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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

In Common Cause

A letter from Washington

a Chara,

Good morning from Washington DC. I am here as part of the Sinn Féin delegation led by our party President, Mary Lou McDonald, which includes her Chief of Staff, Dawn Doyle, and Greg O'Loughlin from Friends of Sinn Féin USA.

I have visited Washington many times over the years and have made some good friends in the city. Every trip is different as politics change, events arise, and political careers ebb and flow.

There are a number of things, however, that remain constant: the welcome, the pride in our people, culture, and peace process, and a common purpose for a prosperous, reconciled, and united Ireland.

This pride, nurtured over generations, and rooted in a desire for what is best for Ireland, is striking, with fractious political systems a matter of months away from elections. Yet Republicans and Democrats, Senators and Representatives, some of long standing and others, such as James Gallagher of California, newly elected, sit at the table with the Sinn Féin President, sharing insights, histories and hopes for the future.

Politics is about delivering change and improving the lives of others. It is most effective when alliances are formed and maintained around a common concern. The people we sit across the table from, political leaders, civic leaders, and labour

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to disagree while working together.

If we were only to work with people who agreed with us on everything, we would likely be sitting alone and howling at the moon.

The debate on the future of Ireland is changing. Mary Lou McDonald briefed all those we met on the Sinn Féin bill that was tabled in the Dáil to legislate for the planning and preparation of Irish Unity.

Another milestone in the debate on the future of Ireland was the recent announcement by the Fine Gael Leader and Tánaiste, Simon Harris, that his party would begin planning for unity. This means that the only parties not advocating for change are Unionists in the North and Fianna Fáil in the South. A position that is unsustainable for the leader and Taoiseach, Micheal Martin of Fianna Fáil, who claims to be an Irish Republican Party.

One of the standout events so far on this trip has been engaging with the interns from the Washington Ireland Programme, who have turned up at several events. These young people are genuinely enthused about the potential of politics and the future, and that enthusiasm is contagious.

They have been open to engagement and full of pride when they realise the value of being Irish in Washington and see their nation represented in the Capitol. After every conversation, I came away believing that the future of Ireland is in good hands with this coming generation.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Resignation of Keir Starmer presents opportunity to advance relationships

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manner

Responding to the announcement that British Prime Minister Keir Starmer intends to resign, Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald TD said, “The announcement today by Keir Starmer that he will step down as British Prime Minister presents the opportunity to advance relationships between Britain and Ireland in a positive direction.

“The election result in Makerfield may have brought his premiership to an end, but the wider political picture is far more significant. The recent electoral victories of Plaid Cymru and the Scottish National Party press home the reality that pro-independence parties, including Sinn Féin, now play a hugely significant role in Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and present a direct challenge to the Union.

“Politics is changing rapidly in Britain and Ireland. Whoever becomes the next British Prime Minister must recognise these new political realities.

“As we approach the 30th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in two years’ time, we should recognise how far we have come. Peace is secure, and the next chapter in our national journey centres on constitutional change, the democratic pathway to Irish reunification, and a managed transition that demands strong British-Irish relations.

[READ FULL STORY HERE](#)

Mary Lou McDonald in Washington, DC

While in Washington, DC this week, Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald said, “I’m in Washington briefing the Congressional Friends of Ireland, members of Congress, trade union leaders and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Good Friday Agreement on the importance of this legislation, the opportunity it presents for Ireland’s future, and the vital role of the Irish diaspora in helping to achieve Irish unity.

“The future of Ireland should be decided by the people of Ireland.

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future that works for all who share this island.

“The first step is passing Sinn Féin’s Irish Unity Bill in the Dáil on the 7th of July. It is an unprecedented opportunity to begin planning for Irish Unity, and one we must seize.”



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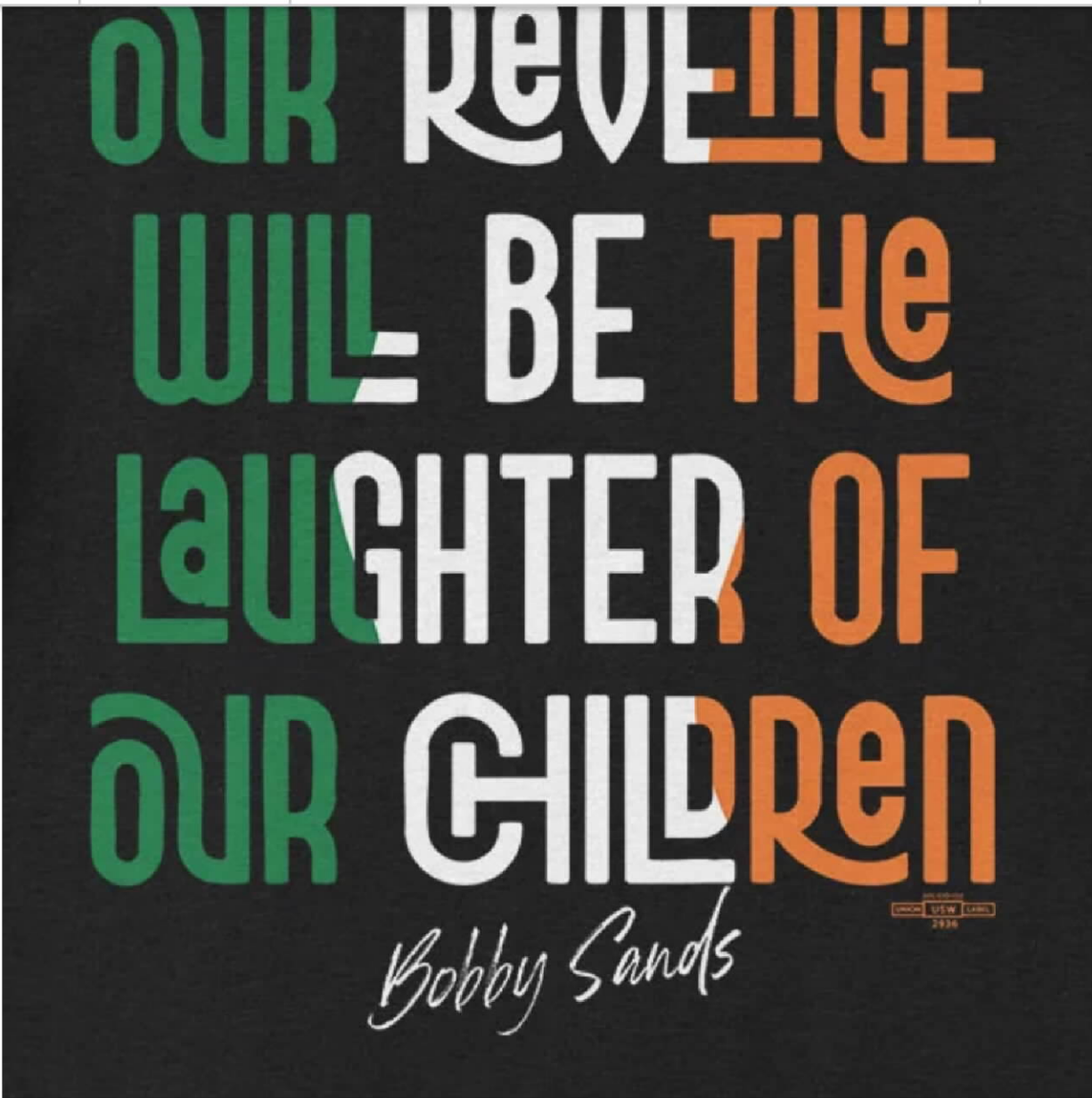
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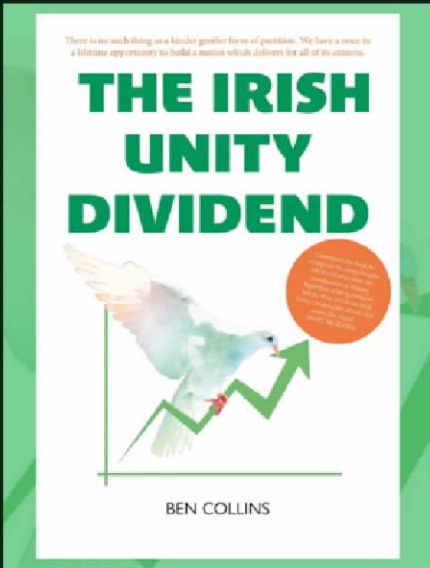
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Irish Unity Study Group

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