

International Monitors and Experts in Iraq

Secretary Condoleezza Rice

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I welcome the invitation of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) to international monitors and experts to observe and review the December 15 elections, including the complaints settlement process. I also welcome endorsements of the Electoral Commission's action by parties that have voiced grievances regarding the December 15 election.

The Electoral Commission has once again demonstrated its commitment to fair and credible elections that meet international standards. It is a reminder of the critical role of this independent body in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process. The United Nations is also playing an important role in support of the elections and vote counting.

The United States strongly supports the election review process. The December 15 election, the work of the IECI and the ongoing political process are all signs that the Iraqi people are committed to democracy and the peaceful resolution of political differences.

We look forward to final results that represent the will of the Iraqi people and are accepted by them.

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