**AMERICAN BREXIT COMMITTEE**

**1313 CHESTNUT STREET, SUITE 1724**

**PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103**

January 28, 2024

Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary

U. S. Department of State

2201 C St, NW

Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

This letter is a follow-up to our previous correspondence regarding America’s foreign policy and the conflict in Ireland; specifically, U. S. support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA).

Until the administrations of President Carter and President Clinton, America’s position on the unilateral partition of Ireland and Britain’s governance of the six County colonial carve-out known as Northern Ireland (NI), has been one of benign neglect. This is not our observation but that of former U. S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom Raymond Seitz. In gratitude for such indifference, Britain spent 50 years freely crafting sectarian rule in six Irish counties and deploying various political destabilization schemes which, under the pretense of preserving democracy, ‘required’ garrison rule.

The promise of the GFA has been steadily eroded over the past 25 years most consistently by the British but with the hidden helping hand of the Department of State. For example, the most recent State Department Human Rights Report for Northern Ireland states: “***(1) there is no arbitrary depriving of life or unlawful and politically motivated killings; (2) there were no credible reports that members of security services committed abuses; and (3) the UK had mechanisms in place to identify and punish officials who may have committed human rights offences.”***  This UK language apparently went unchallenged by the Department. Its’ inclusion in the annual Report is indefensible. NI has been a lawless colonial satrap since its creation in 1920. Only the U. S. and the EU can alter Britain’s bullying dysfunction on Ireland in the aftermath of Brexit.

 America needs a robust policy on Ireland not timidity. First, the U. S. must vigorously oppose a British law designed as a criminal cover-up of Britain’s bloody rule in NI. The Conservative dominated Parliament recently adopted a law to bury Britain’s true belief in the rule of law. Its’ dual purpose is: (a) to preserve a NI historical narrative free of the security services murders,

-2-

corruption of law and numerous injustices; and (b) to absolve the government of any civil or criminal liability. Thus, no accountability for Britain’s role in the Dublin/Monaghan and Omagh mass murders or the assassinations of lawyers Patrick Finucane and Rosemary Nelson. No investigation or prosecution for loyalists killing of Sinn Fein elected officials, candidates, and workers. No investigation or prosecution of 229 civilian killings (mostly Catholic) linked to arms MI-5 supplied to loyalists. The ‘official’ sealing of records related to 250 killings in NI by British spies (Operation Kenova). The State Department’s response to this cowardly cover-up has been a tepid press release supporting the Irish governments legal challenge of the law at the Hague. Nothing about U. S. sanctions for trashing the GFA.

Second, after 100 years of bad, bloody, and sectarian British rule in six Irish counties, followed by 25 years undermining the 1998 GFA, it is clear America’s needs to abandon what has to be called Britain’s Irish policy. At present Britain remains focused on perfecting the partition of Ireland not its unity. The clear and unambiguous GFA language stipulates that an administrative clerk, the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, is to dictate the timing and requirements of an Irish unity poll. Its inclusion signified imperial contempt and insincerity. The poll is yet another trip wire in Whitehall’s bag of obstructive tactics. America should publicly urge that without further delay Britain identify the date and structure of such a poll. Britain took 5 years to sort its ‘own goal’ exit from the EU which to this day harms every aspect of Britain’s economic life. Ireland’s re-unification, on the other hand, has long been studied, and deemed beneficial for the people of Ireland and Britain’s budget. Still another good reasons for the U. S. to support an end to partition.

Britain can choose to view these two proposed American positions as opportunities to restore trust in the so-called ‘special-relationship’ or simply as public relations battles to be dismissed. Obstructing, ignoring, or opposing these positions will make it harder for the U. S. to support a new US-UK trade agreement any time soon. The EU would welcome Ireland’s re-unification and might mitigate some of the transition costs. Isn’t it time Britain and the United States sign an accord, with the EU playing a guarantor role, which returns six counties to the Irish Republic, thus ending the colonial era? It could be a WIN-WIN for a foreign policy landscape that desperately needs one.

Sincerely,

John M. Corcoran Esq., Chairman

Michael J. Cummings, Secretary, Emeritus

Attachment: American Brexit Committee