

ii) the registration of voters, including computerization of the roll;¹⁵ and

iii) transport, communications, and commodities (eg, ballot boxes).

Funding for election monitoring, local and international, will be an additional expense to be covered by multilateral and bilateral donors.

b) Cambodian Ngos

The Cambodian ngos plan to monitor the entire election period, including voter registration, and provide civic and voter education.

Most of the local ngos interested in having a role in the elections have agreed to come under the umbrella of one of two coordinating committees: the Committee for a Free and Fair Election (COMFREL) or the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections (COFFEL). One of the more established ngos, the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights (LICADHO), which has a sizeable field presence, has decided to operate outside these two umbrellas. The two coalitions plan to divide the 12,000 polling stations equally between them along geographic lines, but each will maintain national, provincial and district offices.

COMFREL, a loose coalition headed by Thun Saray who also directs the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), is composed of 15 ngos and is the descendent of the coalition that monitored the 1993 elections. It plans to monitor both voter registration and election day itself, as well as to conduct civic education. It hopes to have 2000 volunteers for registration over a period of three weeks; 100 volunteers for 6000 civic education sessions in 6000 villages during the lead-up to the election; and 6000 volunteers to monitor one-half of the country's polling stations on election day. COMFREL will also continue issuing statements on election-related events.

COMFREL is already conducting civic education twice a month in the provinces and in Phnom Penh, and also broadcasts on radio once a month. It plans to develop additional election-related materials on how to choose a good candidate, electoral procedures, and the importance of an election.

COMFREL has prepared an \$800,000 budget for its participation in the election process.

COFFEL is chaired by Lao Mong Hay of the Khmer Institute of Democracy; Pok Than of the Centre for Social Development is another leading figure. COFFEL was formed two years ago to monitor the construction of the electoral framework. It is a much larger coalition than

¹⁵the voter's roll of 1993, which inscribed 97% of eligible voters, was not computerized, nor maintained. A census will be undertaken in March 1998 which may assist in creating the new roll.