

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

*For Immediate Release*

**JOINT STATEMENT FROM SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE  
AND HOUSE SPEAKER NEWT GINGRICH**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 14, 1996) -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich today issued an invitation to Prime Minister John Bruton of Ireland to address a joint meeting of Congress later this year.

"In my view Prime Minister John Bruton has demonstrated great leadership and courage in the quest for peace in Northern Ireland," Dole said. "I hope that he will accept our invitation to speak before a joint meeting of Congress in the near future. The United States should continue to play an important role in facilitating the peace process."

"Prime Minister Bruton continues to be a driving force in the search for peace in Northern Ireland," Gingrich said. "The American people have an enormous stake in efforts to achieve a lasting solution to the problems that have plagued Northern Ireland. Having listened to the Prime Minister's brief remarks at the Friends of Ireland lunch which I hosted in the Capitol today, I am convinced that the American people will benefit greatly from his insights into the unfolding peace process."