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Uses Position On House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations

To Direct Funds To International Fund For Ireland

Washington, DC — Using his seat on the powerful House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9), helped secure \$19.6 million for the International Fund for Ireland. The funds are part of the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2004, which the House approved early this morning. The full House Appropriations Committee, of which Rothman is a member, approved the bill last week.

"As the world is focused on the situation in the Middle East, we cannot forget the problems that our friends in Northern Ireland continue to face today as a result of discrimination and violence," Rothman said. "The International Fund for Ireland has done valuable work in bringing Protestants and Catholics together to establish a society where they can both live and work in peace and build peaceful futures for their children, without discrimination or violence."

The U.S. has been a generous donor to the International Fund for Ireland, which was established by the British and Irish governments in 1986. The International Fund for Ireland promotes economic development in disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland, and encourages dialogue, peace, and reconciliation between Protestants and Catholics.

"I am pleased to be a member of the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, which has the responsibility to decide whether resources should be allocated for such important initiatives as the International Fund for Ireland," Rothman stated. "I truly believe that through efforts to foster economic growth and community building opportunities in which Protestants and Catholics can come together to build better futures for their families, we will see a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. That is why providing significant funds to the International Fund for Ireland continues to be so important and in the best interest of the United States."

Rothman is a member of the Friends of Ireland, a congressional organization that focuses on issues related to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

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