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ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ
Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation-Religion-King

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens

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ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត
Office of the Co-Investigating Judges
Bureau des Co-juges d'instruction

សំណុំរឿងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ
Criminal Case File /Dossier pénal
លេខ/No: 002/14-08-2006

លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត/Investigation/Instruction
លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បម្លើយសាក្សី
Written Record of Interview of Witness
Procès-verbal d'audition de témoin

On the eighteenth of February, two thousand and nine, at 9:05 hours, at HUN Sen (ហ៊ុន សែន) Au Ânluok (អូរអន្លូក) Elementary School, in Au Ânluok village, Ta Sèn (តា សែន) commune, Kâmrieng (កំរឿង) district, Battambang (បាត់ដំបង) province;

We, CHAY Chan Daravan (ចាយ ច័ន្ទតារាវណ្ណ) and Thomas KUEHNEL, Investigators of the Extraordinary Chambers, being assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges, dated 27 January 2009;

Noting the Law on the Establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers, dated 27 October 2004;

Noting Rules 24, 28 and 60 of the ECCC Internal Rules;

With Mr NIL Samorn និល សាម៉ុន, as sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers;

Recorded the statements of NORNG Sophàng (នង សុផង់) (NORNG Sēng Chim) (នង សេងជីម), a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:

The undersigned, NORNG Sophàng, has no alias, was born on 02 January 1952 in Thnâl Kèng (ថ្នល់កែង) village, Srè Thom (ស្រែវធំ) commune, Rovieng (រវៀង) district, Preah Vihear (ព្រះវិហារ) province.

He is of Khmer nationality; his occupation is a teacher at the Au Châmlâng (អូចំឡង) Primary School;

His father, NORNG Chim (នង ជីម), is “deceased”, and his mother, UN Tith (អ៊ុន ទីត), is “deceased”;

His present address is in Dey Krâhâm (ដើក្រហម) village, Ta Sèn commune, Kâmrieng district, Battambang province;

He is married to NHIK Hâm (ញឹក ហាំ), “alive”, and is the father of 3 children.

The witness has no criminal record.

The witness declared that he can read, write and understand the Khmer language.

The witness declared that he cannot read or write any other languages. Therefore, the original of this Written Record is written in the Khmer language.

We advised the witness that an audio or video recording was being made of this Interview.

The witness told us that he is not related to either the Charged Persons or to any of the Civil Parties.

The witness took an oath, in accordance with Rule 24 of the ECCC Internal Rules.

We notified the witness of his right against self-incrimination, in accordance with Rule 28 of the ECCC Internal Rules.

Question -Answer:

Q: Could you describe your background prior to 1975 please?

A: I studied at the Rovieng Elementary School in Preah Vihea province. After I had graduated elementary school, I continued my education at the Kampong Thom (កំពង់ធំ) High School. I studied up to the 3 level (during the old regime) I studied at the school until LON Nol (លន់ នល់) made the coup d'etat in 1970. After the coup d'etat, I quitted school and went back to Rovieng district. At that time Rovieng district was a liberated district under the Khmer Rouge. KÈV Ly (កែវ លី), who was then in charge of the district education section, appointed me to be a teacher to teach the Kuoy (ក្លូយ) minority in Sâmroang Daun Ma (សំរោងដូនម៉ា) in the Rovieng district. After I taught there for 2 years, I was transferred back to Rovieng district my birth place. I taught in Rovieng district for 1 year until 1973. In 1973, the committee of Preah Vihear Sector named Hàng (ហង់) appointed me to work at the Party Central Committee called B-17 (ប៊-១៧), which was a tempering place whose work included food production, growing vegetables, planting banana and potatoes. B-17 located in Bet Thnou (បិត្ត្ន) village, and probably in Châmkar Leu (ចំការលើ) or Stung Trâng (ស្ទឹងត្រង់) district in Kampong Cham (កំពង់ចាម) province.

Q: At that time who was the chairman of B-17?

A: The chairman of B-17 named Dim (ឌីម) (deceased). After I was tempered at B-17 for a half year, I was transferred to Angkar at a location in the forests, but I did not know where it was exactly. At the Angkar in the forests they taught me how to translate telegram. Pon (ប៉ុន), the group chairman, was my teacher. There were 4 to 5 persons in the telegram translation group, included Pon, Thē (ថេ), Srech (ស្រេច) and others whose names I do not recall.

Q: Did you ever see any senior leaders at B-17?

A: I met POL Pot (ប៉ុល ពត) and NUON Chea (នួន ជា) (saw once in a while).

Q: Did you ever see IENG Sary (អៀង សារី) and IENG Thirith (អៀង ធីរិទ្ធ) when you were at Angkar?

A: Never saw.

Q: At that time did you ever hear about B-20 (ប៊-២០)?

A: B-20 was near B-17 and B-18 (ប៊-១៨). B-17 was about 1 kilometer away from B-18; and the distance from B-17 to B-20 was 2 kilometers.

Q: What types of telegrams did you translate at Angkar location in the forests?

A: The telegrams of the directive and report from the low rank to the upper rank and vice versa. I worked at the Angkar in the forests for 1 year. In late 1974 I was transferred to work at B-20 which located in a banana grove in the area of Dei Krâhâm in Kampong Cham province. There, my role was a telegram translator working with Vâng (វ៉ង់). At that time B-20 was divided up into 2 sections, one of which accompanied POL Pot to work at the front line west of Phnom Penh, but I and Vâng stayed behind working at B-20.

Q: How was the work of sending information organized?

A: They were divided up into 3 groups, which included the telegram translator group, the telegram receiver group, and the group of radio broadcasting and communication. Each group located at a different location and never knew each other.

Q: Who was the chairman at B-20?

A: I did not know who the chairman of B-20 was. I worked with Vâng at B-20, and I was the chairman of the telegram translator group.

Q: Do you know if Srech, Pon, Thē, and Vâng are still alive?

A: Srech nowadays lives in Samlaut (សំឡូត), but I do not know whether Pon and Thē are dead or still alive. After 1975 Srech also worked with me in Phnom Penh.

Q: Did you ever hear the name Ly Kēng (លី កេង)?

A: I only knew that Ly Kēng used to be the chairman of B-20, but I did not know during which period. It might have been later, because he was from the next generation. Ly Kēng is presently still alive, but I do not know where.

Q: How long did you work at B-20?

A: I worked at B-20 until Phnom Penh fell. Then in late 1975, after the liberation, they transferred me to work in Phnom Penh. My role was to teach children at the Sohearos (សុអារ៉ូស) Elementary School, which located behind the two tall Buildings (in the area of Tunle Bassac (ទន្លេបាសាក់) behind the Auditorium Hall).

Q: Where was POL Pot at that time?

A: He was at K-1 (ក-១), and K-1 was in the Tunle Bassac area.

Q: What did you teach?

A: I taught telegram translation, telegram code numbers, typing, literature, and sometimes French and English, so those children could have these skills when they returned to their units.

Q: Where did the children whom you taught come from?

A: Those children were from a good class background. They were recruited from the poor peasant class in provinces.

Q: How many children at that time?

A: About 40 children. I taught only one course in 1976, and the course was divided up into two levels, the low level and high level, with one level was taught in the morning and another in the afternoon.

Q: Did you ever see the parents of those children?

A: I never saw any of them because they were brought there from the provinces by their leaders. They were first brought to a place near the river bank, but I did not know where exactly it was. I did not know much about this because Angkar assigned me to teach only, so my role was exclusively teaching.

Q: Were those children forced to come or did they come voluntarily?

A: They were happy to be sent to Phnom Penh because Phnom Penh was a city. Also, at that time the country had been liberated.

Q: After you had taught those children, where were they sent to?

A: Some of them were sent back to the bases, some were sent to work at the telegram unit, and some others stayed with me until the Vietnamese arrived.

Q: How many children stayed with you until the Vietnamese captured Phnom Penh?

A: There were about 10 persons, but only four to five of them were capable to work then. Some of those who stayed with me then are now still alive. They include Sâ (ស័ន), who is now a policeman in Au Ânluok; Sokha (សុខា), a rice farmer in Sâmpov Loun (សំពៅលួន); Chorn (ជន) a business man in Malai (ម៉ាឡៃ); and Chhieng (ឈឿង), who is KHIEU Samphan's (ខៀវ សំផន) son in-law, is now in Pailin (ប៉ៃលិន).

Q: How old were the children at that time?

A: They were about 10 to 12 years-old and mostly boys. As for the girls, they were sent back to the bases after they had finished the training.

Q: Can you tell us the location of K-1 (ក-១)?

A: In the Tunle Bassac area, there was a 2-story tall building. K-1 was a place where POL Pot worked, and Kèn (កែន) (dead) was overall in charge of it. After Kèn died from a liver disease, Tan (តាន), who was the deputy, took over.

Q: You told me about a person named Pàng (ប៉ង), what was Pàng's role then?

A: Pàng was the one in charge of all offices around the Party Centre (Committee 870). Around the Committee 870 there were many offices such as the Office of Production and Vegetables Farming called K-8 (ក-៨); the Office of the Hospital which I do not recall what K it was called; the Office of the Security Protection called K-1; and many other Offices. Pàng (dead) moved around to work from one Office to another, so it was not clear which one was his.

Q: Besides teaching, did you do any other work?

A: Besides teaching, I translated telegrams sent from K-1 when they were overloaded. Pon and Thē assigned me the messages to be translated.

Q: Did you translate the telegrams alone or with the group?

A: I translated telegrams with the children whom I had taught. This was so that the children could learn how to translate them.

Q: After you had translated a telegram, where did you take it to?

A: After it was translated, a messenger took it back to K-1.

Q: Was that messenger your personal messenger?

A: Khoeun (ខ្លួន), who was taught by me, was my messenger. Nowadays, Khoeun lives in Malai. He might be a soldier.

Q: Where else were the messages sent to?

A: In front of K-1 there was a guard booth. I used Khoeun to deliver the translated telegram to that booth and on the envelope it was addressed to K-1.

Q: Was Pon the chairman of K-1?

A: No, Pon was just the chairman of the telegram working group at K-1. I was under Pon, but I worked outside.

Q: Where was the Radio Communication section?

A: It was at the old American Embassy, and Yos (យ៉ូស) (dead) was the chairman there. Pàng was Yos supervisor.

Q: What K was the old American embassy called?

A: No, I do not recall.

Q: Were there any other courier offices?

A: There was K-7 (ក-៧) which was a place for sending regular mails to countrywide. It located north of the royal palace on the river bank. The chairman of K-7 was named

Prum (j̄m̄). There were two translator groups in my translator section, one was the inside group and another was the outside group. I was the chairman of the outside translator group, and Pon and Thē were inside.

Q: Can you explain to us about the work relation between the radio communication group at the old American embassy and the messenger group called K-7 and your translator group at K-1? And what did the radio communication do?

A: The radio communication group at the old American Embassy received and transmitted telegrams.

Q: Can you explain to us when they received or transmitted a telegram, what did they do first?

A: At first a message was sent out from the Committee 870. Then it was sent to the translator group who used code numbers to code its text. After it was coded, the message was sent to the radio communication group at the old American embassy so that they transmitted out in code numbers. As for telegram recipients from a province and zone, the messages, in code numbers, were first received at the old American embassy, and then were sent to the translation section at K-1. Next step they were sent to the typist group, and then sent on to the Standing Committee (Committee 870). After that Pon and Thē annotated on the telegrams whom these telegrams would be sent to.

Q: Did Pon, Thē or Pàng write the annotations on the telegrams?

A: It was Pon's annotation. Pon and Thē were in charge of telegram section. Pàng did not have the task and right to write on these telegrams.

Q: Because you are busy, I would like to pause this interview for now and will resume it tomorrow at 1 pm in this same place, do you agree?

A: Yes, I agree.

Q: Which K was the school you taught children under?

A: It was under the supervision of K-1.

(The interview paused at 11:15 am on 18 February 2009)

(The interview resumed at 13:15 hours on 19 February 2009)

Q: Can you specify further about the radio communication unit at the old American embassy, your unit at K-1, and the messenger unit K-7?

A: The messenger unit K-7 located north of the royal palace, and Prum was the chairman. The role of K-7 was to receive domestic guests from provinces and to deliver general mails to every place. When any guests wanted to contact K-1, they had to first contact K-7. I do not recall who the deputy of K-7 was. Prum was the chairman of K-7 until the Vietnamese arrived.

Q: How was the relation between K-7 and K-1?

A: Their relation was that if any one wanted to meet with K-1 he/she must arrange it through K-7; and the procedure was the same for sending in or out letters. When the regular letters were sent to K-1 from various places, they had to go through K-7. K-7 would then deliver them to the messenger place in K-1 which was located on the corner of the school where I stayed. At that corner, there was a place of the messenger group where Sâm (សំ) (dead), from an ethnic minority, was the chairman. Sâm then deliver the letters to K-1.

Q: Did Sâm deliver them by himself or did anyone else do it?

A: There was not Sâm alone. There were 4 other persons in his messenger team who could also deliver letters to the body guard group at K-1. The chairman of the body guard group named Kèn (កែន) (dead). He, from an ethnic minority, was the K-1 personal body guard. Kèn just died before the [Khmer Rouge] integration. Sâm was the chairman of the K-1 messenger group. Sâm delivered the letters to the body guards at the Office K-1, and then the body guards forwarded those letters to the Office K-1.

Q: Who was Tan (តាន) and what did he do?

A: Tan was in the body guard group also. He was next under Kèn in charge of the bodyguard group.

Q: What K was the radio communication and telegram transmitting unit at the old American embassy called?

A: I do not recall, but I recall that its code number was 57; and the code number for my school was 38.

Q: When a message was sent to Pon, what code number was used?

A: It was sent to K-1.

Q: How was the relation of your unit at K-1 with the radio communication and telegram unit at the old American Embassy?

A: My unit was under the supervision of Pon and Thē. They both also supervised the radio communication and telegram transmitting unit at the old American embassy. Pon and Thē were the chairmen of the telecommunication section which was composed of two units, one of which was the radio communication unit at the old American embassy, and another was the telegram translation unit at K-1 as well as my school.

Q: Can you explain to us about the work relation between the radio communication unit and your unit at K-1. If the Committee 870 wanted to send out a message, what did they do?

A: If Committee 870 wanted to send a message out, Pon and Thē would go in person to get it from them. They went to take note of the words of the Committee 870, and then took the handwritten message to the telegram translation group to have its text coded. After it was coded, the message was given to my personal messenger or the messenger at K-1 to take to the radio communication site at the old American embassy. Yos, who was

in charge of the radio communication unit there, would arrange to have the message transmitted to its respective destination. The message that was sent out by the radio communication unit was in code numbers since its text had been coded by the translator group, and the receiver unit would receive it in code numbers format.

Q: Was Khoeun only your messenger?

A: There was not only Khoeun alone. There were many children staying with me, so I used whoever was available. But Khoeun was my trusted person. I trusted that he would not lose my message.

Q: Who were the messengers at K-1?

A: There were many but I do not recall their names. Srech was also in there.

Q: Was the messenger group at K-1 Sâm's group?

A: Sâm's group could deliver messages also.

Q: You said that the receiver unit received the telegrams in code numbers, so who created the code numbers?

A: The code numbers were from me and Pon. For example, when sending [a message] to the East Zone, they did not say that it was sent to the East Zone, but they used the number A75 instead for the East Zone. This code number was assigned to them by my group. The numbers were sent to the persons respectively so that they knew what number represented them. The code numbers were not changed often. But they would be changed if [the status] of the secret documents changed.

Q: Do you recall what the substances of the messages you sent out at that time were about?

A: The important substances to be transmitted through coded telegram were the internal matters. For example, any problems with the people or the army or the problems along the borders had to be reported from the low rank to the upper rank and vice versa. The telegrams I used to translate mostly contained various directives, different protective measures, for example, any measures in place to deal with the enemy pushing in from the East Zone, the trips forth and back of the cadres and their work plans, and the distribution of various materials to the people.

Q: What did the trip forth and back of the cadres mean?

A: It meant like when the cadres were invited to attend a meeting like the one in Borei Keila where the nationwide meeting of cadres was held.

Q: If it was a secret meeting, where did they hold it?

A: I did not know. But when they came to the meeting at K-1, they rode in the cars.

Those included IENG Sary (អៀង សារី) and SON Sen (សុន សែន), whom I saw and knew.

Q: Did you ever see KHIEU Samphan coming to the meeting at K-1?

A: I did not see KHIEU Samphan coming to K-1. I used to see IENG Thirith coming with IENG Sary.

Q: Did IENG Sary and IENG Thirith ride together in the same car when they came?

A: They rode in the same car because they were wife and husband.

Q: Did you ever see NUON Chea?

A: He was at K-1 with POL Pot also.

Q: What about other people or cadres from the Zones?

A: There were no cadres coming to K-1. There was only the Central Committee.

Q: Who took notes in each meeting?

A: I do not know. But Pon and Thē might do it because they were the personal secretaries.

Q: What did putting work plan in place mean?

A: Putting a work plan in place meant, for example, how and what method we could use to deal with the enemy along the border, how to organize forces, and how to defend.

Q: What did instruction circular mean?

A: Instruction circular meant the instructions for the security protection; for example, in the summer, there was a directive about the collective protection to prevent fire. Anything related to the collective interest was sent out in an instruction circular.

Q: Who received these instruction circulars?

A: Pon and Thē received them. They wrote down the substance and then took them to my group to translate.

Q: Were there any annotations on the text?

A: Yes, there was an annotation. If the substance was urgent, it was annotated very urgent or extremely confidential. As for the extremely confidential [messages], they were coded it over and over for 2 or 3 times.

Q: Did Pon and Thē deliver them to you personally?

A: Sometimes if the substance was short, they called and asked me to take note of it on phone, but if the substance was long, they took note of it by themselves and then gave to me. On some texts [pages] there was an annotation of POL Pot personally, and sometimes there was that of NUON Chea on them also.

Q: How many texts of NUON Chea did you receive?

A: Very little.

Q: What about IENG Sary?

A: There was never any message [from him] given to me to translate; and none from IENG Thirith.

Q: What about KHIEU Samphan?

A: There used to be his messages which talked about what amount of salt, rice grain, cloths, clothing, shoes, and other materials to be sent to this and that unit for distribution to the people. He was the manager who managed and distributed various produced materials to the people. I did not receive messages from KHIEU Samphan frequently. Besides that, I used to translate KHIEU Samphan message, in the form of directive circulars, regarding various national ceremonies, for example.

Q: Were there any other messages which KHIEU Samphan gave you to translate?

A: No, there were not any other messages.

Q: What kinds were NUON Chea's messages about mostly?

A: The messages were the directives telling the people how to solve food problems; and sometimes there were messages inviting people on behalf of the Committee 870 to the meetings.

Q: Did you ever receive and translate any messages from SON Sen?

A: Never saw any. He was the Commander in Chief of the National Armed Forces, so he had his own working place.

Q: How did they send messages to Committee 870?

A: It was the same for incoming and outgoing messages. There were telegrams from various Zones and autonomous Sectors. There were also messages from the Commander in Chief SON Sen. There were no messages from IENG Sary and IENG Thirith because they were in Phnom Penh. So it was not necessary for them to send telegrams, they just came in person. As for KHIEU Samphan, he sent messages in handwriting through the K-1 messengers whose chairman was Sâm; Sâm then delivered KHIEU Samphan messages to K-1. Sometimes KHIEU Samphan phoned me and had me take note of his text on phone, and he told me where to send that message. That text was taken to be coded and then was transmitted.

Q: Did this mean that KHIEU Samphan had a right to use your telegram unit also?

A: Yes, when the message was about sending out materials or when they were the directives for various national ceremonies.

Q: So, this meant that there were messages from SON Sen, the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, and from various Zones, sent to the radio communication unit at the old American Embassy. Were the messages received in code numbers or in text?

A: SON Sen had a telegraph for communicating directly with Yos. His telegram came out in code number forms, so Yos, after receiving it, just delivered it directly to K-1. After that, Pon group translated it into the text letters. For the important directives and important issues, the inside group were the ones to translate them.

Q: At Yos's place, what did they do after they had received a message from a Zone or an Autonomous Sector?

A: They delivered it. If it was a confidential letter, it came in coded numbers, which was then sent to K-1 for Pon to manage. If that message was assigned to me, I would receive it to translate.

Q: What were the framework and requirement?

A: They required that any work that needed an urgent response must be translated at K-1 by Pon and Srech. My assignments were mostly general issues, so those messages were usually not important or urgent.

Q: Were the messages from the Zones divided up for different people to translate?

A: It based on the circumstances; for example, if they were from a Zone which was seriously disturbed by the enemy, those documents, although they had been assigned to me earlier, would be taken back to be done by the inside group so that the response could be made quickly.

Q: Which Zone's telegrams did you translate?

A: All Zones. They included the substances on building dams and canals, requesting materials, internal situation, and any events that took place at the bases. As for the messages about the reports on the enemy situation or treason, the Zone Committee came in person to meet with the Central Committee.

Q: Did you ever receive any direct phone calls from the Zone Committee asking for an appointment?

A: No, my phone line was connected to three places only, including KHIEU Samphan, Yos, and K-1.

Q: Who were the persons delivering messages from radio communication site at the old American Embassy to K-1?

A: It seemed there was no clear assignment for that. The telegraphers could deliver messages to K-1, or if it came from my target, they could bring it to me directly.

Q: Do you recall who brought messages from the radio communication site directly to your place at K-1?

A: I do not recall.

Q: Who typed it after a message had been translated?

A: The telegram translator himself. After he had translated it, he typed it by himself.

Q: Whom did Pon use for typing?

A: He could type by himself or use people in his working group like Srech and Thē.

Q: You said that IENG Sary had his own working place, were there any telegram translators at his place?

A: IENG Sary had his Foreign Affairs Ministry, so he had his personal telegram translators.

Q: When he wanted to transmit a message, did he send a messenger to take it directly to the radio communication unit at the old American Embassy?

A: I did not know clearly because it was not in my framework.

Q: When they needed to send a telegram overseas, did they use the radio communication site at the old American Embassy also?

A: Maybe they did. Receiving and transmitting messages were done at the radio communication unit at the old American Embassy.

Q: When there was a message coming to K-1 addressed to “Committee 870”, who wrote the address line? And at the bottom [of the page] there was writing “copied to” this and that person: who wrote that “copied to” this and that person?

A: The translator group who wrote the “copied to” because the translators had to type the message and send it to all the Standing Committee [members].

Q: Was it always sent to all the Standing Committee members or was it just sent to this or that person but not all?

A: Mostly it was sent to the Committee 870, but in some cases it was not sent to all the Standing Committee [members]. It was only sent to the relevant persons who were responsible for making a response.

Q: What did “to Committee 870” mean, and whom did that refer to?

A: It referred to the entire Central Committee.

Q: In some cases it said “To the Missed and Beloved Brother”?

A: If it stated “To Brother” without name, that referred to POL Pot.

Q: Were there any other brothers?

A: Brother referred to Brother Number One, POL Pot.

Q: Pon and Thē had a right to write annotations on the telegram, and did these two persons have a right to write down the names of those to whom the message was to be copied?

A: Yes, they both had a right to do so based on the substance of each message they read; for example, some messages had to be sent to all of Committee 870 so that they were informed. Their group was an independent group under no one’s supervision; and no one could order them to make extra copies for any one else. They did not need to ask about whom the messages had to be sent to, and no one could interfere their work.

Q: When a telegram had been copied and sent to certain persons, how did they know that those targeted persons actually received it?

A: The Standing Committee also stayed at K-1, so after we had translated a telegram, we typed it in multiple copies according to the numbers of persons whom to be distributed to. After that, our group delivered it to each room respectively.

Q: How did they do for IENG Sary and KHIEU Samphan offices?

A: After the copies were made, we used Sâm's messenger to deliver them there.

Q: When typing it, did they type it one page at a time or use any carbon papers?

A: They used the carbon papers to type 4 to 5 copies each time. The copies for the document and archive were kept at Pon's place at K-1

Q: Did they have a log book for outgoing, incoming, domestic, and overseas documents?

A: Yes, there were bookcases with different drawers for Sectors, Zones, domestic and overseas.

Q: As you understood it, did those copies reach the hands of their receivers?

A: I believed they received them because those messengers and translators, who had been recruited to work there, were very loyal.

Q: Based on your recollection, were there any telegrams, which had been sent out but never reached their receivers?

A: I never encountered that.

Q: Would it be a big problem if that happened?

A: Definitely there would be a problem.

Q: When you said you never saw such thing happened, can you specify during which period you talked about?

A: The situation was normal during the time since I began working there until 1977; but there were some problems in 1978.

Q: Were they big or minor problems?

A: They included the security at the embassies and the subversion by tossing deadly hand grenades within the town.

Q: Did it mean that news [about such events] during that time was kept well secret?

A: Yes.

Q: When you said that sometimes there were unusual events or problems, why during that time did such things occur, because at that time news was well kept?

A: In 1978-79 there were subversions in the city, causing security problems and concerns.

Q: During 1975 to 79, was the telegram transmitting and receiving managed properly?

A: I did not know about the management issues because I was under their supervision.

Q: Did Pon and Thē follow the instructions clearly?

A: I did not know about that because they worked inside and I worked outside.

Q: I now have some telegrams which I want to ask you about. They related to the 'copied to' and 'sent to'. This is telegram number 15 and its document [ERN] number is 0008494, dated 30 November 1975. What do you think?

A: This telegram was not assigned to me. It may have been Pon who translated it.

Q: Did you ever make this telegram?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Can you read this telegram number 15 please?

A: "Respectfully sent to Beloved Comrade Brother Pol (ប៉ុល ពត), I would like to report about the removal of the people from the East Zone to the North Zone. There were problems with some disagreements and noncompliance with Angkar's instructions. At the receiving points there were negative phenomena as follows: On 30 November both sides agreed on the points to receive the people from the East Zone which were at Stung Trâng (ស្ទឹងត្រង់) and Preah Prasâp (ព្រះប្រសិស្ស). Preah Prasâp will receive the people from Chhlaung (ឆ្លង) district, and Stung Trâng will receive the people from Peam Chileäng (ពាមជីលាំង) and Krach Chhmar (ក្រុចឆ្មារ) districts. The Sectors and districts have gathered the total number of people to be removed from Sector 21 and transported them to the other side [of the river]. Those points absolutely refused to take the Islamic people, and took only pure Khmers. So the situation of the people who were removed on this day, the 30th, became very chaotic. I immediately instructed the Sectors and districts to temporarily pause and wait for the opinion of Brother and the North Zone. Comrade Pauk probably does not know of this problem. I instructed the Sectors and districts to take the Islamic people back to their original villages. Based on the decision of the meeting, it was decided that our brothers must not send the Islamic people to Kratie (ក្រែចៃ). As for the Northwest and the North Zones, they must receive them in order to separate the Islamic people from the Mekong River so that the atmosphere can relax somewhat. But, on the contrary, our brothers refused to take them. I would like to ask for your decision on this matter. In principle, the Zone has to remove 50,000 people to give to the North Zone. So, over 100,000 Islamic people still remain in the East Zone. We removed them from only the important points along the river and the border. As for Thbaung Khmum (ត្បូងឃ្មុំ) district, we did not remove them. This removal has been done following Brother's idea on the policy on separation which we already discussed together. But if the North Zone refuses to take them, I will struggle to continue keep a grasp on the Islamic people, no problem. But the number of people will not reach 150,000 if the North Zone refuses to take the Islam people. With respect, wishing you

good health and victory. Date: 30/11/1975. Chhon (ឆ័ន). Copied to: Brother Nuon (នួន), Brother Doeun (ដួន), Brother Yèm (យ៉ម), Documents”.

Q: Can you explain to us who made the decision on whom to be copied on this telegram 15?

A: It was my chairman named Pon. Because this telegram is related to the people, it had to be sent to NUON Chea. “Brother Nuon” is NUON Chea. “Brother Pol” is POL Pot.

Q: Who were “Brother Doeun” and “Brother Yèm”?

A: I did not know clearly about these two persons. Yèm could have been a member of the assembly, and Doeun might have been the chairman of some Office working with NUON Chea or KHIEU Samphan or a member of the assembly responsible for the North Zone.

Q: How was NUON Chea connected with this telegram?

A: This telegram was originally sent to POL Pot alone, but the person in charge of the telegram knew that this matter must also be sent to the person who was in charge of people like NUON Chea in order to find a solution.

Q: In this telegram there is a request for an opinion, did the receiver of this telegram have to respond to this request?

A: With certain problems if POL Pot was able to solve them, he would respond right away. But with some ungraspable problems which required the whole committee to solve them, POL Pot would call a meeting with the Standing Committee to make a decision.

Q: How was this kind of telegram transmitted?

A: This telegram had been coded because this telegram was a confidential one. And this telegram was related to internal matters because it was about something they had agreed upon, but there turned out to be some problems at the time they were carrying out their work.

Q: Did you ever see any problems like those in this telegram, such as the evacuation of the people?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Can you explain to us about this event and this purge?

A: I do not know. This was the internal matter, and I did not know how the Central Committee solved it; so I could not know.

Q: Did you personally ever write [on a telegram] ‘copied to’ any one?

A: I did not dare write about sending it to anywhere. After [I] translated it, I sent it to Pon who was the manager.

Q: I would like to show you another telegram, which is telegram number 54, dated 23-04-1978, and please read this telegram. Who do you think the “Respected Brother” was?

A: Brother referred to POL Pot. The hand writing which says “Uncle Nuon” might be that of Thē because Thē also had the right to manage that.

Q: Can you read this handwriting please?

A: “Uncle Nuon” referred to NUON Chea. Sarun (សារុន) was an ethnic minority. He might have been the Sector Committee in Mundulkiri (មណ្ឌលគីរី).

Q: How often was this type of telegrams sent to NUON Chea? And why?

A: [For anything involving the internal situation and violation of moral codes [they] had to contact NUON Chea because NUON Chea was in charge of the people.

Q: How often did you receive the telegrams related to the internal matters and treason?

A: Not often, because for the internal matters, they mostly came to report verbally.

Q: Did you ever translate this type of the telegram?

A: Yes, once in a while.

Q: Was this type of the telegram mainly sent to K-1?

A: It was necessary.

Q: Were the telegrams always in this format?

A: The telegrams followed this format which always included this letterhead, the message order number, and the compound numbers which referred to the code numbers used for translation.

Q: Please tell us about the report format, did they have to follow a format by telling first about the internal enemy and then the external enemy, the internal matters, and the food production?

A: It was up to the report writer. Sometimes they reported about this story first, but sometimes that story first. There was no regular format, it depended the concrete situation.

Q: Were the reports about these subjects made on a regular basis?

A: Usually the leaders had to report about their Sectors.

Q: Was the work they put in the report true or not?

A: I could not know that because I worked in my office only, so I did not know whether it was true or not.

Q: Please read this telegram, what did the annotation and ‘Copied to’ mean?

A: “Uncle Nuon” referred to NUON Chea. Copied to: “Uncle” referred to POL Pot, “Uncle Nuon” was NUON Chea, “Uncle Vann” was IENG Sary, “Uncle Vorn (វ៉ែន)” referred to VORN Vēt (វ៉ែន វ៉ែត) who was the Minister of Finance. “Office” referred to Office 870, and “Document” was to be kept in the archive. The Office place was different from the Document place. For the Office, it was kept in the Office 870, but for the Document, it was kept at the translation place. This annotation was Thē’s handwriting.

Q: I would like to show you another telegram containing ERN 00278325-00278326. Please read this telegram. Please read and then tell us whose handwriting was this?

A: “Brother Hēm (ហែម)” referred to KHIEU Samphan. This telegram related to commerce, so it was copied to KHIEU Samphan. I used to receive KHIEU Samphan telegrams which regarded to the distribution of salt, rice, and fish paste.

Q: Can you read sentence number 6 in this telegram?

A: “Would like to send you a sample of 5% white rice, so that comrade can contact Mr. William Leon of the MION (មីញ៉ុង) Company to tell him that in response to his purchase order, we can sell him five thousand tons (5,000) of this type of rice to begin with. For the cost, if it was made with CIF Hong Kong, we can transport it with the Yong Khang ship, but if it was made with FOB Kampong Som (កំពង់សោម), we will let him rent a ship from Yan Ko Company that used to dock at Kampong Som Port previously. After receiving this information, please reply via a telegram immediately”. Sentence number 7 “Would like to send two (2) kilograms of black pepper sample so that [you] can send it to the INTRACO Company in Singapore in response to the request from that Company. With warm revolutionary fraternity. FORTRA (ហ្វ័រត្រា) Phnom Penh”. This telegram was not sent to me to translate because it was not a confidential telegram.

Q: Was this telegram about selling rice?

A: Yes, it was Ta Rīth, the Minister of Commerce stationed in Hong Kong, who sent it. This telegram might have been sent by fax or through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or through their embassy in Cambodia.

Q: The embassy of what country?

A: It might be the Chinese Embassy because this was from Hong Kong .

Q: Is this a telegram, a fax, or a regular letter?

A: It might be a letter because it was not copied to anyone.

Q: What does “FORTRA Phnom Penh” mean?

A: It might be the name of a company.

Q: I would like to show you another telegram. Can you read it please?

A: “Telegram 20, compound numbers 448, dated 26-04-1978”. After I read it, this telegram was a confidential telegram of the Commander in Chief SON Sen. This is based on this code number 47 which represented SON Sen.

Q: We received some telegrams which had been also sent from SON Sen. But the code number was not 47. Did he sometimes change his code number 47 to another number?

A: It could be changed.

Q: Why do you dare claim that 47 was SON Sen?

A: Because at that time he was in charge of the armed forces, leading the East Zone military at the Cambodia-Vietnam border during the border conflict between the Khmer and the Vietnamese.

Q: Here it was written on the top “To the Respected and Beloved Brother”, who was that Brother?

A: “Brother” referred to POL Pot.

Q: Could it be that “Brother” referred to SON Sen and 47 was POL Pot?

A: It could not be like that because the receiving place was Pon’s place, which was the Centre place, K-1. As for reporting about the armed forces, no one had the right to report about it except Mr. SON Sen.

Q: Can you tell us whose handwriting is this?

A: This handwriting reads “Brother Vann”. This annotation is Pon’s because I recognize his writing which I often decoded. It was sent to IENG Sary. Copied to “Uncle” who was POL Pot, “Uncle Nuon” was NUON Chea, “Uncle Vann” was IENG Sary, “Uncle Vorn” was VORN Vet, and Office and Document were the ones to be kept in Office 870 and in the translation place.

Q: What did the line under “copy to” mean?

A: It did not mean anything. It was just a regular line.

Q: Why did this need to be sent to NUON Chea, IENG Sary and VORN Vet?

A: Because this matter was related to the country, so all must be informed.

Q: Why it was not sent to KHIEU Samphan if he was the Chief of State?

A: I do not know.

Q: Based on your experience, was that [kind of telegram] ever sent to KHIEU Samphan, or not at all?

A: I am not clear about that. KHIEU Samphan at that time in charge of the Front which was connected to Samdach Sihanouk. Based on my guess, KHIEU Samphan had not yet become a full-rights member of Committee 870.

Q: Why did KHIEU Samphan always receive [telegrams] about commercial issues?

A: Because that was his task to manage.

Q: I would like to show you another telegram. Telegram 11 which included two pages of the same [texts], and was from Unit 353, dated 14 February 1978. Please look at these two documents. Where was this telegram 11 from? Where was it sent to? What did it mean? And why?

A: This telegram is the same as those telegrams before. It was the telegram of the Commander in Chief SON Sen reporting to POL Pot. “To Brother” meant to Brother POL Pot, and number 47 was SON Sen. The annotation that read “Mēsâr Thngâk” (“មេស៊ែរថ្នាក់”) was Pon’s handwriting. He corrected a typed misspelled word. The corrected word read “Mēsâr Thngâk”, which was the name of a place located south of Road 1 in Svay Rieng (ស្វាយរៀង) province. As for the annotation which read “Copied to” might be that of Thē. This telegram was sent to only 2 persons, “Uncle” was POL Pot, and “Uncle Nuon” was NUON Chea. As for the Document, it was kept in the archive.

Q: Can you explain to us about these two pages? Why does one page have ‘copied to’ but the other page does not?

A: As I understand it, Pon probably had the typist retype to correct the misspelled word by changing “Mēsâr Thauk” (“មេស៊ែរថ្នាក់”) into the correct one.

Q: Can you tell us about the sentence five which reads “Comrade Tăl (តាល់) captured two Yuon heads, ages 17 and 27, and took them to S-21”. What did Yuon mean?

A: Comrade Tăl might have been a commander, and Yuon meant Vietnamese. As for S-21, I did not know where it was and what was that place for during that time.

Q: Why was the subject in this telegram was sent only to Uncle and Uncle Nuon?

A: I did not know. But may be at that time Uncle Vorn was not there, and Uncle Vann had gone to work overseas. This is just my speculation.

Q: Why was KHIEU Samphan’s name not in most telegrams, and there were only two persons on them?

A: I do not know.

Q: Where did KHIEU Samphan stay at that time?

A: KHIEU Samphan stayed at another place, but I did not know where. But he did not stay at K-1.

Q: Did you ever hear the word Tuol Slèng (ទួលស្តេង)?

A: At that time I did not know or hear about it. I heard about this until when I went to be trained as a school teacher in Phnom Penh. I heard about this when they [my friend] asked me to visit the place. But I did not go to see it because I did not feel well.

Q: Did you know the location of S-21?

A: I so far have not known its location.

Q: I would like to show you some pictures on the locations of the Ks. Can you explain to us where which K was? Please write down on these pictures and draw arrows pointing to each K building, then put a date on them and sign.

A: I only recall the pictures of K-1 and the Liaison Messenger Office as I wrote down on this picture.

Q: Can you show us the table of the code numbers which you have produced as an example please?

A: This is called the 100 Square Table which was used to disguise the scripts. For example, if we want to type a letter "K" (ក), we type "00"; and for example, number "1" has its code number 90. With this table we combine numbers [to represent one letter] by taking one number from a horizontal line and another number from a vertical line [of a box].

Q: Do you agree if we include this note with this interview?

A: Yes, agree.

Q: Can you explain to us about the word "lexicon"?

A: They used it as an aid to this table. For example, with a long word like "The National Armed Forces of the Democratic Kampuchea", we did not need to use the table for that, we just wrote 0100 twice, which were 0100 0100. For that, we did not need to look in the table, but to look in the lexicon to find what referred to The National Armed Forces of the Democratic Kampuchea. If we followed the 100 Square Table [for everything], our telegram would become long. There were many such words, and this was only one example.

Q: How could the person at the other end of the line understand this table?

A: I had to call the parties at the other end of the line to a meeting and explain to them about the technical matters and then gave them a copy of this table.

Q: How often this table was changed?

A: Usually if there was no problem, we did not change it. Yet this table was not used for the confidential telegram, but it was used for the regular telegram. If we wanted to make it as a confidential one, we had to take the numbers coded telegram to recode it over and over with other code numbers.

Q: Can you tell us the name of this table?

A: The 100 Square Table for use to disguise the scripts.

Q: I would like to include this 100 Square Table, which you personally made, in this record, so please sign and put the date on it. I also want to specify that the 6 telegrams which I just showed you today are also attached with this interview. They include

telegram number 11, dated 14-02-1978; telegram 20, dated 26-04-1978; telegram 324, dated 10-04-1978; telegram 54, dated 23-04-1975; telegram 15, dated 30-11-1975; and another one is a letter of communication between the Run Fung Co. in Hong Kong and FEUTRA in Phnom Penh. In order to confirm that you have read them, can you sign and put a date on it please?

A: Yes, I have read and explained.

Q: Since you are busy and not having enough time for us to continue the interview, and because I also do not have enough time to review the transcript properly, I want to end this interview for today, but I will ask you for another meeting in the near future. Do you agree with that?

A: Yes, I agree.

(The interview paused at 18:30 hours on 19 February 2009)

One copy of the Written Record was provided to the witness.

This interview ended at 11:45 hours on 27 March 2009.

The Written Record was read out to the witness; the witness had no objections and signed it.

After the Written Record was read out to the witness, the witness refused to sign it.

Witness

Interpreter

Investigators

[Signature/Thumbprint]

[Signature]

[Signatures]

NORNG Sophàng

00328048



អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា
Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens

**BUREAU DES CO-JUGES D'INSTRUCTION
OFFICE OF THE -INVESTIGATING JUDGES**

List of Attachments to OCIJ Interview

**of
NORNG SOPHANG**

**on
27/February/2009**

1. DK telegram entitled "*Telegram 15*" ERN 0008494
2. DK Telegram entitled "*Telegram 54*" ERN 00017027
3. DK Commercial document entiteld "*086-HK/78*" ERN 00278325
4. DK Telegram entitled "*Telegram 20*"
5. DK Telegram entitled "*Telegram 11*" - 2 versions
6. DK Telegram entitled "*Telegram 324*"
7. *Example of the code table and compound words used to encrypt Telegrams - drawing made by witness*
8. *OCIJ picture with annotations of the witness*
9. *OCIJ picture with annotations of the witness*


Thomas Kuehnle


Chay Chandaravan