

## A specially **strained** relationship

The current situation is making it impossible for me to carry out my role as I would like.” Thus did **Sir** Kim Darroch resign as Britain’s ambassador to Washington, the country’s top diplomatic post, on July 10th. His departure came days after the Mail on Sunday, a newspaper, published a selection of his cables that were highly critical of President Donald Trump and his administration.

strained 紧张的; 勉强的

Sir 爵士

The **furor** will test the “special relationship”, on which Western defence is founded. It has also sparked a domestic political storm. Thus, just when it should be preparing for a post-Brexit “Global Britain”, the Foreign Office finds itself fighting fires both at home and in relations with the countries it most needs to cultivate.

furor 公愤

In truth Sir Kim’s cables revealed little that has not been said frequently in the press. He describes the Trump administration as “dysfunctional” and “diplomatically **clumsy** and **inept**”, and did not expect that to change. Unsurprising as these views may be, their leaking is damaging, and has set off a hunt for the mole and speculation on the motive. Suspicions range from familiar Russian **mischievous-making** to the even more unsettling idea that the leaker hoped to ensure a more Brexit-friendly person is put in the key diplomatic **post**.

clumsy 笨拙的

inept 不适当的; 笨拙的

mischievous-making 搬弄是非的

post 岗位

The international-trade secretary, Liam Fox, is meant to be paving the way for a future deal with America, but in Washington this week he had a front-seat view of how **fraught** handling this administration might be. The EU, meanwhile, has been busy doing actual trade deals: its **pact** with Japan came into force in February and last month it reached agreements with Mercosur, a big Latin American trade club, and Vietnam. Global Britain has a lot of catching up to do.

fraught 担心的; 忧虑的

pact 协定; 条约