

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Transcription of interview

Interviewed by: SIM Sorya
Interview granted by: Mr. SAO Sarun

**Questions (Q) - Answers (A):**

[00:09:30-00:11:46]

Q: And Uncle, did you ever see or meet in person anyone of the high-ranking officials mentioned above including Thuch, KOY Thuon, THUCH Khuon or SON Sen or NUON Chea, or did you ever carry any high-ranking officials or meet them during meetings- political meetings or ever carry them through the forest or escort them somewhere?

A: No. The only persons seen to come and work with Comrade Laing (ឡាំង), upon his arrival, during meetings he convened were just Thuch and *Ta Ya*.

Q: Thuch?

A: Yes, Thuch and *Ta Ya*.

Q: Is that all as for the high-ranking officials?

A: Yes.

Q: The persons you once saw to come and meet with Laing?

A: I once saw them, well, be with Laing.

[00:10:24]

Q: Where were the meetings?

A: They were in the forest—Ou Leav (អូលេវ) or Ou something. At that time, Ou Leav was in the forest.

Q: Is Ou Leav in Ratanakiri?

A: Yes, Ou Leav is on the soil of Ratanakiri.

Q: Is it on the side of Andoung Meas (អង្គរជ័រ)?

A: Yes. It is in Ratanakiri.

Q: In the east?

A: Yes, it is in the east.

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Q: In the east near Vietnam?

A: Yes, it is near Vietnam. In the border area is Ou Leav.

Q: Is it near Vietnam, on the soil of Ratanakiri?

A: Yes, it is. He came and worked with Comrade Laing.

Q: So, did you ever see KHIEU Samphan, NUON Chea or SON Sen come to any political meeting or not?

A: No.

Q: Never attended any meetings with them?

A: Never. Mr. KHIEU Samphan was never known. He never came to the east.

[00:11:12]

Q: But, besides him, it was heard that, for example, SON Sen or someone else came to a certain meeting, but you did not attend it, so you did not know?

A: I did not.

Q: What were you doing then - since you never attended any meetings?

A: I was in the commune committee.

Q: You never saw them. So, I put it down this way: you never saw them.

A: Ok.

Q: You never saw any high-ranking officials come to the meetings. As for those you saw, did you see them before or after 1970?

A: Before 1970.

Q: Before 1970?

A: Yes.

[00:11:46]

[01:26:21:-01:27:23]

Q: Was POL Pot's office behind the Royal Palace?

A: Yes.

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Q: And at the time of the meeting, you met with KHIEU Samphan, NUON Chea, POL Pot...

A: Yes.

Q: And you also met with Khieu— met with SON Sen?

A: Yes. Khieu. That's right. They called Son Sen Khieu then.

Q: And were you then instructed to report about sector work like that?

A: Yes.

Q: Then you returned?

A: Of course.

Q: And in which year was it then—the time when the six persons went to Phnom Penh? How many years was it after the Kampuchea-Soviet Friendship Congress?

A: Eh, it was after that. After Comrade Laing died, we were called to go there.

Q: Immediately afterwards?

A: Yes.

Q: But was it after the time—after you and Chuon (ជួន) were called to go there?

A: Yes, after that.

Q: How many months after that?

A: About two or three months after that.

Q: About two or three months?

A: Yes.

Q: Well, so, I'll note this down for a moment to remember it.

[01:27:23]

[01:38:40-01:40:57]

[01:38:40]

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Q: "Our group of six persons came together..." oh, by air?

A: Yes.

Q: "We came by air, meeting with KIEU Samphan alias Hem, SON Sen alias Khieu, NUON Chea and POL Pot at the POL Pot office still behind the Royal Palace. We reported about work done in the sector." So, you just made the report and did not receive any orders in response. The six persons who went to the meeting behind the Royal Palace were those who travelled by air you just mentioned.

A: Yes..

Q: You met and reported the sector work. For the other side, were there any high-ranking officials giving you any order to do something?

A: No. There were just plans to strengthen our sector politically and economically.

Q: Ok.

A: That's all. There were no orders to do this or that. It was just to control our forces to resist; at that time, border fighting was ongoing.

Q: To resist against the enemy or something?

A: Against Vietnam.

Q: Vietnam?

A: Yes.

Q: To strengthen the forces?

A: Yes, the forces.

Q: To strengthen the economy to resist against Vietnam?

A: Yes.

[01:40:57]

[01:58:25-02:01:35]

[01:58:25]

Q: And did you receive anything like that from NUON Chea or from KHIEU Samphan by telegraph?

A: No, never.

Q: Did you receive [...] directly from POL Pot?

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A: Well. When we were summoned to a meeting or a study session, it often included me. These summons were made by NUON Chea.

Q: What study sessions were you summoned to?

A: Yes.

Q: How about the previous study sessions you were summoned to? Summoned to meetings...?

A: They were mostly summoned by POL Pot.

Q: But study sessions like in Borei Keila, as you have told me previously, were often summoned by NUON Chea?

A: Yes. The summons came once in a while.

Q: Were such a summons made once in a while?

A: Yes.

Q: But did these once-in-a-while summons mostly call for a study session?

A: Yes, called to study

Q: What session, what congress?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: Once in a while NUON Chea summoned you to a certain study session, a certain congress?

A: Yes.

Q: But mostly, was it POL Pot?

A: Yes.

Q: However, did you ever receive [...] from Nuon. Was his name put as Uncle Nuon like that or NUON Chea when he wrote his name on a telegraph mail?

[01:59:27]

A: NUON Chea put his name as NUON Chea like that.

Q: Was his name put exactly as NUON Chea?

A: Yes.

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Q: But when addressing him, you called him Uncle Nuon?

A: I called him Uncle Nuon.

Q: And did you ever receive [...] from KHIEU Samphan?

A: Oh!

Q: From KHIEU Samphan? From IENG Sary, did you ever receive [...]? As for the economy, did you ever receive any telegrams from KHIEU Samphan?

[01:59:46]

A: Never received any.

Q: As for yourself, Uncle, you never received it directly?

A: Never. Only when I went to Phnom Penh did I meet him. Speaking about economic matters, I had discussions when I met him in person.

Q: Where did you meet? Uncle, please tell me about that? When did you meet?

A: At the time of that meeting.

Q: That congress?

A: Yes, at the time of the congress, after which, we left....

Q: In a congress, NUON Chea mostly made the speeches. Uncle, you told me that KHIEU Samphan was never seen to make any speech.

A: Not at all. Mr. KHIEU Samphan never made a speech during a congress or at the opening of a session. He never made any statement.

Q: But did he speak outside?

A: Yes, he just spoke outside, talking about economic matters like that.

[02:00:21]

Q: Did he speak outside, for example, during mealtime like that?

A: During mealtime, the conversation occurred outside like that.

Q: So, put it this way: During mealtime

A: Yes.

Q: The conversation outside the meeting...

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A: Yes. And as for requests, if we needed something, we would hand him an economic list like that.

Q: So, did you hand the list to him directly?

A: Yes.

[02:00:45]

Q: Did you ever send any lists by telegraph?

A: Yes, I did. I sent them by telegraph to POL Pot, directly to the Secretary.

Q: To POL Pot, but not directly to the economic expert?

A: No.

Q: Not even to the Economy?

A: No.

Q: Just directly to POL Pot?

A: Yes, just to the upper echelon.

Q: But, directly, did you ever hand lists like the exchange of trade to POL Pot, oh, no, to KHIEU Samphan?

A: Yes.

Q: However, never directly to him by telegraph.

A: Never.

Q: How about the disappearance of *Ta Ya*? Uncle, you...

[02:01:35]