

## Brits chew the rug again, lament Anglo-American 'rift'

by Edward Spannaus

President Clinton's refusal to knuckle under to the British on Irish policy has provided the latest pretext for bitter complaining from London that a new U.S. President is needed if there is to be any hope of restoring the tattered Anglo-American "special relationship."

The renewed outburst of enmity toward the current U.S. head of state came in response to the President's March 9 decision to grant a visa to Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, permitting Adams to come to the United States for meetings and fundraising; Clinton further enraged the "cousins" across the Atlantic by inviting Adams to attend a White House reception on March 17, St. Patrick's Day.

"Only a change of American administration" would offer a chance to repair the "special relationship," declared the London *Daily Telegraph*. The *Sunday Times* complained that President Clinton has done so much damage to the special relationship, that "it is fast becoming clear that only a different American President stands a chance of restoring it."

It was less than a year ago that President Clinton formally announced the downgrading of the "special relationship" during his visit to Bonn, when he proclaimed a new German-American partnership oriented toward central and eastern Europe. (See *EIR* July 22 and July 29, 1994.) The London *Guardian* lamented that Clinton "had reduced the U.S.'s special relationship with Britain to a mere sentimental tie with the Mother Country."

Clinton's bucking of the British first became evident when his administration began to criticize the International Monetary Fund "shock therapy" victimizing Russia in late 1993. The Clinton administration's disputes over British backing for Serbian genocide in Bosnia flared up throughout the first two years of his administration; the peace breakthroughs in the Middle East and Northern Ireland were both products of Clinton's personal diplomacy, in which he had

to circumvent both the British and the Anglophiles embedded in the U.S. State Department. On issues of the Middle East, the Balkans, and Northern Ireland in particular, Clinton's policy has been shaped within the context of a working relationship among Clinton, Pope John Paul II, and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

British antagonism for Clinton goes back even before his election. Prime Minister John Major—and his mentor Margaret Thatcher—backed George Bush. In an article on the current contretemps, the *New York Times* comments that, privately, "British officials suggest that Mr. Clinton appeared 'anti-British' as soon as he took office and see little prospects of relations improving any time soon."

### 'Nice while it lasted'

The house organ of the British Establishment, the *Sunday Times*, treated its readers on March 12 to a two-page spread on the "terminal decline" of the Anglo-American special link, which it attributed to President Clinton's "careless disregard for Britain."

"So long; Nice while it lasted" was the title of what was in effect an obituary for the "special relationship" which, it notes, some British historians trace to the aftermath of the War of 1812; others claim it refers to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, "when many poorer members of the British aristocracy married rich Americans."

During World War II, things were not always as sweet and close as some now recall; the *Times* called President Franklin Roosevelt "aloof" and "preoccupied," and the Americans sometimes tough and unsentimental; the sharpest differences came toward the end of the war. With Thatcher and Reagan, the relationship "blossomed." But in the 1992 U.S. presidential campaign, Clinton "began to think out a primitive foreign policy, in which Germany and Japan would

become America's new economic partners for the 1990s and beyond." And now, "with Major in Downing Street and Clinton in Washington, indifference verging on contempt is the order of the day."

Thus, when Gerry Adams shakes hands with Clinton at the White House on March 17, said the *Times*, this will represent "America's biggest snub to Britain in recent history and the lowest point in a special relationship sustained for half a century by 10 Presidents."

The Hollinger Corp.'s flagship papers, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Sunday Telegraph*, which have orchestrated the Whitewater scandal against President Clinton for well over a year, were not to be outdone. On March 11, the *Daily Telegraph* called for dispatching Margaret Thatcher to the United States—just as Lloyd George sent Lord Balfour to the United States in 1917 to rally support for Britain in the war. Thatcher could take a whirlwind tour to "attack the Democrats" and "light some useful fires under President Clinton," said a *Telegraph* editorial.

The next day, it was Ambrose Evans-Pritchard's turn to go after Clinton—as he has been doing for over a year in concocting the "Whitewater" and other Arkansas-related scandals against the President. Pritchard blamed the President's "conscious and deliberate affront" to the British on "a small group of enthusiasts on the President's personal staff who have adopted Ireland as their pet project"; he particularly cited Nancy Soderberg, the National Security Council staff director and former aide to Sen. Ted Kennedy. Clinton's NSC was denigrated by the London *Guardian* on March 16 as being run by officials "who see themselves assisting in the last rites of British colonialism."

### Who caused the rift?

To say that Clinton's invitation to Gerry Adams "caused" the rift in Anglo-American relations is a misinterpretation, said *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche in an interview on March 15. "The rift was caused many years ago," LaRouche said, calling it "a natural secretion of U.S. patriotic sentiments." Going back well before the Declaration of Independence, said LaRouche, "the very existence of the United States is premised upon an opposition to what President Franklin Roosevelt derided in accusing Prime Minister Winston Churchill during the war, as reported by his son Elliott Roosevelt: 'Winston, we are not going to put up with more of your British 18th-century methods.'"

During this century, since the assassination of President William McKinley, whom LaRouche described as "a patriot and anti-British, as opposed to his successor, Teddy Roosevelt, who was *not* a patriot and was very pro-British," the United States has had only four Presidents who have not been pro-British. LaRouche identified these as Warren Harding, who died under mysterious circumstances; Franklin Roosevelt; John Kennedy—"who in his own way was anti-British"; and now Clinton, who "expresses a pro-American, patriotic,

anti-British point of view, on the same standpoint as President Franklin Roosevelt before him and Kennedy before him, with all the qualifications which attend to that."

The administration's policy toward Ireland is consistent with its determination to exploit the ties to Germany in order to promote a solution to the Russian and eastern European crises in the form of economic cooperation between Moscow and Bonn, also involving other eastern European countries, LaRouche explained.

Even more fundamental than U.S. opposition to British policy on Ireland, is the United States' opposition to Britain's continued support for genocide perpetrated by Serbians in the Balkans, said LaRouche. There are people inclined more to the pro-British side in the State Department and elsewhere—that's always been a problem, LaRouche said, in the Justice Department, the Treasury, "and *especially* in the Federal Reserve System."

"But," LaRouche concluded, "to say that Gerry Adams and his visit is the cause of a rift between Britain and the United States; that's a fairy story. The fact that the United States did not knuckle under to London on the Gerry Adams case; the fact that Clinton is not a whipped dog, as London wishes he were through their agents such as Phil Gramm and the Mont Pelerin Society crowd, that fascist crowd which is behind the 'Contract with America' crowd; that upsets London a great deal."

### Newt the Anglophile

Immediately after the White House announcement on the Gerry Adams visa, a very upset senior parliamentarian of Britain's Conservative Party told *EIR* that he is pinning his hopes on Newt Gingrich and his entourage in the United States "to keep Clinton on the rocks," and to try to neutralize the effect of Clinton's actions. "Gingrich and friends are doing a great job," he crowed.

The same hopes were reflected in the next day's *Daily Telegraph*—the same issue which called for the emergency tour by Thatcher. The *Telegraph* called for a new transatlantic dialogue which would operate behind the President's back, for, it haughtily proclaimed, "the Clinton administration is not America." Among the Republican Party figures who could help in patching things up, the *Telegraph* highlighted the importance of Gingrich, praising him as "a confirmed Anglophile."

"In their shared commitments to free trade, British and American conservatives are at one," declared the *Telegraph*. "Realistically, only a change of American administration"—something they have been working on for some time—"will offer a chance of radically repairing diplomatic relations." But, the *Telegraph* added, "much can be done at a lower level, by long-term nurturing of ties. This sort of dialogue among conservatives would help give Republicans the ammunition with which to attack Clinton for undermining the relationship."