**AMERICAN BREXIT COMMITTEE**

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*John M. Corcoran Esq, Chairman*

*Michael J. Cummings, Secretary*, EMERITUS

June 20, 2023

Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker

U. S. House of Representatives

Capitol Building, H-232

Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy:

On behalf of the 300 members of the ABC we share our concern for Britain’s fundamental attack on everything the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) has stood for in providing a crucible for peace, justice, and the rule of law. The bi-partisan support from American political leadership has proved an effective counter to British efforts to undermine the principles and progress of the pact.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is pushing through a Legacy bill in Parliament which promises a.) to unilaterally grant impunity to the killers of more than 1100 Irish citizens/British Subjects in Northern Ireland and Ireland; b.) to end all investigations/ prosecutions of those crimes placing all related documents under the Official Secrets Act; and c.) to absolve the British government of all liability for those crimes. This is an act of Imperial arrogance not worthy of a nation that often links its arms with the United States in the pursuit of peace around the world to defend truth, justice, and respect for human rights under law.

The bill is opposed strongly by a bi-partisan mix of Members of the House and Senate and, equally important, by all parties in Ireland, even after ‘concession’ amendments were recently proposed by Lord Caine. The hypocrisy is apparent in one. It would extend the time for investigating and prosecuting those responsible for killings until May, 2024; knowing the Ministry of Defense will deny or obstruct all information requests of victims’ families until May, 2024.

It is significant this bill is not intended to address the conduct of security forces in combat in foreign lands governed by the Geneva Convention rules of war. Britain has always treated the conflict in Ireland as a domestic, internal matter, or in the words of President Putin, as a “special military operation.” These 1100 civilians killed were the victims of a unique and deadly partnership. Loyalist gunmen joined MI-5, the British Army, and N. I. police in systematically

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eliminating presumed enemies of the State i. e., those who held certain religious or political beliefs, lawyers, and elected office holders. In 1999 N. I. human rights Attorney Rosemary Nelson was warned by this unholy alliance NOT to testify before the House Committee on International Relations and bravely testified of police threats, violence, and corruption. To show the contempt the British have for America’s ‘interference ‘in N. I. she was murdered 6 months after returning from the U. S. It is time to expose State sponsored terrorism NOT give it blanket immunity.

Mr. Speaker, your leadership in confronting this blatant act of deceit by Britain, a self-proclaimed defender of the rule of law, would have important foreign policy implications. You would be affirming the words of Michael Abramowitz, President of Freedom House, that “accountability is a strength of democracies not a weakness.” Ireland’s President Higgins agrees warning “… the greatest threat to democracy …is the uncontrolled, unregulated actions of the unaccountable.” For many nations your words will be most welcome; others may give pause to their lawless acts and human rights abuses. However, Britain seems little interested in democracy and the rule of law for Ireland’s six counties and more committed to bullying another nation with which America has a ‘special relationship.’

Sincerely,

John M. Corcoran, Esq.

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ATTACHMENTS