

ELECTION DAY OBSERVATIONS:

In the March 25th election, all teams noticed there were difficulties with the following: (a) many polls failed to open on time due to supplies not being delivered; (b) many polls were late in opening because poll officials failed to arrive on time or there were misunderstandings as to who was to authorize the opening of the poll; (c) the poll organization, in order to discourage fraud of any type, was overly complex and inflexible. These three factors combined to reduce the total potential vote. At the May election, most of these shortcomings were overcome. The polls opened on time. There may have been some polls that for one reason or another opened late, but they were comparatively few. Poll officials generally arrived at their polls at 6:00 a.m., one hour prior to opening time, and many poll officials arrived at 5 a.m. From all reports, supplies were on hand. Lines of electors started forming as early as 6:00 a.m., but as polls opened on time the lines were never as long as the March election. In fact, by late morning most polls had small line ups or none at all. Election officials, poll officials and voters seemed to have learned from the experience of the March election. They appeared to be both more efficient and at ease, and voting proceeded much more smoothly. Specifically, party workers assisted voters outside the polls by directing them to the appropriate ballot box, eliminating much of the congestion and confusion. In the rural areas there seemed to be almost a carnival-like atmosphere. The Central Electoral Council had made special arrangements for displaced persons and people away from their voting area for whatever reason. In all large centres there were polls set up that had the list for that department (province). In the capital and the large towns there were polls that had a national list for the entire country. In this way displaced persons or people away from their