

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

December 10, 2007

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Having reviewed the request of the Government of Iraq to extend the mandate of the Multinational Force (MNF) in Iraq and following consultations with the Government of Iraq, I am writing to confirm, consistent with this request, that the MNF under unified command stands ready to continue to fulfill its mandate as set out in Security Council resolution 1546 (2004) and extended by Security Council resolutions 1637 (2005) and 1723 (2006).

Together, the Government of Iraq and MNF in Iraq combat the challenges that threaten Iraq's security and stability through a security partnership that has continued to improve and that has resulted in progress in the past year. This effective, cooperative partnership continues to evolve, as Iraqi security forces take leadership in fighting and deterring terrorism and other violent acts throughout Iraq. In the context of this partnership, MNF is prepared to continue to undertake a broad range of tasks to contribute to the maintenance of security and stability and to ensure force protection, acting under the authorities set forth in resolution 1546 (2004), including the tasks and arrangements set out in the letters annexed thereto, and in close cooperation with the Government of Iraq. The forces that make up MNF will remain committed to acting consistently with their obligations and rights under international law, including the law of armed conflict.

His Excellency

Marcello Spatafora,

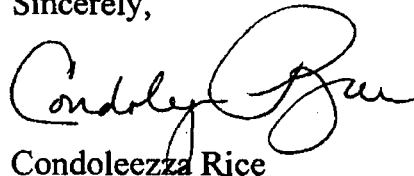
President of the Security Council of the United Nations,  
New York.

Iraqi security forces continue to make progress in developing their capabilities as they move into the lead in taking responsibility for Iraq's security. This year, the Iraqi Ground Forces Command has assumed control of all Iraqi Army divisions. Iraqi authorities and local security forces have assumed primary security responsibility in eight of Iraq's provinces, and we are working together for continued progress in transition of security responsibility in all of Iraq's eighteen provinces. Together we will build towards the day when the Iraqi forces assume full responsibility for the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq.

In the coming year, the MNF is ready to continue to participate in the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq, within the context of the growth in the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces and Iraq's successes in security, politics, and the economy. The MNF is prepared to work with the Government of Iraq to help it achieve the objectives it has set for itself as an independent and sovereign state.

The co-sponsors intend to annex this letter to the resolution on Iraq that is under consideration. In the meantime, I request that you provide copies of this letter to members of the Council as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Condoleezza Rice", written in a cursive style.

Condoleezza Rice