

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# S. RES. 26

Commending the people of Iraq on the election held on January 30, 2005, of a 275-member Transitional National Assembly and of provincial and regional governments and encouraging further steps toward establishment of a free, democratic, secure, and prosperous Iraq.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2005

Mr. LUGAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on Foreign Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Commending the people of Iraq on the election held on January 30, 2005, of a 275-member Transitional National Assembly and of provincial and regional governments and encouraging further steps toward establishment of a free, democratic, secure, and prosperous Iraq.

Whereas on January 30, 2005, for the first time in over 50 years, the citizens of Iraq had the opportunity to vote in a free election, to choose their own leaders, and to begin the process of writing their own constitution;

Whereas the election in Iraq was held despite imperfect conditions, threats to voters, candidates, and election workers, and acts of violence by those seeking to prevent the voice of the majority of the people of Iraq from being heard;

Whereas an estimated 14,300,000 Iraqis were registered to vote at more than 5,000 polling stations across Iraq and in 14 other countries;

Whereas a majority of individuals who were eligible to vote participated in the election and the final results of the election will be certified on February 15, 2005;

Whereas, the newly elected 275-member Transitional National Assembly of Iraq will include at least 25 percent female representation, will serve as the national legislature of Iraq, and will name a Presidency Council consisting of a President and 2 Vice Presidents that will appoint a new Prime Minister of Iraq and approve the selection of cabinet ministers;

Whereas the Transitional National Assembly will draft a national constitution that will be presented to the people of Iraq for their approval in a national referendum to be held in October 2005 and that will lead to the election of a constitutional government in Iraq;

Whereas the election establishes a credible process for governing Iraq under a mandate from the majority of the people of Iraq and reflects the will of the people for a new Iraq in which all communities are represented and terrorism is eliminated;

Whereas the election was a historic step towards development of democracy for the people of Iraq and an inspiration to all those in the region who are striving to achieve democracy in their own countries;

Whereas the United States is committed to facilitating the development of a strong and proud Iraq that is built by the people of Iraq through their unified efforts and their

commitment to protecting the territorial integrity and national unity of Iraq;

Whereas President George W. Bush stated after the election in Iraq that the “world is hearing the voice of freedom from the center of the Middle East”; and

Whereas the United States Government stands ready to work with the new Government of Iraq to build a free, democratic, secure, and prosperous Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) recognizes that, on January 30, 2005, the  
3       people of Iraq elected a 275-member Transitional  
4       National Assembly and leaders of provincial and re-  
5       gional governments in Iraq in an election that has  
6       been widely described as free and fair;

7               (2) recognizes this election is a milestone in the  
8       development of democracy in Iraq, commends the  
9       people of Iraq on the election, and congratulates the  
10      new members of the Transitional National Assembly  
11      and the leaders of the provincial and regional gov-  
12      ernments;

13              (3) commends the Independent Electoral Com-  
14      mission of Iraq for its administration of the election  
15      and commends the United Nations Mission in Iraq  
16      for the provision of expert technical assistance and  
17      training to the Commission;

18              (4) expresses its respect for the freely expressed  
19      will of the people of Iraq, its admiration for their

1 courage in the face of intimidation, threats, and acts  
2 of violence, and its intention to work with the new  
3 Government of Iraq to help the people of Iraq realize  
4 the opportunity for a more peaceful and prosperous  
5 future;

6 (5) urges the new leadership of Iraq to move  
7 forward with drafting the constitution, upholding the  
8 rule of law, and holding a referendum on the new  
9 constitution in October 2005;

10 (6) urges all members of the international com-  
11 munity to help Iraq end the violent insurgency which  
12 is destabilizing the region and help Iraq build the  
13 necessary political, economic, and security infra-  
14 structure essential to establish a viable, democratic  
15 state and improve the lives of the people of Iraq; and

16 (7) reaffirms the commitment of the United  
17 States to help the people of Iraq succeed in building  
18 their own government and fulfilling the aspirations  
19 of the people of Iraq for a free, united, peaceful, and  
20 prosperous Iraq.

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