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Letters Editor

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Dear Editor:

The underlying optimism of Ms. Stack’s re-united Ireland commentary (11/23) must be tempered. Britain’s Conservatives will deploy every obstruction tactic and take the “long view” of ending Northern Ireland, a colonial relic. Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson claimed there would be no Irish unity referendum… required by the Good Friday Agreement… “for a very, very long time.” The first step in this long process has already begun with the Conservative Parliament’s burying a legacy of lawless murders in Northern Ireland involving Army and MI-5 collusion with loyalist terrorists. Disputes over referendum language, long bureaucratic reviews, and Parliamentary stages will follow. The actual conduct of a referendum vote could be delayed 4 years; longer than it has taken for Britain to exit the EU. This much is expected from a party whose core constituencies are the Army, MI-5 and monarchists that have been perfecting Ireland’s violent partition for over 100 years.

The only thing likely to alter this grim scenario is a new US-UK trade deal, some say a Brexit bail-out, linked to a EU-UK-US pact restoring Ireland’s unity. It would be a win-win for all and, likely, the only bright spot in U. S. foreign affairs for years to come.

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***Michael J. Cummings, a native of Spfld., MA, (St. Anselm’s College, B. A., 1968; NYU, MPA., 1970). He co-founded the American Brexit Committee in 2016 and served as Secretary until March, 2023. He is the only person to serve on each of the National Boards of the Irish American Unity Conference (1996-2013), the Ancient Order of Hibernians (2001-2008), and the Irish Northern Aid Committee (1988-1996) primarily in public relations capacities.***

***He has appeared on American, English, and Irish television and radio and his written commentary has appeared in major American, Irish-American, and Catholic print media. He worked for the State of New York for 36 years.***