





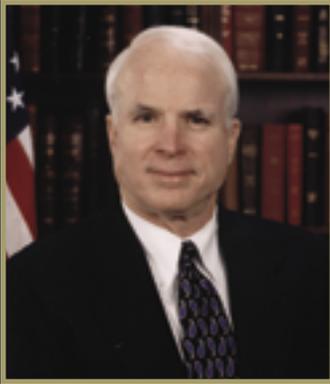
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“WE ARE LED, BY EVENTS AND COMMON SENSE, TO ONE CONCLUSION: THE SURVIVAL OF LIBERTY IN OUR LAND INCREASINGLY DEPENDS ON THE SUCCESS OF LIBERTY IN OTHER LANDS. THE BEST HOPE FOR PEACE IN OUR WORLD IS THE EXPANSION OF FREEDOM IN ALL THE WORLD.”

**PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
2005 INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

Cover photo: Afghan woman casts her ballot in Afghanistan's first-ever presidential election in October 2004.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



An exceptionally busy year for the International Republican Institute (IRI), 2004 showcased the knowledge and capabilities gained by the Institute in two decades of work around the world. The events of 2004 also signified IRI's future path.

IRI's 12 years of work strengthening Ukraine's political parties, civil society and election processes helped lay the groundwork for the "Orange Revolution." In addition, during the October, November and December election rounds, IRI observers and exit polls helped determine the validity of the processes and balloting results. The outcome was a triumph for the democratic desires and the will of the Ukrainian people. IRI is already working with Ukraine's new leaders and citizens to help ensure democratic practices and good governance between elections.

Afghanistan, a country that once lived under the tyranny of the Taliban, voted for a president for the first time in October. Forbidden to leave their houses without a burkha and male relative just three years before, millions of Afghan women helped choose their new leader. Before the election, IRI conducted voter and civic education training throughout the

country, supported the only independent newspaper in Afghanistan's major languages, and helped enlarge the country's civil society. On Election Day, voting in the capital was witnessed by a bipartisan IRI observer team, and an IRI Election Day poll validated the balloting results. In 2005, IRI will help Afghanistan prepare for parliamentary elections.

In Iraq, IRI's largest-ever program trained political parties, and designed and produced get-out-the-vote ads and material. IRI also aided new civil society organizations in sponsoring candidate debates, enlarging freedom for women, and in thinking through policy solutions for a new democracy. Many believed that Iraqis, fearing violence, would not venture out to vote, but IRI-funded polls proved remarkably accurate in predicting an overwhelming turnout. Constitutional and civil society development are part of IRI's 2005 program to assist Iraqis as they cement their democracy.

The balloting in Afghanistan and Iraq was a direct result of President Bush's belief that in the war against terror, the United States must also stand for democracy. The elections in Ukraine reminded us that, outside the Muslim world, millions still seek our help

in gaining freedom. The President's strategy was underlined in our 2004 Freedom Dinner, where Dr. Condoleezza Rice commended IRI for "doing the difficult work that comes with newfound freedom and liberty and democracy." The importance of IRI's work was also emphasized in a New York forum during the August 2004 Republican National Convention, when foreign policy luminaries, including Senators, Congressmen and Institute Board members, described the need for the Administration's "Forward Strategy for Freedom."

In August, IRI's Board was delighted to welcome back Lorne Craner as the Institute's President. Lorne returned to IRI after serving President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell as Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. The experience he gained during those three years were put to good use during the events described above. The expertise of the Institute's new leadership team will ensure that IRI is able to advance democracy in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "John McCain".

**Senator John McCain
Chairman, IRI**

A MESSAGE FROM IRI'S PRESIDENT

I am grateful to Senator John McCain and the rest of the International Republican Institute's (IRI) Board for their confidence in asking me to come back to IRI. Returning to IRI last August, after three years in the Bush Administration, I found a very different organization. IRI is much larger, is active in many more countries, and there are many new faces amongst our staff.

These are not, however, the biggest changes affecting the Institute. The biggest changes are the expectations placed upon IRI. In the 1990s, IRI was asked to do something good and noble by advancing democracy. President Bush's reaction to 9/11 – a belief that the spread of democracy is a

defense against terrorism – has cast IRI's work as a strategic imperative.

In implementing his policy, the President has repeatedly referred to the National Endowment for Democracy family; within that family, IRI's middle name places a special obligation on us. Today's obligations mean that IRI must operate in ways different than in the past.

While we will concentrate our work in countries of strategic interest, 9/11 has expanded the definition of that term. IRI has worked since the early 1990s in the Middle East, but our effort there and in other areas of the Muslim world must dramatically increase. We are conscious, however, that

people elsewhere still need our assistance. Our work late last year in Ukraine is emblematic of that understanding.

We also know that our help may need to take different forms than in the past. IRI will be adding programmatic specialties to our foundation of political party building. Many in Latin America, for example, are disappointed that democracy has not delivered prosperity; IRI must begin to address the nexus between political and economic reform.

The increase in Muslim world programming has emphasized the importance of ensuring that women in every country are engaged in their country's civil and political life.

Technology unavailable in the 1990s will aid our efforts; already IRI is conducting training from Washington to distant lands by video conference.

It was a great honor for me to be asked to come back to IRI. I am joined by an outstanding new leadership team that combines decades of political and foreign policy experience. We welcome the expectations placed upon us as IRI moves to the forefront in implementing our nation's foreign policy.

Lorne W. Craner
President, IRI



Women participate in an IRI civic and political participation workshop in Nicaragua.

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A wave of freedom begins

In a breathtaking show of support for democracy, more than eight million Afghans – both men and women – lined up for hours to cast votes despite threats of violence.



Women line up to vote during Afghanistan's October 2004 election.

On Saturday, October 9, Afghan citizens went to the polls to freely elect their head of state for the first time in their 5,000-year history. In a breathtaking show of support for democracy, more than eight million Afghans – both men and women – lined up for hours to cast votes despite threats of violence. In the end, Hamid Karzai was elected president of Afghanistan. Fears of widespread Election Day violence did not materialize and the election was a success.

To observe the election, the International Republican Institute (IRI) fielded a 13-member bipartisan observation team. The delegation observed an enthusiastic electorate and high voter turnout that forced approximately 5,000 polling stations around the country to remain open two hours longer than planned. “The long lines at ballot stations were testimony that Afghans were determined to vote,” delegation

leader Ambassador Richard S. Williamson said. “They are the clear winners in this process.”

While a number of opposition candidates alleged fraud, voting took place in an environment that was on the whole orderly and free from intimidation.

IRI conducted an Election Day poll to provide a measure of confidence in the election process in the absence of extensive nationwide observers or a parallel vote tally. It showed overwhelming support for Hamid Karzai. Eighty-two percent of respondents said the election was free and fair. Ninety-seven percent said that any problems in the election did not affect the outcome. According to 84 percent of those polled, life in Afghanistan has improved since the fall of the Taliban.

Afghan women, formerly sidelined politically and

socially by the Taliban, were enthusiastic about the opportunity to cast their votes. IRI delegates found that the women took their responsibility to vote seriously. “It was particularly heartening to see women who were oppressed for years by the Taliban taking an active role in voting,” co-delegation head, National Democratic Institute Board Member and former Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronson said.

Before the election, IRI and its local partners conducted voter and civic education training in some of Afghanistan’s most remote regions. IRI also supported the publishing and distribution of *Erada*, Afghanistan’s only independent daily newspaper printed in Dari and Pashtu, the country’s primary languages. In addition, IRI supported a nongovernmental organization (NGO) to promote grassroots-driven civil society. The

group includes more than 300 domestic NGOs and ensures that resources and outreach efforts are channeled properly.

With the presidential contest over, IRI’s focus now shifts to parliamentary (Wolesi Jirga) elections slated for September 2005. Through its programs, IRI has promoted Afghanistan’s reconstruction process and encouraged popular civic participation with the help and support of indigenous organizations. IRI will continue to expand these efforts in preparation for parliamentary elections.

Despite the many challenges Afghanistan faces, the October presidential election turnout demonstrated that Afghans welcome their democratic freedom and embrace the opportunity to actively participate, bringing hope for stable democracy in Afghanistan.

in Afghanistan



Afghan men wait in line to vote in their first-ever presidential election.

Peaceful revolution turns



Ukrainians rally in support of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko.

For nearly a month, Ukrainians of all ages gathered and camped out in Kyiv's Independence Square and across the country to defend their votes.

On November 21, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians took to the streets in a peaceful protest of official election results. This was the beginning of the Orange Revolution. For nearly a month, Ukrainians of all ages gathered and camped out in Kyiv's Independence Square and across the country to defend their votes. Their motto, "together we are many, we cannot be overcome."

In response to rampant corruption and abuse of government power in favor of government-backed candidate Viktor Yanukovich, the Ukrainian people demanded a free and fair election. In a surprise decision, Ukraine's Supreme Court agreed with the people and election observers, including the International Republican Institute's (IRI), who found systemic fraud in the October 31 first-round election and the November 21 run-off. The Court ruled the November 21 election invalid and called for a re-vote to be held on December 26.

On December 26, the Ukrainian government delivered an election that



tide in Ukraine

Hundreds of thousands gather in Sumy, Ukraine, to protest the November election results.

accurately reflected the will of its citizens. Viktor Yushchenko won and was sworn in as Ukraine's third president since independence. In a speech before a joint session of the U.S. Congress, President Yushchenko characterized the actions of his countrymen saying, "armed with conviction alone, the Ukrainian people overthrew a corrupt regime."

Throughout 2004, and in the days leading up to the election, IRI worked to help strengthen political parties at the

grassroots level. IRI provided training for Ukrainian political parties, conducted nationwide surveys to identify issues important to Ukrainian voters, and helped to educate the public on the political process and the importance of their participation. IRI trained election lawyers on how to protect their parties' and candidates' rights under Ukrainian electoral law. Political party poll watchers also received training from IRI on their rights and responsibilities as election observers.

For more than a decade, IRI has worked in Ukraine to promote democracy. The events that took place throughout Ukraine's 2004 presidential election showcased the Ukrainian people's willingness to fight for democracy and were a testament to the effectiveness of political party training programs conducted by IRI. IRI will continue to work with Ukrainians as they embark on their second decade of independence committed to even greater democratic reform.

Democracy advances

For the people of Iraq, January 30 represents an accomplishment that may one day be regarded as among the greatest in their nation's long and storied history.



Man shows his ink-stained finger as proof he voted in Iraq's January 2005 election.

in Iraq

Photo by Susan Phalen

In an extraordinary display of courage, nearly 8.5 million Iraqis – about 60 percent of those eligible to vote – cast their ballots on January 30, 2005. Despite the threat of widespread violence, Iraqis went to the polls to cast their vote not just for a candidate, but for freedom. Two weeks later the Independent Election Commission of Iraq (IECI) announced election results, and on March 16 the Transitional National Assembly met for the first time to begin the work of forming Iraq's first elected government in more than half a century.

Throughout the process, acts of individual bravery and heroism were not uncommon. Thousands of Iraqis worked or volunteered to ensure a free and fair election. The field of competing political entities was crowded and dynamic with 111 choices on the ballot. Election administrators, poll workers, political organizers, candidates and leaders of civic organizations all risked their lives to ensure a free and fair election.

In the lead-up to Election Day the International Republican Institute (IRI) worked with numerous Iraqi partner organizations to help build

awareness and enthusiasm for the January 30 election. IRI assisted in the production of millions of voter education pamphlets and posters, which were distributed in the smallest and most rural communities in Iraq. With IRI's help, four televised political debates were produced along with 20 voter education and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) ads. An estimated 10 million Iraqis saw the debates and the ads in the weeks prior to the election.

Along with the IECI, IRI produced and broadcast a nationally-televised town hall meeting. This event featured a question-and-answer session between the audience and four of the seven members of the IECI. IRI also worked with the IECI to assist on the broadcast of the lottery for selecting the ballot position. Through these efforts, IRI was able to increase transparency and help inspire confidence in the election process.

In addition to GOTV programs, IRI trained more than 1,500 representatives from 100 political parties on basic democracy building skills including organization, message development and coalition building. Similarly, IRI trained 2,500 members of



Photo by Susan Phalen

Iraqi women line up to vote during Iraq's historic election on January 30, 2005.

civil society organizations on advocacy, leadership and voter education.

While skeptics from across the globe continually doubted the ability and the willingness of the Iraqis to embrace the elections process, IRI-sponsored polling data consistently showed that a significant majority of Iraqis favored democracy and planned to vote. On Election Day, IRI polling data was shown to be accurate as millions turned out to vote.

As Iraq looks to the future, IRI will continue to work with civil society, political parties and government officials to

ensure active participation in the constitutional drafting process. In doing so, IRI will make full use of polling, media, and other resources to spur an active and broad-based debate which allows for a truly representative constitution to be written, creating the foundation for a free and democratic Iraq.

For the people of Iraq, January 30 represents an accomplishment that may one day be regarded as among the greatest in their nation's long and storied history; a point of passage not only for Iraq, but for countries and people everywhere in the Middle East.

2004 PROGRAMS

AFRICA

With the recent cessation of major conflicts in many parts of Africa, elections have taken center stage. The International Republican Institute's (IRI) work with political parties and civil society has played a key role in fostering democratic values and opening up democratic space.

Angola

IRI successfully completed its first year of programming in Angola working with the country's political and civic activists to prepare them for general elections slated for 2006. IRI provided political parties with a resource center in Luanda to help them develop their party operations. IRI also conducted a country-wide public opinion poll to help parties identify issues of interest to voters. Already, political parties have used the results to streamline their platforms.

Côte d'Ivoire

While ethnic and religious tensions remained high in Côte d'Ivoire's stalled peace process, IRI partnered with a local organization to prevent further conflict at the local level. IRI and its partner established and trained peace committees in 20 departments and municipalities throughout the country. Each peace committee includes leaders from the various ethnic, religious, political and immigrant communities. Using the conflict-resolution training, the committee members work together to resolve and mitigate conflicts among their respective communities.

Kenya

IRI continued to work with its local partner, Citizens Against Violence, to dissuade young



Somaliland party officials take part in a multiparty campaign strategy workshop held December 2004.

people from perpetrating political violence. IRI also began work with political parties to strengthen their role within Kenya's parliament. In addition, IRI trained political parties on agenda development, coalition building and conflict resolution.

Liberia

In anticipation of post-war government elections set for October 2005, IRI began training Liberia's 18 political parties and provided them with a resource center with computers, fax and copy machines and books to help them develop their communications and party organizations. IRI will continue to provide training and assistance to political parties in the run-up to the elections.

Malawi

In advance of Malawi's May 2004 election, IRI conducted party poll watcher trainings for U.S. Embassy staff and more

than 300 political party members representing 10 political parties. These IRI-trained poll watchers observed election proceedings at a majority of the 8,000 polling stations around the country. Additionally, IRI conducted a series of trainings on conflict resolution, campaigns and communications and provided post-electoral consultations with the parties.

Mozambique

IRI re-engaged in Mozambique after a 10-year hiatus, responding to a call for increased support to political parties and civic education organizations in the six-month run-up to Mozambique's presidential election in December 2004. During the six-month program, IRI worked to bolster viable parties that had not previously participated in national elections. Seminars held by IRI resulted in the drafting of a code of conduct for party poll watchers, which was later adopted by the ruling party's central committee.

Nigeria

In a country where government and political parties have historically been extremely centralized, IRI trained more than 120 state political party leaders on message development, organizational structures and activities. To encourage further decentralization of and grassroots participation in the political process, IRI is fostering partnerships between political parties and civil society organizations around the country.

Somaliland

To help Somalilanders prepare for national legislative elections slated for spring 2005, IRI conducted trainings with political party officials and parliamentary candidates. Training topics included campaign planning, communication strategies, get-out-the-vote workshops and post-election assessments. IRI also worked with parties to help

them maintain their relevance during off-election years.

South Africa

IRI continued a 10-year partnership with the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) to proactively advocate policies that promote individual liberty, democratic governance and free enterprise. One of SAIRR's initiatives is to promote policy alternatives to legislation that threatens freedom in South Africa.

Sudan

Since September 2003, IRI has been working to support the reconciliation process by strengthening the institutional capacity of the transitional political institutions that have emerged following the January 2005 peace agreement. In 2004, IRI focused on assisting those previously excluded from the political system as they prepared to enter a transition government. IRI trained opposition parties on party organization, grassroots mobilization, transparent political financing and communications strategies, among other topics. Now that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement has been signed, IRI will assist with the development of a representative legislative assembly at the regional level for southern Sudan.

Uganda

While intense political debate over multiparty politics and constitutional reform in Uganda continued, IRI launched a project in early 2004 to strengthen and increase political pluralism. Throughout the year, IRI worked to enable civic and political groups to advocate on issues important to citizens. IRI also provided political activists with interactive leadership training and public relations workshops. In the fall of 2004,

IRI's Uganda staff testified before the Ugandan Parliament's Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs to offer insight on public sentiment regarding constitutional reform and political transition. In the summer and fall prior to the hearing, IRI hosted public dialogues on constitutional reform and political transition.

Zimbabwe

IRI supported civil society organizations struggling to advance democracy amid a hostile political environment. Despite the passage of restrictive legislation that silenced journalists, censored political opposition and severely limited IRI's ability to operate as a nongovernmental organization (NGO), IRI continued to monitor Zimbabwe's civic and election fronts from a distance. As food shortages, unwieldy inflation and a rapid rise in HIV/AIDS plague Zimbabwe, IRI remains committed to working with democratic forces to bring freedom to the country.

East Africa

IRI worked to increase the political participation of women and youth in Kenya, Uganda, Somaliland and Sudan. IRI hosted workshops in Uganda and Kenya with participants from all four nations, as well as single-country workshops in Southern Sudan and Somaliland. Women and youth participants have found IRI's workshops to be a forum in which they can exchange ideas with their colleagues from other countries in the region and learn from the lessons and experiences of their neighbors.

Muslim Women's Advocacy Program

IRI's Muslim Women's Advocacy Program seeks to increase political participation of Muslim women in African countries. In 2004, IRI

identified and recruited women's groups from Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan and Somaliland to help promote women's advocacy and increase political participation of Muslim women. In 2005, IRI will continue to work with the women's groups to help them develop the skills to advocate for basic needs, such as safe drinking water, basic health services and primary education.

ASIA

Asia presents a diverse set of programmatic activity. As one of the first organizations working to advance democracy inside China, IRI is committed to grassroots political development there. Elsewhere, IRI is working to solidify democratic institutions in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Mongolia and East Timor while introducing democratic practices in Burma and Cambodia.

Bangladesh

In its first year in Bangladesh, IRI designed a program to strengthen the estates of democracy – media, trade unions, non-profit sector, private industry and political parties. IRI's Five Estates Program builds the capacity of civil society actors to put pressure on political parties and government to be more responsive to constituency concerns. The comprehensive program is supported with long-term countrywide public opinion research. IRI conducted an assessment of the electoral system and established a long-term election observation program. IRI also organized a youth-empowerment conference for more than 3,000 students to increase interest in civic activism.

Burma

In 2004, IRI continued its partnership with the Political

Defiance Committee and the National League for Democracy/Liberated Areas (NLD/LA) to bring activists from inside Burma to a safe location for leadership and political defiance training. In April, IRI brought activists from the Serbian, Tibetan and Cuban non-violent democratic movements to assist Burmese pro-democracy leaders revise their strategies and look for new ways of leveraging their strengths in the changing political climate.

Cambodia

IRI conducted a wide range of programs in 2004, including a nationwide political opinion poll in Cambodia and the design and implementation of a participatory local governance program for commune councilors. IRI partner, Youth Council of Cambodia, trained more than 10,000 youths, ages 13 to 23, on the principles of democracy, good governance and citizenship. The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) continued to facilitate public forums where citizens could ask questions of elected and appointed government officials. CCHR also continued broadcast of the popular Voice of Democracy radio program in addition to its monitoring and investigations of political rights abuses.

China

IRI focused on fostering grassroots elections, accountable governance and political participation of women and ethnic minorities. IRI arranged for a group of Chinese election administrators and experts to observe Mongolia's parliamentary elections, giving them an opportunity to witness first-hand the processes of democracy in a large, poor, formerly communist country. IRI also assisted the Ministry of Civil Affairs on a



A man casts his ballot during December 2004 village elections in Guizhou Province, China.

project to develop China's first comprehensive regulations on campaigning. In addition, IRI launched a new program with a Tibetan NGO to help rural herders and farmers understand their individual rights.

East Timor

IRI is the only organization working directly with political parties in East Timor. IRI conducted its second political public opinion poll in East Timor in 2004 to provide the political parties with feedback on their platforms and communication with the public. Polling information was later used in multi-party campaign training sessions to help political party candidates improve their ability to address local issues in village council elections.

Indonesia

In preparation for the three rounds of general elections, in April, July and September, IRI trained more than 5,000 party poll watchers in more than 40 cities. Throughout the year, IRI helped many first-time local and provincial legislators strengthen their roles in democratic processes. IRI's party building work covered six provinces where IRI facilitated trainings on political communications and party organization with an emphasis on women and youth participation in politics. IRI's governance program encourages Indonesia's local government to take the lead in the effort to bring about greater democracy, transparency and accountability.

Malaysia

In anticipation of the March 2004 parliamentary elections,

IRI conducted technology and communication trainings for democratic political parties. IRI also continued to conduct public opinion research to help political parties understand and focus on voter concerns. In addition, IRI worked with a domestic election observation organization to document irregularities in the voter registration rolls prior to the elections.

Mongolia

IRI worked with Mongolians to strengthen their democracy through political party organization and promotion of transparency and responsibility in the State Great Hural (SGH) – Mongolia's parliament. In May, the IRI-SGH Joint Working Group realized one of its primary goals with the passage of groundbreaking parliamentary reform legislation.

IRI also worked intensely with parties to promote effective campaign and poll watching techniques for the June 2004 SGH elections. As the year closed, IRI hosted experts from the U.S. Congress and the German parliament to work with members of Mongolia's parliament on governance skills and transparent legislative processes.

EURASIA

Recent and dramatic successes have been seen in Georgia, Ukraine, and the Kyrgyz Republic, demonstrating that democracy-building is a long-term commitment. Following independence in the early 1990s, IRI assisted many former Soviet republics lay the foundation for real democracy

by strengthening democratic institutions and reaching out to citizens. In Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, IRI is working to instill basic democratic principles.

Azerbaijan

IRI conducted local and regional youth conferences which resulted in a network of active youth and greater political activism and community service. Through seminars and consultations, IRI also continued its work helping political parties strengthen their party structures.

Belarus

In 2004, democracy suffered setbacks in Belarus. Parliamentary elections and a constitutional referendum to abolish presidential term limits were held on October 17. Official results of the elections claimed that pro-administration candidates filled 108 of the 110-seat legislature. However, IRI-sponsored exit polls showed otherwise. Prior to the

elections, IRI trained more than 200 candidates and campaign managers to run campaigns for the October 2004 parliamentary elections. IRI also trained Belarusian interviewers on how to conduct professional exit polls.

Georgia

After the January 2004 presidential election and the March 2004 special parliamentary elections, IRI conducted quarterly public opinion surveys to assist the new government and political parties with designing messages and policies that reflect electorate concerns. IRI also conducted party building seminars and continued to provide assistance to Georgian youth NGOs.

Kazakhstan

IRI helped prepare candidates for the September 2004 elections to the lower house of parliament. IRI conducted 21 campaign planning and strategy

seminars for all 12 registered parties in 14 cities across Kazakhstan in the six months leading up to the election. IRI also hosted two pre-election roundtables and post-election evaluations. In addition, IRI participated in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's election observation mission.

Kyrgyz Republic

IRI established its presence with an office in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2004. With IRI's development of a manual for poll workers and observers, IRI quickly became an information clearinghouse for practical information on the election code for poll workers and volunteers. IRI trained 400 observers for the October 2004 local elections, including the Bishkek City Council ballot. IRI also fielded its own observers for the elections, marking the first time IRI has observed elections in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Moldova

In preparation for Moldova's parliamentary elections in March 2005, IRI conducted nationwide public opinion surveys in April and November 2004. As a result of the opinion poll analysis and IRI's counsel, a coalition of political parties – Democratic Moldova – was created in May 2004 for the election. In June, IRI helped organize and conduct the founding conference for Democratic Moldova's regional representatives and coalition leaders. Throughout 2004, IRI conducted numerous training events for political party leaders, locally-elected officials from across Moldova, election poll watchers and women political activists.

Russia

Following Russia's 2003 national parliamentary elections, IRI focused its efforts in helping pro-democracy activists work together to achieve common goals. At the regional level, IRI assisted democratically-oriented political parties, NGOs and independent activists to form coalitions, develop issue-oriented platforms and re-engage constituents. IRI provided training to local parliamentarians to encourage more effective local governance. IRI also continued to encourage participation among youth and women in the political process.

Uzbekistan

IRI conducted "communicating with the electorate" training for campaign staff from five registered parties and for six independent candidates in three cities prior to the December 2004 lower house elections. To offset government interference in IRI's work with political parties, IRI shifted its focus to democracy basics training for young adults in Tashkent and other regions.



Moldovan political party activists pose for a photo during a campaign development training seminar conducted by IRI in April 2004.



Children pose before a Macedonian polling center in the district of Strumica.

EUROPE

Now that many Central and Eastern European countries are advanced in their democratic development, much of IRI's work focuses on assistance with policy development and party relationships. IRI also trains the next generation of democratic leaders, promoting youth participation. Many of IRI's trainees in Europe now assist with democracy training in newly emerging democracies around the world.

Albania

IRI concluded a two-year program in Albania that focused on strengthening the

parliament and promoting youth engagement in politics. IRI provided training to members of parliament and their staffs on how to hold committee hearings and provide constituent services through district offices. With IRI's assistance, Albanian youth drafted a national youth agenda, which served to bring attention to political issues affecting young people.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

IRI worked with pro-reform candidates and political parties in targeted cities in preparation for the 2004 municipal elections. Through training and use of public opinion data, IRI helped reformers better communicate with voters and shift the debate

away from divisive ethnic issues and toward topics such as unemployment and municipal services. IRI also began working with ministries to help them better communicate with the electorate and media.

Croatia

In 2004, IRI began work on a new program designed to strengthen political parties, train young political leaders and improve government communications with the public. IRI also oversaw the founding of the Club for Journalists (CJ), an independent Croatian NGO designed to improve professional skills, investigative reporting techniques and editorial judgment of young journalists.

The CJ program evolved into a major reform success story, with CJ members holding a number of senior positions in the Croatian print and electronic media.



An Albanian woman casts her ballot during Macedonia's April presidential election.

Europe Regional

IRI's 15-country Regional Program for Central and Eastern Europe moved into a new phase as a block of post-communist countries joined the European Union and NATO. IRI staff worked on a series of policy conferences, organized political academies for next-generation party activists, and provided specialized assistance to parties across the region. The Regional Program increasingly emphasizes the ongoing work of party-to-party relations in mature democracies and on joint projects with European partners. IRI uses the transition experiences of Central Europe to promote democracy elsewhere, including Cuba and Iraq.

Macedonia

In the wake of the tragic death of President Boris Trajkovski, IRI organized election observation missions for two rounds of snap presidential elections in the spring. Throughout the rest of the year, IRI provided communications assistance to the newly elected President Branko Crvenkovski to help uphold the new law on municipal organization throughout a contentious national referendum campaign. IRI also began work with political parties in advance of the 2005 local elections.

Romania

IRI worked with candidates, political parties and NGOs in advance of the presidential and parliamentary elections in late 2004. In addition, IRI conducted public opinion polls to help parties identify campaign themes. IRI also provided support for NGOs as they conducted nonpartisan voter education campaigns. IRI continued to focus its efforts on strengthening the links between local governments and NGOs in targeted counties across Romania.

Serbia

IRI continued to help develop democratic institutions in Serbia, four years after the fall of Slobodan Milosevic. IRI emphasized its work in three main areas: strengthening pro-reform political parties, helping local governments communicate more effectively and improving communications strategies for ministers and senior government officials. IRI also provided training and polling assistance to Boris Tadic's successful presidential campaign.

Slovakia

In the fall of 2004, IRI concluded its final program in Slovakia, which included a partnership with the Slovak think tank, the Institute of Public Affairs. This program focused on the difficult task of implementing and communicating reform policies. With Slovakia's successful transition to democracy and membership in NATO and the European Union, IRI's work there has ended, but IRI continues to partner with Slovak organizations to promote democracy in other regions of the world.

Turkey

IRI helped organize the first-ever internship program in Ankara for young people ages 18 to 25 from across the country. More than 90 young people participated in the three-week internship program, which included weekly workshops; work in parliamentary, government and party offices; and mock parliamentary sessions conducted in the Turkish Parliament. IRI also kicked off a new School of Participatory Politics and continued its support for the GencNet (translated YouthNet) website.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Corruption, the slow pace of economic reform and continuing poverty have left many in Latin America frustrated with democracy. IRI's programs center on increasing government accountability and strengthening economic reforms, as well as encouraging political parties to build their infrastructures.

Argentina

IRI continued to work with local NGO, Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), to promote political reform and government ethics. In 2004, IRI and CIPPEC's efforts contributed to the dismantling of a controversial electoral law that would decrease accountability in government in the province of Santa Fe. Subsequently, the provincial

legislatures of Tucuman and Salta requested CIPPEC's help with drafting alternatives to their electoral laws.

Bolivia

IRI created a high school-level civic education curriculum to teach democratic principles and encourage civic participation among youth. With approval from the Ministry of Education, IRI trained nearly 30 percent of Bolivia's high school social studies teachers to use the curriculum, reaching an estimated 56,000 students nationwide. The high school initiative is complemented by IRI's Youth and Democracy television series, a dynamic program that promotes greater youth understanding of democratic concepts and processes.

Brazil

IRI and the Institute for Representative Government established a partnership in 2004 to set up a study tour that would allow Brazilian legislators to meet with their U.S. counterparts. The study tour focused on trade and the political decision-making process at the national and state levels.



IRI provides political training for women in the Atlantic Autonomous Region of Nicaragua.

Cuba

IRI continued to promote international solidarity for the Cuban pro-democracy movement through work with organizations, legislatures and democracy activists throughout Latin America and Europe. IRI also provided educational and humanitarian assistance to peaceful Cuban democracy activists.

El Salvador

In 2004, IRI worked with the National Assembly political parties, business groups and civil society to promote a national dialogue on market-based solutions to poverty. IRI helped form a working group within the Salvadoran Congress to design legislation and review economic reform models. IRI election monitors witnessed the country's highest voter turnout in more than a decade during the March 21 presidential election. The turnout revealed growing confidence among Salvadorans in their still-evolving democratic institutions, 12 years after peace agreements ended more than a decade of civil war.

Guatemala

Throughout 2004, IRI conducted trainings for all major Guatemalan political parties to help them create solid platforms, encourage youth leadership development and modernize their internal organizational structures. In October, IRI began working with the Democratic Renovation Party (PRD), a newly formed party dedicated to fighting corruption. IRI also trained more than 350 youths on political party organization and leadership.

Haiti

Despite continuing political uncertainty, highlighted by the resignation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February

2004, IRI sustained its political party development program. This focused particularly on coalition building, greater engagement of youth in the political process, as well as promoting women's participation at all levels of the political process. Seminars also emphasized the basics of campaign management, candidate selection, platform development, fundraising and political communication. For security reasons, IRI continued to conduct these training seminars in the Dominican Republic through the summer. In the latter part of 2004, IRI began exploring ways to re-engage in Haiti itself. IRI began new programming emphases and selected a new Haiti program staff in anticipation of an active political year in 2005, anchored by presidential elections.

Mexico

IRI strengthened working relationships with Mexico's three major political parties – the Partido Acción Nacional (PAN), Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) and the Partido Revolucionario Democrático (PRD). Trainings focused on strategic communications, youth involvement, multipartisan dialogue and reform issues. In June, IRI launched the District Office and Constituent Outreach training series to help parties improve constituent services. IRI adapted the U.S. congressional district office model to the Mexican system, emphasizing that good district office management can offer parties a better public outreach and improve government accountability. Overall, IRI provided political training to thousands of party activists from eight Mexican states.

Nicaragua

Leading up to November 2004 municipal elections, IRI



A woman participates in IRI's candidate training in the West Bank.

provided training to more than 850 candidates on ethics, good governance and campaign organization. To help guarantee legitimacy at polling stations during the November elections, IRI trained more than 350 party poll watchers in the Atlantic Coast and Managua. IRI also conducted numerous polls to gauge voter concerns and identify popular perceptions of the country's democratic political institutions. In December, IRI launched its first women's training and political information workshop in the Atlantic Coast to encourage women's participation in the Autonomous region, the poorest and most marginalized region of Nicaragua.

Peru

IRI began a year-long project to assist the Peruvian government in external communications strategies and message coordination among the various ministries. IRI continued its long-term political party building program by providing trainings that addressed the role of political parties in a

democracy, decentralization, communications, fundraising, ethics, transparency and financial management. IRI also promoted cooperation between the parties and the National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE) on the implementation of a new political party finance law, and promoted dialogue between the newly-formed regional governments and the national government.

Venezuela

IRI continued its long-term political party strengthening program, providing training to all democratic parties on platform development, internal and external communications and grassroots organization. In preparation for the 2004 elections, IRI operated a year-long campaign school in five Venezuelan states, training more than 500 members of 11 parties, including campaign staff, candidates and volunteers. In addition, IRI and its partner organization, Hagamos Democracia, trained nearly 16,000 party poll watchers in an effort to increase participation

and transparency in the Venezuelan electoral process.

Regional Program

IRI's Regional Program provided party renewal trainings to 14 parties from Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico. The year culminated with a Regional Conference in Lima, Peru, that provided participants the opportunity to strengthen their 12-month party renewal plans with the guidance of international party experts from Spain's Partido Popular, Germany's Christian Democratic Union and El Salvador's National Republican Alliance.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Recent elections in the West Bank and Gaza and Iraq have led to a greater demand for political freedom throughout the Middle East. IRI is working to build democratic institutions, open up the political process and increase the participation of women.

Jordan

King Abdullah II has been an advocate for democratic change and continues to advance plans for political reform in Jordan. In response to the Palace's emphasis on decentralization, IRI opened an office in Amman in November 2004 and initiated a program focused on enhancing municipal-level governance and citizen participation. IRI worked in key municipalities in Jordan to foster greater public confidence in local elected

government by increasing accountability and improving outreach to citizens. IRI also worked to increase political participation among women and youth by encouraging their active involvement in advocacy.

Morocco

Morocco has made democratic strides in recent years placing it at the forefront of political reform in the Middle East and North Africa. In 2004, IRI programs supported continued democratic reforms by encouraging better governance at the local level and assisting political parties and civil society groups committed to democratic change. An IRI pilot project in the Casablanca district of Sidi Moumen improved two-way communications and decision-making between elected officials and local associations and provided working models of democracy. IRI also helped political parties strengthen their party structures and improve outreach and membership development.

Oman

From the total absence of representative institutions to a bicameral consultative council in one generation, the Sultanate of Oman has made noteworthy progress in the development of democratic practices. National elections for the Majlis A'Shura council – Oman's lower body of parliament – in 2003 were the first by universal suffrage in the Sultanate and brought two female members into the consultative body. Since 1999, IRI has provided technical assistance to both houses of the Oman Council and in 2004, IRI continued to provide assistance to committee and research staff.

Qatar

The State of Qatar has risen to international prominence

in recent years for its growing role in the region's geopolitics and for its noteworthy domestic reforms. To prepare for Qatar's first-ever parliamentary elections expected in 2005, IRI provided various forms of assistance to deepen and further the country's political reforms. IRI staff offered training and assistance to Qatar's emerging civil society and will provide campaign training assistance to candidates once a date for national elections is announced. In 2004, IRI also conducted parliamentary strengthening activities with Qatar's Advisory Council staff who will likely remain as the backbone of the institution when it transitions from an appointed to an elected body.

West Bank and Gaza

The death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in November 2004 generated new momentum for political reform and paved the way for the first election in the West Bank and Gaza since 1996. In 2004, IRI projects helped lay the foundations for democratic reform. IRI worked in partnership with MIFTAH (The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy) to provide support and training for women candidates running

in local and national elections. MIFTAH trained more than 80 women candidates, 20 of whom won seats in recent local elections. IRI also supported widely published public opinion research with the Development Studies Programme at Birzeit University. An IRI supported exit poll, taken at the time of the presidential election in January 2005 produced key findings on issues most important to Palestinians.

Regional Women's Program

Women in the Middle East and North Africa have new opportunities to seek elected office, but continue to face traditional social and cultural barriers that discourage their full political participation. To increase women's participation in civic and political affairs, IRI launched Partners in Participation (PiP), a program supported by the U.S. State Department's Middle East Partnership Initiative. In 2004, IRI implemented PiP women's campaign schools in Doha, Qatar, and Tunis, Tunisia. The training events taught women from across the region basic skills needed to mount viable electoral and advocacy campaigns.



Participants of IRI's December training conducted in the West Bank pose for a photo.

IRI CELEBRATES THE 2004 ANNUAL



“IRI has been doing the difficult work that comes with newfound freedom and liberty and democracy... [IRI] helps freedom take root throughout the world.”

TES 20 YEARS

FREEDOM DINNER

On April 27, the International Republican Institute (IRI) celebrated its 20-year anniversary at the 2004 Freedom Dinner. More than 500 guests attended the commemoration, which honored National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and the late Honorable Sérgio Vieira de Mello with IRI Freedom Awards.

In introducing Dr. Rice, IRI Chairman Senator John McCain said, “Dr. Rice has made extending the benefits of freedom and prosperity around the globe one of the pillars of America’s national security strategy and has set a course for democratic transformation in the Greater Middle East.”

The late United Nations (U.N.) High Commissioner for Human Rights Sérgio Vieira de Mello was killed in 2003 when terrorists bombed U.N. headquarters in Baghdad. Catherine Bertini, U.N. Under Secretary General for Management, received

the award on behalf of the de Mello family. Bertini read a letter from Mrs. Annie de Mello that said, “In honoring his memory, my wish is that IRI will also honor his ideals – which are also U.N. ideals – and which I know you share, by promoting democracy and human rights in Iraq and around the world.”

Dr. Rice credited IRI with helping “freedom take root throughout the world” in her acceptance speech. Rice noted that President Bush had proposed doubling the annual budget of the National Endowment for Democracy.

“President Bush was expressing our common conviction that the advance of freedom is the calling of our time, and the calling of our country,” she said.

“The IRI has been doing the difficult work that comes with newfound freedom and liberty and democracy... [IRI] helps freedom take root throughout the world,” said Dr. Rice.



IRI Chairman Senator John McCain presents then-National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice with the 2004 Freedom Award.

THE FORWARD STRATEGY FOR FREEDOM: WHAT IS NEEDED TO ADVANCE DEMOCRACY ABROAD

U.S. foreign policy must remain focused on long-term leadership in promoting freedom, according to key foreign policy makers during the International Republican Institute's (IRI) foreign policy panel convened on August 30.

"If we don't do it, no one else is going to do it. That's the message in Afghanistan, it is certainly the message in Iraq, it's the message in Sudan, and it's going to be the message over the next several years in many other places around the world," said The Honorable Vin Weber, Chairman of the National Endowment for Democracy.

Before an audience of nearly 150 people gathered at the Time Warner Center in New York City, Weber and other panelists also explored the nexus of timely foreign policy issues such as democracy promotion, public diplomacy, human rights, the role of the United Nations, trade and national security in a post-9/11 world.

Talking about the world after the fall of Communism, Dr. William Kristol, Editor of *The Weekly Standard*, said, "The dream or the fantasy perhaps was that this was somehow an irreversible trend,

and commercialization, globalization, and democratization were all going to move ahead unimpeded. A close look at the '90s will suggest this wasn't the case."

IRI Board Member Dr. Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, said that democracy will not survive automatically but must be kept alive with vigilance. "We need to be alert as well as active," said Kirkpatrick. "IRI is an important instrument for strengthening our voice for the democracies in the world."

Other panelists included IRI Board Member Ambassador Richard S. Williamson and Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA). Representative David Dreier (R-CA), an IRI Board Member since 1990, and Representative Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) moderated the discussion which began with brief remarks from Time Warner, Inc. Executive Vice President for Global Policy Robert M. Kimmitt and brief remarks from IRI President Lorne Craner and IRI Chairman Senator John McCain (R-AZ).

This substantive forum was made possible through the generous support of Time Warner, Inc., ChevronTexaco and AT&T.



Dr. Jeane J. Kirkpatrick speaks at IRI's foreign policy forum on August 30, 2004.

"We need to be alert as well as active. IRI is an important instrument for strengthening our voice for the democracies in the world."



Left to right: Dr. Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, Dr. William Kristol, Ambassador Richard S. Williamson, The Honorable Vin Weber, Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-MI).

2004 VOLUNTEERS

IRI relies on volunteers and experts who have worked in political campaigns, state legislatures, the U.S. Congress and state and federal government. Volunteer trainers help to build lasting democracies throughout the world. Volunteers are crucial to IRI's efforts in advancing democracy worldwide. IRI's board of directors, officers and staff thank them for their generous work in 2004.

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IRI Board Member Ambassador Richard S. Williamson (left) and former Assistant Secretary of State and National Democratic Institute Board Member Bernard Aronson (center) with an Afghan voter during IRI's bipartisan election observation mission.

INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

The International Republican Institute (IRI) was founded in 1983, as a nonprofit nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing democracy, freedom, self-government and the rule of law worldwide. IRI programs are nonpartisan and adhere to the fundamental American principles of individual freedom, equal opportunity and the entrepreneurial spirit that fosters economic development.

IRI was founded after President Ronald Reagan's 1982 speech before the British Parliament in Westminster in which he proposed a broad objective of helping countries build the infrastructure of democracy. Quoting the

United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he stated "we must be staunch in our conviction that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings."

The Westminster speech led to the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) by Congress in 1983. The NED is a mechanism that channels congressional funds to the four institutes: IRI, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), and the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS).

These organizations are uniquely qualified to provide technical assistance to aspiring democrats worldwide.

In its infancy, IRI focused on planting the seeds of democratic institutions and processes in Latin America. Since the end of the Cold War, IRI has broadened its reach to support democracy around the globe. IRI has conducted programs in more than 100 countries and is currently active in more than 60 countries.

IRI's board of directors is chaired by U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and includes former Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger, former U.S. Permanent Representative

to the United Nations Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, current members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, and individuals from the private sector with backgrounds in international relations, business and government.

IRI's President, Lorne Craner, assumed leadership on August 2, 2004. From 2001 to 2004, Craner served as Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. State Department. Craner previously served as IRI's President from 1995 to 2001, during which he led IRI to new levels of achievement.



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