

Paris Accords, and in the 1993 elections. The ASEAN troika (Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia) has been active in trying to ensure that the FUNCINPEC and other leaders are able to take part in the elections. ASEAN countries may also send observers to the election, possibly in the same strength as in 1993.

#### d) Bilateral Donors and International Ngos

Like the multilateral agencies, the main role of bilateral donors and international ngos will be to provide financial or technical assistance, and short and long-term monitoring.

The **Friends of Cambodia** (Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Japan, NZ, ROK, Russia, UK, USA) meet to consult as needed on election issues at the ambassadorial level in Phnom Penh and in New York. The **ASEAN troika** works with this group. A working group of donors, the ASEAN troika, UN agencies and ngos meets more regularly in Phnom Penh under UNDP chairmanship

Prior to the fighting in July, the US had envisaged a significant election support role, including helping the government. Since July, however, the US has suspended all new government-to-government assistance. Funding to some ngos was also curtailed, although not that to humanitarian, human rights or election-related groups. Most continuing assistance is channelled through The Asia Foundation (TAF). TAF has an elections advisor in Cambodia who works with the election coalitions and their member ngos. It is possible that if the conditions exist for all the exiled leaders to return and freely campaign, the US may reconsider providing support.

**Japan** suspended new bilateral assistance after July, except for some humanitarian aid. This has been especially difficult for the Cambodian government as Japan provided \$110 million in 1996, one-quarter of Cambodia's ODA. Japan's commitment to the elections would be significant, but its decision is still pending evidence that the political atmosphere will permit free and fair elections, and in particular that its "four pillars" agreement to allow the return of Ranariddh and a ceasefire are in place. Important to Japan as well is some sign that there will be prosecution of those responsible for the March 30 and July killings. If Japan does make a commitment, it may be for ballot boxes, transport and communications. Japan is also considering specific monitoring and civic education projects.

**EU Member States:** The chief EU bilateral donors, France, Germany and the UK, will make their contribution through the EU's voter registration/monitoring project. Small amounts of bilateral assistance may be provided as well by the UK and Denmark, probably through the UN Trust Fund. Sweden may support the national ngo coalitions.

**Australia** has announced a contribution of \$400,000 (US). It is likely to choose a single main project, such as computerization of the voters' roll (training and salaries of data processors and refurbishing UNTAC computers), a task Australia also performed in 1993. Any monies