

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: Well, I mean, I have seen articles in the paper and I can't comment on articles that no one has discussed with me. But I think the team thought that these were good recommendations that provided additional rigor, additional oversight, additional accountability, additional coordination. And it is always a good thing to be able to bolster any system you have.

No system you put in place is ever going to be absolutely 100 percent perfect and over the course of time and when you pull together a panel of people with a variety of expertise, you find them coming up with ways to take a situation and improve upon it. And so I think this is what the report is, to take something and improve upon it.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Next question comes from Matthew Lee.

QUESTION: Hello? Hello?

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: Yes, go ahead, Matthew.

QUESTION: Well, I can't -- I've gotten -- I'm getting nowhere here. Can you hear me now?

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: Yes, I can hear you now.

QUESTION: Great, okay. Listen, who are on these Go teams? These aren't going to be Blackwater or part-contractors on the Go teams --

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: No.

QUESTION: -- are they? Because that would be the same --

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: No, no, the Go teams are composed of State Department employees from the Regional Security Office.

QUESTION: Okay. And the -- just the other thing is that, you know, how many -- can you -- how many of these recommendations have actually already been implemented? It sounds like quite a few.

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: Let's see. I didn't count them that way. I think there are a total, if you read the report, of 19 recommendations total and the interim report had 11 recommendations.

QUESTION: Okay. So this is adding eight. And then just the last thing is that you talk about the -- you know, the cultural awareness and that kind of thing, but -- and this may be a stupid question, but it doesn't say that that cultural awareness is for the Iraqis?