

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

"I welcome the news from yesterday's summit between Irish Prime Minister John Bruton and British Prime Minister John Major that peace negotiations will resume on June 10. I am encouraged that the recent deplorable IRA bombings have not shattered the peace process. The Northern Ireland peace process must get back on track -- and this is a big step in that direction. I strongly support the establishment of a firm date for the resumption of all-party peace talks, as well as the two leaders' call for an IRA cease-fire. I urge Sinn Fein to support an immediate IRA cease-fire.

"The future of Northern Ireland lies in negotiation, not in violence. After decades of conflict, the people of Northern Ireland are united in their desire for peace -- they deserve peace.

"The United States has played and should continue to play an important role in bridging the gap of trust between the parties in Northern Ireland through such means as the Mitchell Commission. In my view, the United States should be prepared to assist in the consultations between the parties on the elective process leading up to these all-party negotiations. The pursuit of peace in Northern Ireland must remain an important U.S. foreign policy priority."

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