsor Lord Caine acknowledged less interest in the causes and facts of the conflict than how Britain “actually gets out of it.” He obliquely refers to 1000 uninvestigated cases of mostly Catholic killings. The bill has drawn widespread criticism from Members of Parliament and Congress. Caine’s timing is no surprise. By appearing to negotiate on the EU trade issues, the British please the Biden administration and distract Americans and U. S. media while attempting absolve the security services and the government of their crimes. PM Sunak’s end game is two-fold: (1) improve chances of a UK-US trade deal to bail Britain out of the Brexit disaster and (2) grant impunity to British Army, MI-5 and police personnel; core constituencies of the Conservatives.

In the 1960’s, Britain’s security services turned the Catholic civil rights protests in NI into Communist and terrorist conspiracies. The ensuing harvest of hate, smear and official violence unleashed was used to discriminate, criminalize and assassinate Catholics and, more importantly, to justify Britain’s tenuous presence in six Irish counties. The reign of terror resulted in 3500 killings, one-third of which were innocent Irish citizens.

What sets apart these 1000 killings? All involve one or more of these factors: Army and police collusion with loyalist terror gangs; no police investigation; no Coroner Inquest; and official record requests repeatedly denied and sealed for decades. Murders by British secret double agents make up more than 200 of these deaths and include the 33 killed in the 1994 no-warning bombing of Dublin and Monaghan and the 29 victims of the 1998 Omagh bombing. The latter was RUC Special Branch and MI-5 attempt to discredit the Good Friday Agreement.

 The U. S. has had little to say about NI except to chant the mantra that GFA principles must be upheld. U. S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken remains silent perhaps afraid of offending his football “chums” in the British Consulate or Whitehall. Bullying the Irish and bluffing the United States are child’s play for the British government. Is Britain requiring US silence on this criminal cover-up in NI in return for its cooperation elsewhere in the world? The Department of State may feel uncomfortable demanding accountability, truth and justice in Ireland from our ‘special’ friend. But President Biden and Congress must make clear to British Subjects and American and Irish citizens that without UK cooperation on the rule of law, approval of any US-UK trade deal is unlikely and would constitute a betrayal of those values and of our Irish ally.

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 ***Cummings has appeared on American, English and Irish television and radio and his commentary and letters have appeared in major American, Irish-American, and Catholic print media. He is married 50 years to Nuala Hogan, a nurse and native of Ireland. They have five children and 8 grandchildren.***