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**Khalilzad speeches****United States Welcomes Certified Results of Iraqi Legislative Elections****U.S. Ambassador Khalilzad congratulates Iraqi people for historic achievement**

February 10, 2006

U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad has welcomed the announcement of the final certified results of Iraq's legislative elections December 15, 2005, to form the first parliamentary body since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

"The national unity government will need to implement a program that brings all Iraqis together, builds a happy future for the people of Iraq and gets Iraq to stand on its own feet. I congratulate the Iraqi people on having arrived at this historic moment," Khalilzad said in a press release in Baghdad February 10.

The 275 newly elected lawmakers have two weeks to take their seats in the legislative body known as the Council of Representatives. They were elected to serve four-year terms.

For additional information, see [Iraq's Political Process](#).

*Following is the text of the press release:*

Embassy of the United States of America  
Baghdad, Iraq  
February 10, 2006

**NEWS RELEASE**

Message from Ambassador Khalilzad on Certified Results of the December 15th Election

I welcome the announcement of certified results of the December 15 election. Soon the members of the first Council of Representatives will take their seats. We wish the new Council success.

One of their first orders of business will be to select the new Iraqi president and deputy presidents as the next step in building the new, permanent government under Iraq's new constitution.

We hope that this will be a government based on national unity, formed without regard to sectarianism, committed to peace and with capable ministers who place loyalty to Iraq above that of loyalty to faction. These ministers should be dedicated to the defense of Iraqi democracy, not to party militias. The national unity government will need to implement a program that brings all Iraqis together, builds a happy future for the people of Iraq and gets Iraq to stand on its own feet.

I congratulate the Iraqi people on having arrived at this historic moment. We also take this opportunity to congratulate the members and staff of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq for administering the recent election.

We call upon all Iraqis to work together toward this noble goal of a democratic Iraq with peace, freedom and equality for all its citizens. The U. S. is proud of the role we have played in helping Iraqis achieve this success.

May God bless the people of Iraq.

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