Letter to the Editor,

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**Encouraging Diplomacy on Iran**

After walking away from the Iranian nuclear deal, which closed the door on diplomacy, the pretext by the Trump administration of freeing Iranians from authoritarianism is similar in tone to previous US war propaganda in this region.

The CIA now publicly admits that it was behind the notorious 1953 coup against Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, and when the US backed Shah was finally overthrown it led to our present-day Islamic Republic of Iran.

In his 2010 memoirs ‘A Journey: My Political Life’, Tony Blair suggests that former US Vice President Dick Cheney wanted forcible “regime change” in all Middle Eastern countries that he considered hostile to US interests. The neo cons in 2003 believed that Iraq would be a "cake walk" but that "real men go to Tehran". But Iran is not an impoverished nation like those already left destroyed in this region, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria.

If the United States launches a major assault on Iran, this powerful nation will target their missiles on the many surrounding US military bases here, retaliation will lead to escalation and could lead to a nuclear war.

Since 2002 Ireland has continued to facilitate this US regime change strategy by allowing US warplanes refuel at Shannon Airport, facilitating the transportation of over three million US troops and military equipment to these never-ending wars in the Middle East and north Africa. So, in the event of a US war on Iran, will the Irish Government, that supports the Iranian nuclear deal, encourage diplomacy by terminating our support for yet another war, or do we remain a de facto US Airforce base?

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