

BREXIT, BORIS AND BRITISH BAD FAITH

BREXIT, BORIS AGUS MÍMHACÁNTACTH NA MBRIOTANACH

"An Irish Sea border is now a certainty" UUP leader Steve Aiken lamented on Thursday May 14th after a meeting of the Executive at Stormont where Sinn Féin's Declan Kearney revealed that the British government had confirmed that it will "urgently put in place detailed plans with the Executive, which includes posts at ports of entry," indicating Belfast, Larne and Warrenpoint.

This was greeted with dismay by Unionism with accusations of a "Brexit Betrayal" of their loyalty. A week later, on May 20th, the British Government presented the EU with its "command paper" on the implementation of the Irish Protocol, part of the Withdrawal Agreement negotiated with the EU last October.

Clearly addressed to Unionism, particularly the DUP, the announcement in Westminster declared that the British Government would retain sole responsibility for implementing the protocol. And the DUP dutifully thanked Gove for his "reassuring words" and welcomed "the clarity this brings – that Northern Ireland will remain part of the UK customs territory."

But there is no such clarity. It is in effect the protocol that Boris Johnson agreed last October and while it admits that there will have to be new procedures, it asserts again that the British government will monitor and manage procedures at points of entry for goods and animals, a reference to its refusal to allow an EU office in Belfast. The protocol is to avoid a hard border. The deal won, with others, by the hard work of our MEPs, was that the North, while stuck with the union with Britain, "will remain within the single market under EU rules. In effect, special status."

The looming deadline of June, set by the EU for an assessment of progress in negotiations on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement has spurred the British paper, lacking in clarity though it is. For all its bluster, it shows that Johnson knows that he must implement the Protocol that he agreed to and which is aimed at protecting the fragile all-Ireland economy ensuring no hard border and upholding the Good Friday Agreement.

This outworking of Brexit is yet another demonstration of the logic of Irish unity. This British "command paper" is not only dishonest it is a danger to Ireland's future prospects. It is solely about Britain's interests. It makes the case for the end to partition.

Sinn Féin Brexit spokesperson Chris Hazzard MP comments;

"There is no good Brexit for Ireland. Sinn Féin has been clear that, given the approaching deadline, there should be an extension for negotiations in order to protect our economy which is already under intense pressure."

"Is scéal cinnte anois í teorainn farraige Éireannach" a chaoín Ceannasaí an UUP Steve Aiken Déardaoin 14 Bealtaine. Dúirt sé seo i ndiaidh chruinnithe den Fheidhmeannas ag Stormont nuair a nochtadh Declan Kearney gur dheimhnigh Rialtas na Breataine "go gcuirfidh siad pleananna ar bun leis an Fheidhmeannas chomh luath agus is féidir, beidh seicphointí ag na calafoirt ina measc." Bhí Béal Feirste, Latharna, An Pointe á thabhairt le fios.

D'fhág seo go raibh díomá ar an Aontachtas agus líomhaintí "Brexit Betrayal" curtha ina leith a ndílseacht. Chuir Rialtas na Breataine "command paper" faoi bhráid an AE seachtain ina dhiaidh, 20 Bealtaine, faoi chur i bhfeidhm an Phrótaicail Éireannaigh. Aontaíodh seo mar chuid den Socrú maidir leis an Tarraingt Amach leis an AE mí Dheireadh an Fhómhair na bliana seo caite.

Is léir gur díriodh an fógra i Westminster go gcoimeádfadh Rialtas na Breataine amháin freagracht as an Phrótaicail Éireannach a chur i bhfeidhm, ar an Aontachtas, ach go háirithe ar an DUP. Ghabh an DUP a mbuíochoas go humhal le Gove as a 'údar misnigh a thabhairt dóibh' agus d'fháiltigh siad "an tsoiléireacht – go bhfanfaidh Tuaisceart na hÉireann mar chuid de chríoch custam an RA."

Níl a leithéid de shoiléireacht ann, áfach. Déanta na fírinne, is an prótaicail a d'aontaigh Boris Johnson mí Dheireadh an Fhómhair na bliana seo caite. Cé go n-admhaítear ann go mbeidh gá le gnásanna nua, deimhnítear arís go ndéanfaidh rialtas na Breataine monatóireacht agus bainistíocht ar ghnásanna ag na calafoirt ar mhaithe le hearraí agus ainmhithe. Ag tagairt den diúltú Oifig AE a cheadú i mBéal Feirste atá sé.

Tá an prótaicail ann le teorainn chrua a sheachaint. Cé go bhfanfaidh an t-aontas idir an Tuaisceart agus an Bhreatain, dheimhnigh an margadh seo, bainte amach ag FPEanna de chuid Sinn Féin in éineacht le daoine eile; go mbeadh an Tuaisceart 'mar chuid den Mhargadh Eorpach Aonair.'

Spreag an spriocdháta i mí an Mheithimh, leagtha ag an AE le meastachán a dhéanamh ar an dul chun cinn de chur i bhfeidhm an tSocráithe maidir le Tarraingt Amach, an páipéar Briotanach cé nach bhfuil an piosa róshoiléir. In ainneoin na gaotaireachta, léiríonn sé tuiscint Johnson gur gá dó an Prótaicail ar shocraigh sé a chur i bhfeidhm leis an gheilleagar sobhríste Uile-Éireann a chosaint, á dheimhniú nach mbeidh teorainn chrua ann agus á sheasamh le Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta.

Léiríonn cur i gcrích Brexit arís eile an chiall le hÉirinn Aontaithe a bheith againn. Ní amháin go bhfuil an "Command Paper" seo mí-ionraic, is bagairt é roimh thodhchaí na tíre seo. Faoi leas na Breataine amháin atá sé. Ní mór dúinn deireadh a chur leis an chríochdheighilt.

Dúirt Uirlabhraí Brexit Shinn Féin Chris Hazzard MP:

"Níl a leithéid ann Brexit maith d'Éirinn. Tá Sinn Féin soiléir, tá an spriocdháta ag dreimniú linn, ba cheart síneadh a bheith curtha ar na hidirbheartaíochtaí le go gcosnófar ár ngeilleagar atá faoi bhrú cheana féin."



THERE IS NO GOOD BREXIT FOR IRELAND. SINN FÉIN HAS BEEN CLEAR THAT, GIVEN THE APPROACHING DEADLINE, THERE SHOULD BE AN EXTENSION FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR ECONOMY WHICH IS ALREADY UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE.

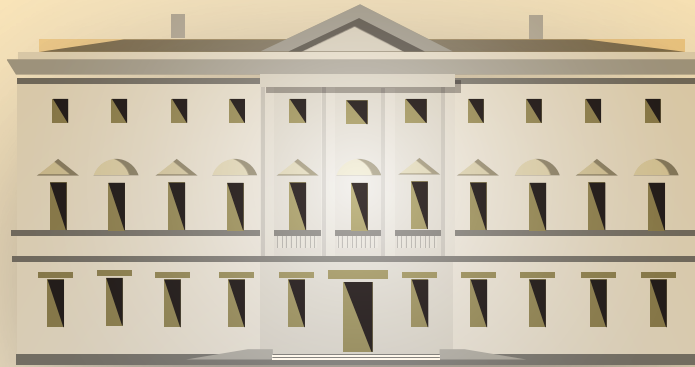
CHALLENGING THE PARTITIONIST MINDSET

What are we to make of Fine Gael's Regina Doherty and her deliberate remarks, on Morning Ireland May 5th, that the inhabitants of the 26 counties alone constitute "the Irish people"? Or, for that matter, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's reference a few days later to his party having "overseas members" in Belfast? The caretaker minister and Taoiseach were answering a question as to why the Assembly at Stormont had not been informed of the decision to ease restrictions in the South.

Surely, the only possible conclusion is that, for Fine Gael, Ireland is not the island of Ireland including its islands and seas—but the South and the South alone. The map of Ireland which is increasingly used by his Government—the one with the six counties cut out—is symbolic of its thinking.

Time and again, Fine Gael downplays the potential for reunification. For it, as for the DUP, the GFA is "the settlement", allowing for only a modicum of North-South cooperation and a few cross border bodies (which, again like the DUP, it ignores).

But the GFA is not and never was a



"settlement". Rather it is an international accord, agreed by a majority of people in both jurisdictions, which protects rights and identities while putting in place a mechanism for the reunification of Ireland by peaceful and democratic means.

The GFA—and the reunification of Ireland for which it provides a process—is anathema to the partitionist mindset of Leo Varadkar, Regina Doherty and others who pretend that our six northeast counties are not in Ireland and that those who live there are not Irish citizens.

Responding to Doherty's calculated dismissal of the rights of Irish citizens in the North, Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile said her comments "reflect a worrying culture among some in Merrion Street which runs contrary to the Good Friday

Agreement, the Constitution and the practical need for coordinated, shared and all-Ireland approaches".

That partitionist culture now informs a deliberate strategy to slow and stop movement towards Irish reunification. It is a strategy that will fail.

Support for reunification is growing; Varadkar and Doherty are on the wrong side

of history.

In the first week of May, when they gave vent to their deeply internalized partitionism, the Guardian carried an article by Irish Times columnist, Una Mullally that explained how coronavirus has strengthened the case for a united Ireland.

"Right now", she wrote, "people are viewing the question of Irish unity through the lens of epidemiology. The pandemic is many things, but it is political and so too will be its consequences; eradicating the border's segmentation of two jurisdictions has been a peacetime issue, a Brexit issue and is now a public health issue."

DE SOUZA CASE UPHOLDS IRISH CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

Emma de Souza, the young Derry woman who fought a national and international campaign against a British Government requirement that she had to renounce British citizenship before she could employ her right to Irish citizenship has achieved a significant concession. Her principled stand has forced the British government to change its immigration rules so that her husband Jake can apply for residency in Ireland under the EU's settlement scheme for family

members. The provisions of the Good Friday Agreement asserted the right of people born in the north of Ireland to claim Irish or British citizenship or both. This is what the British government signed up to in 1998 as part of the Good Friday Agreement. Again a British Government has been exposed as not living up to either the letter or the spirit of an international treaty and has only reluctantly accepted that Emma is an Irish and EU citizen.





#TIME4UNITY TOUR

AM LE HAONTACHT TURAS

IN THE COMING WEEKS,
SINN FÉIN
REPRESENTATIVES
WILL BE HOSTING
A SERIES OF

**ONLINE
DISCUSSIONS
FOR
MEMBERS
ON IRISH
UNITY.**

The debate on
Irish unity is
centre stage.

IT'S TIME TO
ACT, IT'S TIME
TO PLAN,
IT'S TIME FOR
UNITY!



Keep an eye out for your local discussion
and join us on Zoom.

GET INVOLVED, PLAY YOUR PART, BÍGÍ LINN.

