

process of judicial accountability, which alone could provide the basis for peace, reconciliation and development.

Communications. Cambodia, in a 12 March aide-memoire [A/53/866-S/1999/295] on the report of the Group of Experts, quoted the country's Constitution, which stipulated that Cambodian nationals should not, among other prohibitions, be exiled or arrested and extradited to any foreign country unless there was mutual agreement to do so. Cambodia reaffirmed on 19 March [A/53/867-S/1999/298] and 24 March [A/53/875-S/1999/324] that the existing national court would be responsible for the investigation, prosecution and trial of Khmer Rouge leader Ta Mok, as well as for the trial of other Khmer Rouge leaders charged with genocide, and welcomed assistance, including legal experts from various countries, in response to the concern that the national court did not meet international standards of justice. The Prime Minister, in an 18 April statement [A/53/916, S/1999/443] on his meeting with United States Senator John Kerry, affirmed that, to meet international standards, Cambodia would enact legislation to allow foreign judges and prosecutors to participate in the domestic trials, over which the judicial branch had sole competence and to which the Government could not give orders.

By **resolution 54/171**, the Assembly took note of the steps taken by the Cambodian Government to bring to justice the Khmer Rouge leaders responsible for the most serious human rights violations (see p. 585).

Office of Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Cambodia

On 31 December 1999, the political mandate of the Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Cambodia, set up in Phnom Penh in March 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 450], ended and with it the term of Lakhan L. Mehrotra (India), who had served as Personal Representative since 8 June 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 284].

UNTAC financing and liquidation

In keeping with General Assembly decision 52/485 [YUN 1998, p. 325] on the combined financing of UN peacekeeping operations, the Assembly considered at its resumed fifty-third (1999) session a comprehensive analysis [ibid., p. 317] of the types and causes of UN asset losses during the period 1 January 1993-31 December 1995, in peacekeeping operations, among them the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), terminated in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 371], as well as steps taken to prevent such losses.

The related ACABQ report [A/53/895] was also before the Assembly. On the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/53/988], the Assembly, on 8 June [meeting 101], adopted **resolution 53/230** without vote [agenda item 126].

Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/239 of 26 June 1998,

Recalling also its decision 52/485 of 26 June 1998,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Notes with concern* that the provisions of its decision 52/485 have not been complied with, and reiterates that all reports on the final disposition of assets should contain detailed information on and justification of items written off and lost;

2. *Expresses its deep concern* regarding the losses of the United Nations property in this mission;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General relating to the losses of United Nations assets in peacekeeping operations;

4. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraphs 49 to 55 of its report;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an updated report in respect of the period 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1997 on losses of United Nations property in peacekeeping operations to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the safety of United Nations assets and the need to have accountability procedures in place to deter and penalize those responsible for the losses of United Nations property and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

As requested, the Secretary-General submitted, in December, a report [A/54/669 & Corr.1] updating information on property losses in UN peacekeeping operations (see p. 71).

On 23 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNTAC would remain for consideration at its resumed fifty-fourth (2000) session (**decision 54/465**), and that the Fifth Committee should continue consideration of the item at that session (**decision 54/462A**).

East Timor

Negotiations on the political status of the Non-Self-Governing Territory (NSGT) of East Timor among Indonesia, Portugal (the administering Power) and East Timorese representatives,