

Late “Confessions”

Sùn Ti *alias* Teanh (S637)

Re: **Ieng Sary**
Văn Rĩt
Sou Met
Meas Mũt
Khieu Samphan
Nuon Chea
Dũch
Reuang, General Staff
Sâ Kẽum Lmũt, External Trade
Seng, ex-General Staff Foreign Affairs; transferred to Division 502
Chuon Prasĩt, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Keat Chhõn, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Summarised by Steve Heder

Sùn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978

A native of Kramuon Sar province in Kampuchea Kraom, Teanh was brought to Phnom Penh aged 12 or 13 by his cousin, Thach Khaet, an admirer of Prince Yutevong and Son Ngoc Thanh, according to his “confessions.” After studying at Kampung Kantuot primary from 1950 to 1954, he attended a vocational school and graduated as a railroad mechanic in 1957. By 1958, he was involved in the progressive movement among railway workers, engaging fearlessly in propaganda work. Eventually Meuan (Văn Rĩt?) introduced him to Von (*alias* Tae), who inducted Teanh into the KWP on 9 April 1962 and assigned him to the railway cell, but also working personally for Von, taking articles from Von and from Sâ Kẽum Lmũt to a newsstand. He “confesses” he also ran letters from Von to “Brother Spectacles” (Son Sen), allegedly communications about their traitorous “Pracheachalana” activities under Party cover.¹

In 1965, Von assigned Teanh to full time work in the railways cell, the leadership of which comprised: Nong(?) Meuan, Secretary; Ũng Ka; and Teanh. Teanh lived in a house provided by Von for use as an office, staying with another youth, Leang Kẽum Huot, from Kampung Cham. The railway cell was able to recruit two members, Prang and Kũn Kẽum Leang, but these were outnumbered by adherents to the Pracheachalana. Later Maen Yẽum and Preap Seuan *alias* Sãng were recruited, along with a few others.²

Teanh continued to work in the railways cell until late August 1968, when his residence, that of Von and that of Kãk Sẽum were exposed amidst arrests of Khmer Rouge. Teanh “confesses” that Von instructed him to cease activities, while Sae gave

¹ Sùn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, pp.1-5.

² Sùn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, pp.5-6.

him and others money so they could survive without their salaries. Teanh remained underground in Phnom Penh, buying weapons on Von's instructions from an uncle who was in the army, weapons for use by the Party.³

In late September 1969, Von instructed Teanh to go to the Northeast, saying he should go learn how to use mortars and then return to Zone 304 (North Zone). He did return to the lowlands in September 1970, meeting Von again in mid-December 1970, when he was appointed Member of the Special Zone North Office, in charge of the office's livelihood. In January 1971, he was reassigned to be political commissar of Battalion 12, working with Nat and Lay, the latter a returnee from North Viet Nam, so in 1972, he went to the Special Zone South, where he met Chey at the Sector 25 Office. He remained in charge of politics for Battalion 12 for about six or seven months, but his arrival in the Special Zone South coincided with that of Rít, who came from the Special Zone North "to set up the Military Office of the Special Zone South." This was done by the end of 1972, by which time Teanh and Nat were transferred to the new Office. Teanh was in charge of economy for the Office, while Rít allegedly "built up CIA forces" there.⁴

In around April 1974, Teanh "confesses," Von told him he was being reassigned as political commissar of one of two Zone divisions that were being created by concentrating several regiments and sector battalions, the cadre in his division being Reuan and Saom, the latter allegedly being CIA. The division was established in May 1974, and both it and the other newly established Zone division were ordered to fight up the banks of the Tonle Bak. Then two of Teanh's regiments were transferred to north of Phnom Penh, to help with the fighting along Route 5, and there Teanh met Son Sen. In September 1974, he and his forces were transferred back to the Special Zone South, where Teanh met back up with Saom⁵

When Nat's division was sent to cut the Mekong in accordance with the Party's plan for the final assault on Phnom Penh, Teanh's division crossed Route 2 and took Nat's place on the Tonle Bassak. Teanh "confesses" that he and Nat were both concerned that their units were not fighting well, and that therefore "the Party was assessing them."⁶

Teanh "confesses" that on around 27 April 1975, Von summoned him and told him not to worry, because Von was a member of the Standing Committee, and therefore had a grasp on everything and would ensure Teanh came to no harm. Von purportedly also asked Teanh to organise a venue for a meeting of his and Nat's divisions, at which it was announced that some 200 cadre were being reduced to ordinary people. However, Teanh "confesses" that he relied on his relationship with Von to drag his feet in carrying out this purge (*sâm rĕut-sâm rǎng*), allowing "CIA"

³ Sŭn Ti *alias* Teanh, "I Would Like to Report on My Biography," 24 December 1978, p.7.

⁴ Sŭn Ti *alias* Teanh, "I Would Like to Report on My Biography," 24 December 1978, pp.7-9.

⁵ Sŭn Ti *alias* Teanh, "I Would Like to Report on My Biography," 24 December 1978, pp.9-11.

⁶ Sŭn Ti *alias* Teanh, "I Would Like to Report on My Biography," 24 December 1978, pp.11-12.

elements to conduct activities as they pleased. Meanwhile, pending the dissolution of his unit, Von arranged for 100-200 combatants from it to be transferred to the Ministry of Industry as factory workers, including both “good and no-good” elements. Finally, according to Teanh’s “confessions,” Von summoned him again and told him his division was being turned over to somebody else, while Teanh was being assigned to General Staff Logistics, allegedly promising him that Son Sen would protect him while he continued traitorous activities, and that both Maut and Phôn at Logistics were “CIAs.” Teanh’s “confessions” further allege that after a meeting of some 40 division and regimental cadre in mid-May 1976, Son Sen took him aside, said the two of them were “Khmer Serei,” and told him that Von was part of a long-term anti-Party plot. Son Sen also allegedly hold Teanh that in his absence, Nat could make decisions on his behalf, but this must be kept secret from Saom.⁷

Later that year, Teanh “confesses,” he visited the offices of Division 310 Secretary Euan and Division 450 Secretary Suong, “to grasp the situation.” After Euan and Suong were arrested, Von allegedly warned him to be very careful to avoid exposure, while telling him that Nhâ was taking over Euan’s division. Nat allegedly told Teanh and Nhâ that they must conduct purges (*sâmreut-sâmrażng*) because so much had been exposed already.⁸

Also in 1976, according to Teanh’s “confessions,” Son Sen invited him to Kampung Saom, accompanying him on a military tour of islands in the Gulf of Siam, hosted by Division 164 Secretary Müt. Upon returning to Phnom Penh, Son Sen allegedly said that Müt belonged to him and was someone Son Sen trusted and relied upon, further telling Teanh that he would never forsake either Müt’s or Met’s units, although Müt’s unit was more important, and Müt was more of a hands on commander, recalling that Müt had resided in Voat Langka in Phnom Penh, under the name *achar* Nen. Son Sen allegedly characterised both Müt and Met as “veteran CIAs.”⁹

Meanwhile, in perhaps late 1976 or early 1977, Teanh’s “confessions” say, he met Hũy of S-21, under instructions from the General Staff to collect the harvest of paddy the S-21 production unit had gathered. Hũy purportedly came to the Logistics Office in Tuol Kok two or three times, and Teanh “confesses” he asked Hũy “about purges over at S-21.” His “confessions” also allege that Son Sen (Brother 89) instructed him “to turn over Ta Chay to Comrade Hũy,” and that when Teanh asked Hũy whether Ta Chay had arrived, Hũy said that “Brother Dũch has kept working in Phnom Penh.”¹⁰

In around November 1977, according to Teanh’s “confessions,” Son Sen went to Svay Rieng, but before leaving instructed Teanh that in his absence, Von had been authorised by the Party to issue weapons and ammunition, and Raen could issue other

⁷ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, pp.12-14, 17.

⁸ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.15.

⁹ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, pp.23-24.

¹⁰ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.16.

military equipment. Later, Von allegedly assured Teanh that any apparent disagreements Von seemed to have with Son Sen were just disinformation, that in fact they were in league with one another, and also that he could rely on Thëum and Nhân to help him at Logistics. Von allegedly further identified Prang, Ân, Chën and Pheap as “CIAs.”¹¹

In early 1978, the Party officially assigned Von to manage the ammunition department of Logistics, and Teanh “confesses” that he and Maut took Von on a tour of ammunition dumps. Teanh supposedly got to know Von better and better, and in June 1978, Von allegedly summoned him to a meeting at the Economy Office to instruct him to prepare ammunition for a dry season coup against the Party.¹² Von allegedly give him a letter of authorisation to disburse ammunition, bearing a seal “Committee 870,” with Von’s signature. The ammunition was delivered to Son Sen in Svay Rieng.¹³ Von allegedly also said that in December 1978, he would issue another set of documents authorising the removal of material, this time in the name of “Office 870,” which would be valid throughout the entire country.¹⁴

Son Sen allegedly summoned Teanh to another meeting, in February 1978, this time attended by Nat and Pin and held in Kampung Trabaek. Nat supposedly told Teanh that Son Sen was having meetings with Met and Müt in Kampung Trabaek and Neak Leuang. Nat also supposedly told Teanh that of all the Centre’s divisions, only Pin’s Division 703 was in good shape, having not yet been exposed and purged.¹⁵

Later, Son Sen allegedly also summoned Teanh to a meeting at which Son Sen told him that in his absence and that of Nat, Raen could make decisions on his behalf, because Raen belonged to Son Sen, and that when Raen was absent, too, Reuang would take his place, because Reuang was somebody Son Sen trusted.¹⁶

Teanh’s “confessions” add that Nat allegedly told him that Son Sen regularly had long meetings with Müt or with Met and Lvei at the General Staff, but at which no one else was present, not even Nat himself, although Nat normally attended all meetings related to Party work and technical matters. Son Sen had allegedly had similar bilateral meetings with “Doc” Seuang, who came up from Veal Renh. Nat allegedly complained that the only forces with Met who were veterans of service with Nat were those under the control of Chaem, whom Nat never had a chance to meet personally.¹⁷

¹¹ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, pp.15-16.

¹² Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.16.

¹³ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.24.

¹⁴ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.25.

¹⁵ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.19.

¹⁶ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.17.

¹⁷ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.18.

Teanh “confesses” that during a meeting with Raen, they discussed the situation in Raen’s old unit. Raen allegedly identified San of Division 920 as having been a “CIA” before leaving the unit to take charge of Division 920, and said that since Raen himself had left his old unit, making Reuan the only one left.¹⁸ Raen also allegedly decided to break up the foreign affairs department of the General Staff, because its cadre always wanted to be going somewhere. Seng and Chhang were sent to Met’s Division 502, whereas Hou was transferred to Logistics.¹⁹

Reuang allegedly implicated Vĩn and Chẽn as “CIAs,” too, while Prang allegedly identified Sâ Kẽum Lmüt as a veteran “CIA” whose associates Aok Sakũn, Chuon Prasít and Keat Chhõn were all still at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.²⁰

Teanh “confesses” to having known Ân since the latter was Secretary of Sector 15 north of Phnom Penh, and to have met Ân repeatedly when Teanh was at the General Staff. Ân allegedly told him that most of the forces that Teanh had provided as workers were “gone,” as were most of the forces that Ân himself had built up in Sector 15 and made into workers. Ân allegedly also said that although Von was trying hard to protect remaining forces, “Industry was more and more seriously exposed,” with increasing arrests.²¹

Teanh identifies Chẽn as in charge of armour, Pheap as in charge of artillery.²²

Teanh “confesses” that most of the cadre from his unit who had been integrated into Division 502 had been arrested.²³

According to these “confessions,” by the second half of 1978, Teanh was certain both Von and Son Sen were traitors, but did not dare to report this to the Party, for fear it would not believe him, because Von was in the Standing Committee and Son Sen in the Central Committee. Meanwhile, Von informed him that he was being transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 29 June 1978, and that his work at Logistics was being turned over to Maut, Phõn and Thẽum. Upon arrival at the foreign ministry, he discovered Nat and Hõk were already there. Then Von arrived, followed by Nuon. Teanh “confesses” that Nuon gave “guiding instructions” for about an hour, then asked whether anyone wanted to air any views, but no one had much to say.²⁴

¹⁸ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, pp.19-20.

¹⁹ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.20.

²⁰ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.21.

²¹ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.22.

²² Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.22.

²³ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, p.22.

²⁴ Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh, “I Would Like to Report on My Biography,” 24 December 1978, pp.25-26.

Persons Arrested as of 24 December 1978

Sũn Ti *alias* Teanh
 Von
 Sae
 Lay (?), returnee from North Viet Nam
 Chey, Sector 25
 Saom
 Euan, Division 310
 Suong, Division 450

Persons Possibly Still in Post as of 24 December 1978

Sâ Kẽum Lmũt, External Trade
 Preap Seuan *alias* Sãng, Railways
 Nat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Rĩt
 Reuan
 Son Sen
 Mũt *alias* Achar Nen, Division 164
 Met, Division 502
 Lvei, Division 502
 Chaem, Division 502
 San, Division 920
 “Doc” Seuang
Seng, ex-General Staff Foreign Affairs; transferred to Division 502
 Chhang, ex-General Staff Foreign Affairs; transferred to Division 502
 Hou, ex-General Staff Foreign Affairs; transferred to Logistics
 Aok Sõkũn, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Chuon Prasĩt, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Keat Chhõn, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Hõk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Nuon Chea
 Nhâ
 Maut, Logistics
 Phõn, Logistics
 Thẽum, Logistics
 Nhãn, Logistics
 Ân, Industry
 Hũy, S-21
 Ta Chay, S-21
Dũch, S-21
 Prang
 Chẽn, Armour
 Pheap, Artillery
 Pin
 Raen, General Staff

Reuang, General Staff

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