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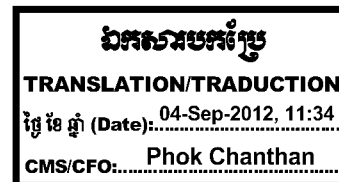
Interview Transcript

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Interviewee: NORNG Sophàng

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(Copied from part of audio file D200/3R)



Question (Q) - Answer (A)

[01:25:40] – [01:28:35]

Q: Yesterday you told us about Pàng. What did Pàng do?

A: Pàng was in overall charge of all the offices surrounding the location of the Center. What was called ... there were no other offices surrounding the location of the Center. Pàng governed the various units surrounding the Party Center.

Q: The Party Center?

A: Yes.

Q: The Party Center at the time, did they have a code number, the location of the Party Central Committee?

A: 870! 870.

Q: Oh! At the time they called it Committee 870?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: So then, Pàng governed the offices surrounding Committee 870?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: Who was under Pàng?

A: No, I do not know who was next. I do not know that matter because ...

Q: Subordinate to Pàng, you said that ... You said there were many surrounding offices? What offices can you recall? What was the structure?

A: There were offices beginning with ... the office near the Bassac River, what they called vegetable production.

Q: There was a vegetable production office. What was the numerical designation, K- what?

A: No, do not know the number: K-18 or else ... it was K-18.

Q: K-18?

A: Yes. No, K-8.

Q: And what else?

A: There were hospital offices, medics, the group that received visitors.

[01:27:25]

Q: The hospital: what K number was that?

A: I do not know the K number.

Q: Is that right?

A: All K units; there were many K units.

Q: There were many K units; you do not remember; OK, that's alright.

A: All K groups, that's right.

Q: There were many K units. So then, can you please clarify once again: Was K-1 was security/defense site, Office K-1?

A: Yes.

Q: So then, it was a security/defense site. And so then, Pàng's site, the site where he worked and lived? Was that K-1 or a different site?

A: Pàng was in overall charge. He moved around; he did not have one permanent location since he was in overall charge.

Q: So then, K-1 was a defense site?

A: Yes.

Q: Pàng was the superior. Subordinate to Pàng there were many different K units?

A: Yes, many different K units.

[01:28:10]

Q: Have you been able to investigate and see if those people are alive today?

A: Alive. Living in Samlaut.

Q: At Samlaut. How about Kèn?

A: Kèn is dead.

Q: Kèn is dead. Who came after Pàng? Or did Pàng hold the position all the way up until the Yuon came?

A: Yes. On that matter: We did not know anything in depth about the leadership, how they were, because whoever's job it was, that person knew. That's what they said. So that's why I said ...

Q: Let him interpret first and wait for the next question. I still have concerns and a number of other questions.

[01:28:45]

[01:37:15] – [01:38:42]

Q: [...] The method of using the child Khoeun to deliver texts, what method did they use? Meaning who were the texts given to, what did you say?

A: On that, at the site in front of K-1 they had another guard shack. So then, we took the texts to that guard shack, and they took them.

Q: So that means that all those texts originated from K-1?

A: Yes.

Q: And Pon was there at K-1?

A: Yes, Pon and Thē were there.

Q: So there was a guard shack in front of K-1?

A: Yes.

Q: The guard shack where Pon and Thē worked?

A: Yes.

Q: They worked there?

A: Yes.

[01:37:49]

Q: So after the translation was finished, it was given to Khoeun to take the translated text to K-1?

A: Yes, that's right.

Q: At the guard shack? Then he returned. Like that?

A: That's right.

Q: And when they delivered it, they did not know the content of the text?

A: That's right.

[01:38:02]

Q: When it was given to Khoeun wouldn't secrecy be broken and everyone learn the contents of the text?

A: No. No one would dare tear it open.

Q: Oh! It was sealed?

A: Sealed.

Q: Sealed. And what did you tell the child Khoeun?

A: Not to let anyone tear it open and look at the way, the text.

Q: Not to let anyone see it?

A: They were secret texts. Correct.

Q: Secret texts. And you addressed them by name? For example, did you seal the envelope and put down who it was to be sent to?

[01:38:36]

A: I put down "To K-1", like that. They already knew.

Q: Oh! So you put down "To K-1," like that?

A: Yes.

Q: Put down "To K-1," and they knew?

A: Yes. K-1. They stayed there. They knew.

Q: Pon was his Chairman at K-1?

A: He did not have a chairman.

[01:56:04]

Q: Now I want to ask about sending telegrams because you said that he/they worked on sending and receiving telegrams. Where did the texts originate, and where were they sent? Who handed them over for transmission?

A: Transmission, that was from the central site to ...

Q: Central?

A: Their central location, meaning ...

Q: Committee 870 that you just mentioned?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: From Committee 870 to where?

A: To the provinces, to the Zones.

Q: The provinces, the Zones?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: So I can summarize that the texts transmitted had to be sent out of Committee 870?

A: Yes, yes.

[01:56:38]

Q: And taken to the radio transmission team at the American Embassy, and they transmitted them?

A: They could not be transmitted: 870 sent them for translation first, translation into numbers, then ... the texts of the telegrams.

Q: Oh! I understand. The telegram texts sent from Committee 870 had to be encoded first?

A: Yes, turned into numbers first.

Q: And turning them into numbers, that was Pon's team, Thē's team, and your team?

A: Yes.

Q: Right there with your team?

A: Yes.

Q: So then Pon and Thē were the encoders? They encoded first?

[01:57:21]

A: Yes, into secret code.

Q: Yes, secret code numbers. Then where were they sent?

A: Sent to the radio communications site.

Q: Yes. Sent to the radio communications site?

A: They typed and transmitted the texts.

Q: To radio communications at the American Embassy?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: For them to type and transmit?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: So then, that site was both a radio communications site and a coding site?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: They typed the texts?

A: They received there and they transmitted there.

Q: Yes, yes. So, on the matter of receiving, where were they received from, the radio communications site?

A: Yes, they were received from the provinces, cities, and Zones.

Q: When they received texts from the provinces, cities, and Zones, what form were they in?

A: Numbers.

Q: Also in numbers?

A: Yes, numbers.

Q: Numbers. And then where were they sent?

A: They sent them to K-1.

Q: Sent to K-1?

A: Yes, yes.

[01:58:16]

Q: The team at K-1 was a coding team?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: On your side?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: The telegram decoding team at K-1, Pon's team and your team. And after decoding, where were they sent.

A: Yes, yes. After decoding they were sent for typing and sent on: in the form of those that you have already seen.

Q: Which team were they sent to for typing?

A: The same team typed them.

Q: The same team?

A: Yes.

[01:58:47]

Q: The same K-1 work team, Pon's team?

A: Yes.

Q: They typed them?

A: And sent to the Central Committee.

Q: Sent to the Central Committee?

A: Yes, the Standing Committee.

Q: Sent to the Standing Committee?

A: Yes.

Q: Did the Standing Committee have people who received them, or did you do that personally?

A: No. I have no grasp on that, how they were distributed: that depended on how they were addressed, for this Uncle or that Uncle.

Q: Yes, yes. So teams at the Standing Committee distributed them?

A: Yes, they distributed them.

Q: What was the name of the person responsible for distributing those texts?

[01:59:19]

A: As you see the markings, this Brother, that Brother. Meaning ...

Q: Whose markings are these?

A: Markings by Pon and Thē.

Q: So Pon and Thē were the ones who distributed them?

A: Yes.

Q: Distributed them to wherever?

A: Yes, yes.

[01:44:24]-[01:49:40]

Q: So did KHIEU Samphan ever have texts?

A: Oh, KHIEU Samphan. He did.

Q: He did have?

A: Yes, Uncle KHIEU Samphan did have texts: He sent that is or that much salt had been sent to this or that unit, how much rice was sent to be distributed to the people, because he made commerce arrangements – various supplies that were produced were distributed to the people.

Q: So texts from KHIEU Samphan that were sent for you to encode?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: Frequently? Were there frequent texts of KHIEU Samphan?

Q: Not very frequent. Whenever he had to distribute supplies to every base area, Zone, and Sector, texts came in, were sent in, because he made the distribution, like I said, afterwards he wrote to state “I sent this or that much of this and that” to let the Zones know what he had sent. Yes, to the Zones.

[02:45:27]

Q: Were his texts lengthy?

A: Not so lengthy. Just saying, suppose that the East Zone got this many cartons of salt, how much rice was sent, how much cloth, like that.

Q: Yes, that had ...

A: In the form of lists, like that.

Q: Yes, lists, lists specifying supplies to the Zones.

A: And in the form of instructions, circulars. For example, at the traditional Khmer New Year Celebration or else or the Pchum Ben Celebration, he made general circulars instructing how the celebrations or whatever were to be conducted.

Q: What other national celebrations?

A: National celebrations. For example, the 17 April celebration, how it was to be conducted.

Q: So then, from what I hear you saying, KHIEU Samphan had texts that were sent out and the texts were related to supplies, salt, rice, to be distributed in the Zones.

A: Yes. Distribution.

Q: And also related to instructions in the form of circulars, but the circulars related to celebrations.

A: Yes, about celebrations.

[02:46:40]

Q: Aside from those points, did he send texts related to any other affairs that you can recall?

A: I seem to, do not seem to recall. Oh! Like invitations to meetings like I said a moment ago, that occurred as well.

Q: Oh! Invitations to meetings?

A: Yes. Invitations to meetings, like invitation letters, like that.

Q: The invitation letters he made, to invite who?

A: To invited, suppose, inviting the Zone Committees, the Sector Committee to meetings, like that.

Q: So then he made invitation letters, texts to invite the Zone and Sector Committees to meetings?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: To come meet where?

A: At the meeting site, like I told you already, he had a meeting site at Borei Keila or wherever.

Q: What invitations did he make?

A: Yes, he made invitations.

Q: Did he make those invitations frequently?

A: What?

Q: Did he do that often? Did KHIEU Samphan send invitations frequently?

A: No. It was not KHIEU Samphan, but in the name of the Central Committee.

Q: The State Presidium?

A: The Central Committee.

Q: Oh. He acted in the name of Committee 870?

A: Yes.

[02:47:53]

Q: They were not made by KHIEU Samphan?

A: No, KHIEU Samphan, there were none.

Q: OK

A: I want to say, you asked about the types.

Q: That's right.

Q: So then, I ask about the types, aside from that, the invitations, what was there?

Q: So that means that KHIEU Samphan never issued those invitations? They were from Committee 870?

A: No, he did not have the right to invite.

Q: OK. Related to KHIEU Samphan, he just sent texts on those points. Aside from that, was there anything else?

A: He had no right to invite anyone to come: only the Central Committee could do that.

Q: And matters related to various policies, did Uncle KHIEU Samphan ever send any texts?

A: I do not know about policy. Like I told you in the beginning, the policy side, I was young and immature at that time and did not understand their affairs very much.

[02:49:10]

Q: If you translated the texts, did you ever see texts come from Uncle KHIEU Samphan on some matter, not you doing politics, I want to say did you ever translate texts of Uncle KHIEU Samphan related to something like that? Were there some? Aside from those two points, can you recall any other texts originating from Uncle KHIEU Samphan?

A: There were none. There were none. Nothing other than that.

Q: Nothing other than that?

A: That's right.

Q: And NUON Chea. Did he ever have texts?

[02:49:45]

[02:53:30] – [02:56:56]

Q: And as for KHIEU Samphan who was not in K-1, did he have any texts come in, or what? K-1 at the time, was Uncle KHIEU at K-1?

A: When something came in to KHIEU Samphan it was delivered by messenger.

Q: It did not come from the radio communication site?

A: Right.

Q: Sent as text?

A: Sent by radio. When they wanted to receive, they received by messenger, like I said. At that entry point.

Q: So that means that Uncle KHIEU Samphan wanted to send some text, he sent in a letter?

A: Yes, sent in a letter which was sent to my Unit 38.

Q: So he sent it in, the text through the K-1 messenger team?

A: Yes, K-1.

[02:54:22]

Q: The K-1 messengers governed by Sâm?

A: Yes, no, the messengers.

Q: Yes, but they were governed by Sâm?

A: That's right: Sâm.

Q: Sâm was Chairman, so he had the text taken there, and where did Sâm send it?

A: The text was sent to K-1, to Pon's location.

Q: Taken straight to K-1?

A: Yes.

Q: The text, was it a letter or was it written in telegraphic numbers?

A: The text was a letter, a letter.

Q: A letter?

A: Yes.

[02:54:53]

Q: So he, Uncle KHIEU Samphan, never sent text as telegrams to you?

A: No. He had no telegrams. His hand-written letters, or else he telephoned from his location directly to my location. He telephoned.

Q: He called you directly?

A: Yes.

Q: What did he say on the telephone?

A: Suppose that it had to be sent. Oh! He had me write it to some location and send it.

Q: So he told you to send texts to some place?

A: Yes.

Q: Where? Did he tell you the content?

A: Yes, he spoke by telephone, and I recorded his message.

Q: So he told you the content on the telephone?

A: Yes.

Q: Told you the message by telephone, and you recorded it?

A: Yes.

[02:55:45]

Q: After you recorded it, you began to encode it as numbers?

A: Yes, encoded as ...

Q: Put it in secret code, and then sent it?

A: Yes, sent it out.

Q: Yes. So that means that Uncle KHIEU Samphan had the right to use the telegram unit at your location?

A: Yes, yes, Telegrams, and he called me in person on the telephone.

Q: So he had the right to use telegrams at the telegram unit?

A: Yes.

Q: The messages that Uncle – that he telephoned to have you record and transmit, what were the contents? That you recorded?

[02:56:28]

A: Like I told you a moment ago.

Q: Oh, like before?

A: Like matters of how much had been sent somewhere.

Q: Oh, that.

A: Yes. He was afraid the supplies that he sent would be lost, that they would not reach their destinations, so he called too.

Q: The content was sending supplies?

A: Yes, sending supplies.

Q: And one other thing, what was that? Aside from supplies?

A: It seems there was nothing else.

Q: So he did that?

A: Yes.

[02:56:58]

[03:15:23] – [03:18:30]

Q: Were they always sent to everyone in the standing Committee, or sometimes were they sent to this or that person and not to all of the Standing Committee?

A: The majority of texts sent in from the outside were addressed directly to Committee 870. The majority were not sent to individuals.

Q: What does that mean? Why was that? Sent where when they were addressed where, like that? They were sent to wherever they were addressed?

Q: 870, meaning who?

[03:16:17]

A: Send to 870 meant send to K-1.

Q: Meaning, at that time did they emplace the names of all the committee members in 870 right on there, or what?

A: Yes. Yes. 870 meant the entire Central Committee, the Standing Committee.

Q: In some cases, like when they said “To Beloved and Missed Brother,” how about that?

A: A plain “To Brother” meant to Pol Pot in person.

Q: When they said “Brothers,” might that mean Brothers other than POL Pot that they had to be sent to, or what? Or else someone in the hierarchy below? Could “Brother” be plural or only singular?

A: No, Brother meant Uncle POL Pot.