

Eric Yendall, Director General, of Southeast Asia, Asia Branch at CIDA described current CIDA support for Cambodia. He indicated future areas of support will likely involve good governance, civil society (human rights, promotion of NGOs), grass roots rural development and human resource development. In the proceeding discussion, the group was given the task of identifying an appropriate and comprehensive role for Canada after the July elections.

The report which follows outlines the major themes which emerged in the discussion, followed by a series of recommendations which address Canada's role in Cambodia during and after the 1998 elections.

## 2.0 SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION THEMES

During the panel presentations the following themes emerged: international leverage, the political environment, the credibility of the election process, the economic situation, reform of the justice system, the role of civil society and the media.

### 2.1 International Leverage

**International Pressure** The international community needs to use multilateral approaches to put pressure on Cambodia, and must be tough on the current leader Hun Sen, if there are to be free and fair elections or changes in Cambodia.

International support for the Japanese Four Pillars Initiative and participation in the election of all political parties and leaders is imperative. Canada is working through the Friends of Cambodia to support the Japanese initiative in full which includes the return of Prince Ranariddh to Cambodia.

**Impunity** It is essential that impunity be addressed for the elections to appear fair and open. Mary Robinson (UN Commissioner for Human Rights) has offered experts to assist with a process to address this and Peter Burns, a Canadian professor of Law, will visit Cambodia in April to evaluate the investigations of the 1997 extra judicial killings.

**Regional stability** Cambodia is increasingly isolationist; Hun Sen doesn't need the international community in his eyes. Cambodia's UN seat is vacant, and Cambodia has been rejected by ASEAN. Cambodia needs to be part of the process for regional stabilization, otherwise the country may look to China for support.

**Domestic instability** The recent breakdown of the coalition government requires international intervention to address the elections and peace-building.