



Speech by Rt Hon Arlene Foster, Leader of the DUP - Gibraltar National Day 2018

Thank you very much and thank you to the Chief Minister for his invitation to be here today. It is wonderful to be here when Sir Joe is having the Freedom of City given to him. It is wonderful to celebrate here because last night, I learned that Sir Joe was in Northern Ireland for 4 years during the war and I feel very at home here in Gibraltar. It is not just because there are a couple of Northern Ireland flags down there, I see you, it also because when I walk around and I see places like Ballymena House, and I notice that there is such a service, a respect for Northern Ireland here.

I want to say that we share very much the view of how things work and just as we stood together during those very difficult years during the war, we still stand together in solidarity today, with the people of Gibraltar.

This morning I took a tour of this wonderful place and took in a little bit of its proud history, of its proud heritage... a history of challenges, a history of hardship but also one of resilience and one of pride and that is something that we in Northern Ireland very much associate with. Hardship, yes, challenge, yes but also resilience and being proud of your nation and that's what we are. We are proud of Northern Ireland just as you are proud of Gibraltar. So, can I wish you all a very, very, happy National Day and remember that our support for you is as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar.

Thank you very much.