

Pakistan asked to return to Commonwealth

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- British Prime Minister Gordon Brown reportedly wants Pakistan to return to the Commonwealth group of nations from which it was suspended in November. In a telephone conversation with Pervez Musharraf, Brown congratulated the Pakistani president on his country's success in holding peaceful elections last month and said Pakistan should return to the Commonwealth to resume its role as an important member, the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan news agency reported. The report said Brown told Musharraf he would also be sending British Foreign Minister David Miliband to Pakistan to discuss the situation in the region. Musharraf was reported as telling the British leader he had met his commitment to hold free, fair and transparent election, peacefully. Pakistan's membership in the Commonwealth was suspended after Musharraf imposed emergency rule in November. In response to the suspension, Pakistan did not allow Commonwealth observers to visit the country to monitor the polls, the Press Trust of India reported.

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