

the 20 MPs who fled have already returned without incident and KNP leader Sam Rainsy has begun, in effect, to campaign without difficulties. If the Japanese "four pillars" proposal is accepted, the new ceasefire will be the first part of an arrangement allowing Ranariddh and his followers to come back and take part in elections.

- whether action will be taken on the impunity issue, especially whether those responsible for the extra-judicial killings in the March 30 grenade attack and the July factional fighting will be prosecuted.

- whether action will be taken to control intimidation, including disarming village militias, particularly outside Phnom Penh where the international community is less well-positioned to observe goings-on.

- the independence in practice of the NEC.

The elections are estimated to cost \$23 million (this may have to be raised slightly if the rains complicate logistics). Most of the funding and material support has been at least notionally identified: the Cambodian government is expected to absorb up to \$5mn; the EU plans to cover \$11.5 mn; Japan has not yet made a commitment but may provide several million dollars in aid; Canada, Australia and the UNDP have committed to approximately \$1.2 mn together. The US may also be able to commit up some assistance (although both the US and Japan are particularly concerned with ensuring that Ranariddh can return and campaign). Some smaller countries (New Zealand, Norway, Denmark) have indicated an interest in contributing to the UNDP trust fund. Not of the donor support would be for items in the election budget, however; some will be for ngo activity; a portion of the EU contribution will go to monitoring and media training.

2. Support for the Elections

a) Cambodian Government

The cost of the elections and much of the legal framework for them has been worked out in the Bureau of Elections of the Interior Ministry, co-headed by Sar Kheng, who is also Deputy PM. Theo Noel, originally an Elections Canada official, has been instrumental in helping the Bureau with these tasks (he is now assigned to advise the NEC). Bilateral agreements to support the elections will be with the government, but monies will go to a special NEC account that the NEC will administer. Some countries may contribute to the UNDP trust fund, which will operate under an agreement between the government and UNDP.

The government has indicated to UNDP that it will cover up to \$3mn of the \$22 mn estimated cost. The major expenses of the election will be for:

- i) the establishment and training of the NEC and the provincial and lower-level bodies reporting. Up to 9000 officials will be required in total;