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**Letter of congratulations from M. Jacques CHIRAC,
President of the Republic, to Mr Jalal TALABANI,
President of Iraq.**

Paris, 26 April 2006

President Talabani,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you my warm congratulations on your re-election as President of Iraq.

Your confirmation in this high office marks a milestone in the establishment of Iraq's permanent institutions, following the December 2005 parliamentary election. It also recognizes your eminent contribution to the smooth progress of the transition under way and reflects the Iraqi people's wish to see you continue to work for Iraq's unity, having due regard for her diversity.

I am convinced that the institution you preside over, which is representative of the main components of Iraqi society, will find the way to pursue its action for the good of Iraq so as to restore stability, bolster her sovereignty and define institutional balances such that all Iraqis can feel they are represented. The formation, over the next few weeks, of the new government, should also take this on board to ensure in particular the necessary inclusiveness of the political process.

I am also delighted to be able to pursue the trustful, high-calibre dialogue France has begun with the Iraqi authorities. Rest assured that my country and its European partners are determined to stand at your side and support the Iraqi people in the difficult but essential tasks of the transition.

Again wishing you every success (complimentary close).