

assembly and expression, is a matter of critical and urgent priority; noted that national elections are scheduled to be held in May 1998 and strongly urged the government to promote and uphold the effective functioning of multi-party democracy, including the right to form political parties, stand for election, take part freely in a representative government, freedom of expression as well as the right to information; requested the Secretary-General to continue to consider any request from the government for assistance with the holding of the elections, including coordination and monitoring; welcomed the proposed measures outlined by the government to ensure that the forthcoming national elections are free and fair, and the assurances given by the Cambodian leaders of their commitment to holding elections and to guaranteeing the security and safety of all returning political leaders, as well as their full resumption of political activities; emphasized the need for the legislative framework for the elections to be agreed and adopted by the National Assembly, for the security forces to remain neutral during the election campaign, for free and equal access to the electronic and print media, for the individual vote to be confidential, for full cooperation to be given to local and international observers, and for all parties to act in a constructive manner and to accept the outcome of the elections; strongly encouraged the government to establish an independent body to supervise the holding of the elections; endorsed the view that the most serious human rights violations in Cambodia in recent history have been committed by the Khmer Rouge and that their crimes, including the taking and killing of hostages, have continued to the present; noted with concern that no Khmer Rouge leader has been brought to account for crimes committed; urged the government to take concrete action to combat child prostitution and trafficking and welcomed the signing of a memorandum of understanding, in May 1997 with the ILO to formalize areas of cooperation in the field of child labour; encouraged the government to include Cambodian human rights NGOs in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country and recommended that their skills be drawn upon to assist in ensuring that forthcoming elections are free, fair and credible; encourages the government to request the OHCHR to provide advice and technical assistance with respect to the creation of an independent national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights; expressed grave concern at the devastating consequences and destabilising effects of the use of landmines, encouraged the government to continue its support and efforts for the removal of these mines, and urged that priority be given to banning all landmines.

SECURITY COUNCIL

In July 1997 the President of the Security Council made a statement (S/PRST/1997/37) in which the Council, *inter alia*: expressed grave concern at developments in Cambodia, including violence, that had jeopardized continued progress of the peace process; called for an immediate end to the fighting; reaffirmed the need to respect the principles of national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Cambodia; called on all parties to respect fully their commitments under the Paris Agreements on Cambodia; urged all parties to resolve their differences and to ensure the effective and smooth operation of constitutional institutions; condemned all acts of violence and called on all parties to ensure the

safety and security of persons, and to respect the principles and rules of humanitarian law; reminded the government of its public undertaking that free and fair legislative elections would be held in May 1998 and stressed the importance of this electoral process.

FIELD OPERATIONS

The UN Human Rights Field Offices were established, 1 October 1993, in Phnom-Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang, Kompung Cham, Prey Veng, Kampot and Kompong Chngang. The functions of the field presence are to assist in: building institutions and legal structures for human rights and democracy; securing a system for the administration of justice consistent with international standards; strengthening of civil society, including through non-governmental organizations; strengthening of human rights activities at the local and provincial levels; and, raising awareness of human rights and encouraging public support for democratic institutions. The projects are carried out through advisory services and technical assistance, training courses, seminars and fellowships, documentation and information and support to non-governmental organizations and civil society.

The report of activities carried out notes a number of priorities in 1997, including: contributing to the various reports to the Commission on Human Rights; preparing for and assisting with the visit to Cambodia by the Special Representative; continuing to monitor the human rights situation in the country and to investigate complaints and allegations of human rights violations; continuing assistance to the government with regard to the drafting of several laws; conducting training on human rights and law for the Royal Gendarmerie, several Awareness Programmes for the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and, workshops on human rights training for prison officials and on minority rights; in cooperation with the Cambodian Bar Association, weekly lectures on human rights and law for lawyer trainees; distribution to governmental offices and NGOs of human rights documentation; and, regular consultations with Cambodian human rights NGOs on their projects and requests for assistance.

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CHINA

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: The core document prepared by the government (HRI/CORE/1/Add.21) includes information on the status of national minorities, religious belief, political history, the pattern of political organization, bodies with jurisdiction over human rights, compensation and rehabilitation systems for victims and constitutional and legal provisions to protect human rights.

The report indicates that constitutional and legal protections of citizen's rights and freedoms consist in preventing injury to personal rights and liberties by strictly applying laws related to investigations, arrests and other encroachments on personal rights and provision of a right of complaint for any citizen whose rights have been violated. The Constitution