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COUR D'APPEL
DE DIJON

TRIBUNAL DE GRANDE INSTANCE
DE DIJON

CABINET DE
Mme PARGUEL
Vice-Président Charge de l'Instruction

N° du Parquet: CRI 031008
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ឯកសារបានកម្រិតត្រឹមត្រូវតាមច្បាប់ដើម	
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WRITTEN RECORD OF WITNESS INTERVIEW

On 31 October 2008, at 2.40 p.m.

I, Christine PARGUEL, Vice-President for Investigations with the Dijon *Tribunal de Grande Instance*, being in my office,

Assisted by Marie-Laure BOIROT, Greffier,

In the presence of Judge Marcel LEMONDE, pursuant to Article 152, paragraph 3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure

Noting the International Rogatory Letter dated 3 October 2008 by Judge YOU Bunleng and Judge Marcel LEMONDE, the Co-Investigating Judges of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, within the framework of a judicial investigation initiated against KAING Guek Eav, NUON Chea, IENG Sary, IENG Thirith, KHIEU Samphan for Crimes Against Humanity

Have interviewed Ms Laurence PICQ separately and without the presence of the Charged Person.

JUDGE: Let me remind you that you are being interviewed as a witness and under the oath you took on 29 October 2008.

JUDGE: Regarding the seminar held on National Day in 1978, you wrote that “No. 2, IENG Sary, had a lot of work and too many problems” (*Beyond the Horizon*, p. 122). Why “No. 2”?

ANSWER: This is how IENG Sary used to refer to himself. Everyone within the Pol Pot regime knew him as No. 2. No one spoke of NUON Chea. As a matter of fact, when the trial of the leaders was held in 1979, only Pol Pot and IENG Sary went on trial. In fact, to some, the real No. 1 was IENG Sary; he used to drive around in a limousine and had a tendency to promote his personal image.

It was not until 1978 that that people began to talk about NUON Chea, and in fact, at the time, I wondered if he was not the real “notorious traitor” that IENG Sary used to refer to. The sentiment was that there were rivalries within the government and that eliminations were due to follow, and this led me to think that “it was either them or us”.

JUDGE: In your book, you mention the arrest of VORN Vet following a meeting with IENG Sary (p. 140). Do you think the decision to arrest VORN Vet was taken by IENG Sary or that IENG Sary was in any way involved in the arrest? Did IENG Sary talk about the arrest later on? Did he refer to VORN Vet as a traitor, or did you have the impression that he felt personally under threat after the arrest?

ANSWER: the proximity of the two dates leads me to link the meeting between IENG Sary and VORN Vet and the latter’s arrest; IENG Sary called him a traitor after that. Having said that, I have no specific information about the decision itself. I do not know whether IENG Sary was concerned or bothered after VORN Vet’s arrest. The only time I saw him shaken was after the killing of Malcom CALDWELL.

JUDGE: on page 144 of your book, you quote IENG Sary as speaking of the “last” traitor to be discovered”, and you add that “he implied that he was referring to either KEAT Chhon or to THION Prasith”. You also write that they both felt uneasy. Can you elaborate?

ANSWER: IENG Sary was fond of insinuation; for example, he used to say that the traitor had lived abroad or was married to a foreigner, which was the case for THION Prasith and OK Sakun, who both had a French wife, like SUONG Sikoeun, of course. As for KEAT Chhon, his wife was Khmero-Vietnamese. In fact, those who had a French wife were urged to marry a Cambodian, and, the majority of them – their wives had remained in France – were scheduled to get remarried in late 1978. This did not happen because of the debacle.

JUDGE: How do you explain the fact that none of these people was arrested?

ANSWER: It must not have been the right time, but by late 1978, all that was picking up pace and our arrest was looming.

JUDGE: Do you know IENG Sary’s whereabouts on 17 April 1975, or what he knew about the evacuation of Phnom Penh? As far as you know, did he know in advance that the city was going to be evacuated? Did he discuss this before or after it happened? Do you know when he arrived in Phnom Penh, and who was with him at that point in time?

ANSWER: IENG Sary left Beijing in February or March 1975. He left with about fifty Khmers who had returned from abroad voluntarily and were allowed to travel to the liberated zone; they then took the Ho Chi Minh trail, and I later learned that IENG Sary separated from them somewhere along the way, but I do not know where he went. I do not know exactly when he arrived in Phnom Penh.

As for the evacuation of towns, it was done as the liberation progressed. Each time a city was captured, its inhabitants were evacuated to the countryside in order to be cleansed and purged of their town habits. IENG Sary used to explain and rationalise all this during his training seminars. Later on, he continued to rationalise the evacuation of Phnom Penh until the very end.

JUDGE: in your book (p. 73), you mention that Vooun travelled to Kompong Thom province, and you quote him as saying: "Upcountry, the hospitals are full; patients are being turned away, they sleep on the floor, in Taing Kauk, 30 deaths are reported every day, entire families are dumped in mass graves". Was the ministry aware of this? For example, were Rooun or IENG Sary aware of what Vooun had said? Does it have any bearing on her arrest?

ANSWER: It is difficult for me to answer that question. I do not think there is a connection between what Vooun said and her arrest, because she was arrested long after that, just after Rooun. I do not know whether either Rooun or IENG Sary knew what Vooun had said.

JUDGE: On 28 October 1975, IENG Sary went to Bangkok (FBIS 301075, ERN 0067532). You refer to this trip in your book, on page 30. At the time, there were reports in the English media about refugee accounts of mass executions and "genocide" in Cambodia. Were you aware of those allegations? Do you think IENG Sary was aware of them. Were foreign media, such as Voice of America and the BBC, monitored by the ministry?

ANSWER: I can only repeat that we had no access to foreign media. I do not know if IENG Sary knew about such reports, but in any event, all his communiqués suggested that everything was all right in Cambodia. With regard to the communiqué Sikoeun asked me to translate during the trip to Bangkok, I do not quite remember its contents, but I seem to remember that it was about good neighbourliness with Thailand. Sikoeun told me that it was important to have good relations with Thailand, because the situation with Vietnam was not stable.

JUDGE: Do you have anything further to add?

ANSWER: I would like to end by saying a few words about the crimes against humanity committed by IENG Sary. First, let me come back to what I said this morning concerning the self-criticism session that I was forced to attend. Perhaps one does not feel that one is "facing death" the first time one attends such events. But the process involves psychological torture, which eventually ends in death. This process was orchestrated by IENG Sary. He devised a forced labour scheme, whereby people were worked to exhaustion, they were not properly fed or provided with medical care, because all medical personnel had been killed after being accused of being ideological misfits. IENG Sary used to be there in person, for example, to oversee work in the fields, dam construction, and so on. He put in place a system of highly collectivized cooperatives,

which were part of the psychological torture. Whenever the system did not work as planned, it was said that traitors had sabotaged it, and that they deserved to die.

I invited the witness to re-read her deposition as transcribed and to sign it if she found it to be truthful.

Having read her statement, Ms **Laurence PICQ** certified the truth thereof and signed it along with me and the Greffier.

(Signed)

(Signed)

(Signed)