

Tories Choose  
Top Diplomat  
To Run Britain

Truss Takes Authority  
as Economy Teeters

By MARK LANDLER  
and STEPHEN CASTLE

LONDON — A divided British Conservative Party announced on Monday that it had chosen Liz Truss to replace Prime Minister Boris Johnson, turning to a party stalwart, hawkish diplomat and free-market champion to lead a country facing the gravest economic crisis in a generation.

Ms. Truss, 47, defeated Rishi Sunak, a former chancellor of the Exchequer, whose resignation in July set in motion Mr. Johnson’s ouster. Her victory was widely expected, but the margin was less resounding than the polls forecast, suggesting she may face problems pulling together a party shaken by Mr. Johnson’s turbulent three-year tenure and a country rattled by an energy crisis and the aftershocks of Brexit.

Ms. Truss, who served as foreign secretary in Mr. Johnson’s cabinet and was not part of the Tory rebellion that led to his departure, will formally assume the prime minister’s title on Tuesday in a meeting with Queen Elizabeth II at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, where the queen spends her summer holiday.

Ms. Truss will be Britain’s fourth prime minister in the six years since it voted to leave the European Union, and only its third female leader, after Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May. Like them, she will be greeted by a forbidding array of problems.

Double-digit inflation, a looming recession, labor unrest, soaring household energy bills and possible fuel shortages this winter — all will confront Ms. Truss as she moves into 10 Downing Street. She also faces a potential collision with the European Union over her legislation to change trade rules in Northern Ireland, a dispute that could spill over into Britain’s relations with the United States, which opposes any kind of disruptive change.

In a brief, businesslike speech to members of her party after her victory was confirmed, Ms. Truss promised a “bold plan” to lower taxes and revive the economy. “I campaigned as a Conservative, and I will govern as a Conservative,” she declared. “We will deliver, we will deliver and we will deliver.”

Critics said Ms. Truss’s call for tax cuts and smaller government was inadequate in the face of the dire economic threats bearing down on Britain. Many expect her

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DANIEL LEAL/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES  
Andrew Stephenson, the Conservative Party chairman, with Liz Truss, the incoming prime minister, at party headquarters Monday.

A Hawkish Political Disrupter  
To Lead a Nation Facing Crisis

By MARK LANDLER

LONDON — As a passionate 19-year-old student at Oxford in 1994, Elizabeth Truss called for a referendum to abolish the British monarchy, telling an audience of fellow Liberal Democrats, “We do not believe that people should be born to rule.”

Three decades later, Ms. Truss, now 47 and known as Liz, will travel to a Scottish castle on Tuesday to be anointed by Queen Elizabeth II as Britain’s new prime minister, completing a political odyssey from rabble-rousing republican to tradition-cloaked leader of the Conservative Party.

Ms. Truss long ago pivoted to embrace the monarchy as being good for British democracy, just as she long ago abandoned the Liberal Democrats for the Conservatives. More recently, she switched sides on Brexit, opposing the drive for Britain to leave the European Union before the 2016 referendum, then reversing course to become one of its most ardent evangelists.

Her ideological dexterity — critics would call it opportunism — has helped propel Ms. Truss to

Onetime Opponent of  
Brexit Turned Into  
Ardent Evangelist

the pinnacle of British politics. How well it will prepare her for the rigors of the job is another question, given the dire economic trends enveloping the country, and a Tory party that seems torn between desire for a fresh start and regret about tossing out her flamboyant, larger-than-life predecessor, Boris Johnson.

By her own admission, Ms. Truss has little of Mr. Johnson’s charisma. Awkward where he is easygoing, staccato where he is smooth, she nevertheless scaled the party’s ranks with what colleagues describe as nerve, drive and an appetite for disruptive politics. When Mr. Johnson fell into trouble, she positioned herself adroitly, never publicly breaking with him while staying in the spotlight as a hawkish foreign secretary.

“She has so much confidence in

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One Million Migrants Admitted  
Into U.S. During Biden’s Tenure

By EILEEN SULLIVAN

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine — At a modest hotel a few miles from the ocean here, most of the rooms have been occupied this summer by families from African countries seeking asylum — 192 adults and 119 children in all.

They are among the more than one million undocumented immigrants who have been allowed into the country temporarily after crossing the border during President Biden’s tenure, part of a record-breaking cascade of irregular migration around the world.

Distinct from the hundreds of thousands who have entered the country undetected during Mr. Biden’s term, many of the one million are hoping for asylum — a long shot — and will have to wait seven years on average before a decision on their case is reached because of the nation’s clogged immigration system.

The hotel in South Portland is among a handful in the region, in addition to Portland’s family shelter, that are offering temporary housing for hundreds of new immigrants. Maine is unusual in that it allows asylum seekers to re-

Burden Falls on States  
as Asylum Hearings  
Can Take Years

ceive financial support for rent and other expenses, in part through its General Assistance program. But the challenge has been steep; in May, officials in Portland announced that the city could no longer guarantee shelter for newly arrived asylum seekers because emergency housing was at capacity.

“The community is growing so big that the word is traveling that we are helping,” said Mike Guthrie, the director of Portland’s family shelter. “So more people are coming.”

While immigration is among the country’s most hotly debated political issues, the focus is almost always on the surging numbers of people seeking to cross the southwestern border. Less attention has been paid to what happens to those who get released from government custody to lawfully await

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Ukrainian Power Plant, Blitzed  
By Shelling, Hangs by a Thread

This article is by Marc Santora, Ivan Nechepurenko and Matthew Mpoke Bigg.

KYIV, Ukraine — A fire caused by renewed shelling near Europe’s largest nuclear power plant led to its disconnection from the national power grid on Monday, Ukrainian officials said, raising fears that despite the presence of U.N. inspectors, conditions at the Russian-occupied facility could deteriorate quickly and threaten a catastrophe.

The fire forced the staff to sever the plant’s last connection to a reserve line that was providing its only source of outside power, once again placing critical cooling systems at risk of relying solely on emergency backup power, Herman Galushchenko, Ukraine’s energy minister, said Monday.

Firefighting crews had not been able to reach the site of the blaze because of continued fighting around the plant, Mr.



NATIONAL A14-19

**Parade Makes a Comeback**  
After two years of scaled-back celebrations because of Covid-19, West Indian revelry returned to Brooklyn. PAGE A18

**No Storms but a Lot of Anxiety**  
The hurricane season has gotten off to a calm start, but residents of Louisiana’s gulf coast still fear the worst. PAGE A14

Disaster Feared as Fire  
Crews Are Blocked

Galushchenko said.

Shelling, explosions and fires around the facility, the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southern Ukraine, have raised fears for months about a possible disaster, but amid contradictory claims and persistent fighting, it has been difficult for international experts to gauge the danger from afar. Two members of a United Nations team, sent last week to inspect the facility, have remained at the plant in the hopes of ensuring its safety and perhaps reducing the fighting in the area.

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**ARMS DEALS** Moscow is buying shells and rockets from North Korea, a U.S. report said. PAGE A8

A Nevada Rancher Made a Truce With Beavers, and It Paid Off

By CATRIN EINHORN

WELLS, Nev. — Horace Smith blew up a lot of beaver dams in his life.

A rancher here in northeastern Nevada, he waged war against the animals, frequently with dynamite. Not from meanness or cruelty; it was a struggle over water. Mr. Smith blamed beavers for flooding some parts of his property, Cottonwood Ranch, and drying out others.

But his son Agee, who eventually took over the ranch, is making peace. And he says welcoming beavers to work on the land is one of the best things he’s done.

“They’re very controversial still,” said Mr. Smith, whose father died in 2014. “But it’s getting better. People are starting to wake up.”

As global warming intensifies droughts, floods and wildfires, Mr. Smith has become one of a growing number of ranchers, scientists and other “beaver believers” who see the creatures not only as helpers, but as furry weapons of climate resilience.

Last year, when Nevada suffered one of the worst droughts on record, beaver pools kept his cattle with enough water. When rains came strangely hard and fast, the vast network of dams slowed a



NIKI CHAN WYLIE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES  
Beavers’ landscape-altering dams and ponds disrupt agriculture, but they also have big benefits.

torrent of water raging down the mountain, protecting his hay crop. And with the beavers’ help, creeks have widened into wetlands that run through the sagebrush desert, cleaning water, birthing new meadows and creating a buffer

against wildfires.

True, beavers can be complicated partners. They’re wild, swimming rodents the size of bass-set hounds with an obsession for building dams. When conflicts

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**Suspect in Knife Attacks Is Dead**  
A day after 10 people died and 18 were hurt in one of the worst episodes of stabbing violence in Canada, one of the two suspects was found dead. PAGE A13

**Political Red Meat, and Veggies**  
In France, a Green lawmaker told men to give up barbecue for the sake of the planet. The uproar was swift. PAGE A4

BUSINESS B1-5

**\$50 Billion for Chip Makers**  
The Biden administration released its plan to bolster the U.S. semiconductor industry and counter China. PAGE B1



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**Singers With Deep Voices**  
Whales share songs from Australia to Ecuador, and their melodies don’t take long to migrate across oceans. PAGE D3

**Preventing a Martian Plague**  
The likelihood is low that bringing rocks to Earth from Mars will sicken us, but NASA is taking no chances. PAGE D1

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**A Fantasy Face-Off**  
“The Rings of Power” vs. “House of the Dragon”: Which has better dragons? Which has better swords? Now that we’ve seen a few episodes of each, here’s an early comparison. PAGE C1

**To Mask, or Not to Mask**  
The early unanimity that governed mask and vaccination rules when live performance first returned to theaters and concert halls has given way to a variety of approaches. PAGE C1

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**Paul Krugman** PAGE A20



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**Nadal Ousted in U.S. Open**  
Frances Tiafoe, above, beat the No. 2 seed and 22-time Grand Slam singles champion in four sets, striking a blow for young American players. PAGE B6

