

News Release



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INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION TO OBSERVE PAKISTAN ELECTIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 19, 1990 -- A 40-member international delegation will observe the October 24, 1990 national elections in Pakistan. The delegation, organized by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), will include parliamentarians, political party leaders, regional specialists, and election experts from 18 countries (delegation list attached).

The purposes of the delegation are to demonstrate the international community's continued support for free and fair elections and democratization in Pakistan and to provide the international community with an objective assessment of the Pakistani electoral process.

In November 1988, NDI organized a 25-member international delegation to monitor federal and provincial elections in Pakistan. That delegation reported that the 1988 elections were conducted in a generally free and fair manner. It further concluded that the laws and procedures compared favorably with those used in other democratic countries and that the campaign was generally peaceful and fair.

The 1990 delegation will arrive in Islamabad, the federal capital, on October 21. The delegation will then separate into teams that will visit polling places and counting centers throughout the country on election day, October 24. After the elections, it is anticipated that

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conducting nonpartisan international programs to help maintain and strengthen democratic institutions

the delegation will issue a public statement and hold a press conference on October 26 in Karachi.

In addition to the delegation's observation of the national elections, a smaller team will remain in Pakistan to report on the October 27 provincial elections. A small technical team will stay in Pakistan during the period of the formation of a new government in order to gather post-election data, to evaluate the handling of any complaints regarding the elections, and to assess the process of forming a new government. After the elections, the delegation will prepare a comprehensive report, which will be distributed in Pakistan and throughout the world.

In observing these elections, the international delegation does not presume to supervise the elections or to interfere in Pakistani affairs. The delegation will observe the elections in accordance with internationally recognized standards. Ultimately, it is the Pakistani people who will make the final judgement about these elections.

The delegation will include members from Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, the Gambia, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States; the United States component will be bi-partisan. Many members of the delegation have participated in international election-monitoring missions in the past, including a number who have observed the 1988 elections in Pakistan. The delegation will also include technical experts who have observed elections elsewhere, including representatives of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

During the past four years, NDI-sponsored international observer missions have played a critical role in supporting the democratic process in Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, Haiti, Namibia, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Romania, and Taiwan.

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