



UNITY

Printed & Published by the Communist Party of Ireland

For Peace, Independence and Socialism

12.10.19 Vol. 31 No 36

WEB PAGE

General Election now

By John Pinkerton

THE pantomime politics of the British Prime Minister Johnston may go down well at a Tory Party conference but this week it got the cold shoulder from the political leadership and top bureaucrats in the European Union.

A 'new' Tory proposal was put forward which attempted to give a harder Brexit gloss to a deal not substantially different from the one dreamed up between the EU bureaucrats and the previous Tory prime minister before her humiliating resignation.

That gloss is needed by Johnston to keep far right Tory MPs on side and the Brexit Party wrong footed – especially as the prospect of a general election looms ever larger.

The response from the EU was the predictable 'we will talk when you have something substantial to talk about ie when you agree with us'. A position prompting one frustrated British negotiator to say: "this is meant to be a dialogue, not a question and answer session."

In a telephone call between Johnston and the German chancellor Merkel, a political mainstay of the EU, she stood solidly behind the official EU rejection; leading a spokesperson for the British Prime Minister to say a Brexit deal is now "essentially impossible".

Merkel's office said it would not comment on "private" conversations but President Tusk of the European Council was not so reticent. He, tweeted "Boris Johnston what's at stake is not winning some stupid blame game... You don't want a deal, you don't want an extension, you don't want to revoke, quo vadis?"

It may not be clear what Johnston wants beyond fanning his own political ego, but it is clear what the EU want: the British Government to come to heel and overturn the 2016 Referendum result.

Behind the back stop, preferably enmeshing the whole of the UK not just Northern Ireland, is the EU's central goal of defending and extending a single market open to the most profitable deployment of capital, unheeded by a vibrant public sector and organised labour.

Johnston is to meet the Taoiseach later in the week but is unlikely to find any support there following a budget on Tuesday distorted by preparations for a 'no deal' Brexit.

True to Fine Gael's role as the EU's yap dog, Foreign Minister Coveney has said the proposals as they stand are not acceptable.

He hoped they might become a

"stepping stone" towards something that was "fit for purpose".

In the North the leader of the Democratic Unionists response was to declare that any demand to keep Northern Ireland inside the customs union after Brexit would be "beyond crazy."

In sharp contrast to the Sinn Féin deputy leader's view that Northern Ireland "can't withstand" being excluded from the customs union and the single market."

An exchange that would seem to put paid to Johnston's claim that his proposal would hasten the return of the power sharing Executive.

What the rejected British proposal does seem to have hastened is a general election. That might be the goal of Tory strategists who think Johnston may be able to win it on a hard Brexit ticket.

But it will also provide the opportunity to explain, unite and mobilise behind the left alternative view of leaving the EU as an essential enabling aspect in achieving a planned, public sector led, economic and social regeneration.



Editorial

Unity is published each week
by the Communist Party of
Ireland.
PO Box 85, Belfast BT1 1SR.

Slanderous insult

IN July 1947 the Soviet government accepted an invitation to attend a meeting in Paris on how Marshall Aid would be implemented. However it soon became clear that this "aid" would not be given to East European states unless they abandoned the "totalitarianism" methods running their economies, an obvious reference to the socialist measures being implemented. They were told they had to accept "a more characteristically European pattern," for that read capitalist.

The whole scenario was to establish what is now the European Union and it led the Soviet representative, foreign secretary V.Molotov, to condemn what he described as "the creation of a new organisation standing over and above the countries of Europe and interfering in their internal affairs down to determining the line of development to be followed by the main branches of industry in those countries.

"The European countries would find themselves placed under control and would lose their former economic and national independence because it pleases certain strong powers."

No wonder then in an act of vengeance and a blatant distortion of historical fact the European Parliament passed a motion with the title 'On the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe.'

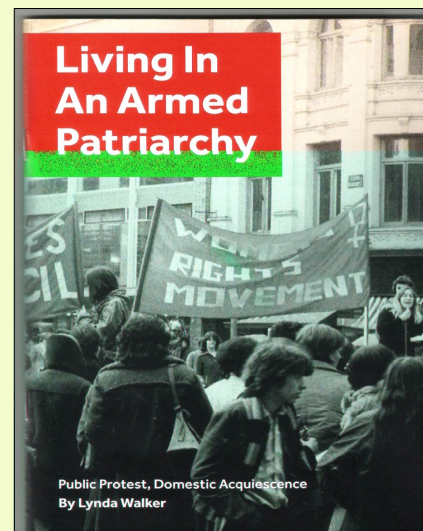
Basically the motion equated Nazism with Communism and claimed that the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was the cause of the Second World War, which would be laughable if it wasn't so serious.

There is no reference to the 1938 Munich Pact, no mention of the constant call by the Soviet Union for a collective security agreement repeatedly ignored by Britain and France, no mention of the betrayal of the Spanish people to the fascists by the west. No mention that "free and independent" Poland was actually a dictatorship which institutionalised anti-Semitism.

There is certainly no mention of the role of the Soviet Union or the Red Army despite the fact that the vast majority of German casualties occurred on the eastern front. It was Churchill who admitted that the Red Army "tore the guts out of the Wehrmacht." Nor was it surprising that there was no mention of the role of the European Communist resistance to fascism.

The resolution was an exercise in distorting historical fact and a slanderous insult to those thousands of Communists who gave their lives in that struggle.

To their eternal shame all except one of the Labour MEPs voted in favour of the resolution showing once again how Social Democracy finds itself on the side of reaction.



A booklet by Lynda Walker,
published by
the Communist Party of Ireland
From:

*Unity Press, PO Box 85
Belfast BT1 1SR. £5. 0r £6.50
including P&P.

Checks payable to:
CPI Northern Area Trading

*Connolly Books from the shop or
online: €6 P&P to be added.
43 East Essex Street Dublin
connollybooks@eircon.net

*Unity Books; 72, Waterloo Street;
Glasgow, G2 7DA £5. OR £6.50 incl,
P&P. www.unitybooks.co.uk
Telephone: 0141 204 1611

★
★ **Belfast Central** ★
★ **Branch Meeting** ★
★ **Wednesday** ★
★ **16th October** ★
★ **5.30pm** ★
★ **CPI Premises** ★
★

