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CAMBODIA: VOLUNTARY FUNDS FOR KHMER ROUGE TRIALS

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A United Nations committee decided to finance the special courts that are to try leaders of the Khmer Rouge through voluntary contributions. Diplomats warned that the financing plan by the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee could yet deny justice if governments failed to contribute generously. The financing plan, approved by consensus, still needs adoption by the full General Assembly, but routine approval is expected as all 191 assembly members are also members of the humanitarian committee. Secretary General Kofi Annan, who estimated the courts' budget at more than \$19 million, has cautioned against voluntary contributions. United Nations and Cambodian officials reached an agreement on the courts in March, after more than five years of negotiations. The plan calls for special courts to be created within the Cambodian justice system and has been criticized by human rights groups, who say the United Nations has effectively ceded control of the proceedings to local judges. (Reuters)