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ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ (Date of receipt/date de reception):
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មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង /Case File Officer/L'agent chargé
du dossier:..... Ratanak



ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
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Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation-Religion-King

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា

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

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

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់ចម្លើយសាក្សី

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

On the fourth of June, two thousand and nine, at 10:05 hours, in the municipality of the
Ânlung Veng (អន្លង់វែង) district, Odor Mean Chey (ឧត្តរមានជ័យ) province;

We, EM Hoy (ឯម ហ៊ឺយ), the Investigator of the Extraordinary Chambers, being
assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges, dated 05 November
2008;

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, as sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers;

Recorded the statements of KÈ Pich Vannak (កែ ពេជ្រវណ្ណៈ), a witness, who provided the
following information regarding his personal identity:

Original KH: 00340559-00340578

ឯកសារច្បាប់សម្រាប់ប្រើប្រាស់តាមច្បាប់ដើម
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ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ នៃការបញ្ជាក់ (Certified Date/Date de certification):
..... 11 / 09 / 2009

មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé
du dossier:..... Uch Arun

The undersigned, KÈ Pich Vannak, revolutionary names were Vannak (វណ្ណៈ), Tha (ថា), and Yuth(យុទ្ធ), born on 09 February 1962, in Chhouk Khsäch (ឈូកខ្សាច់) village, Chhouk Khsäch commune, Baray district (បារាយណ៍), Kampong Thom (កំពង់ធំ) province.

He is of Khmer nationality; and his current occupation is a worker of a company.

His father, KÈ Pok (កែក ពក), is “deceased”, and his mother, SOU Soeun (ស៊ូ សៀន), is “alive”.

His present address is in Thnâl Kèng (ថ្នល់កែង) village, Ânlung Veng commune, Ânlung Veng district, Odor Mean Chey province.

He was married to SAUT Pisei (ស្នួត ពិសី) (divorced), “alive”, and is the father of 4 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 can read or write Thais language.
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: Prior to 17 April 1975 where did you live? And what did you do?

A: I left my birth village since 1967 with my mother and my younger sister. At that time my father came to pick us up, but after he put us in a car, he just disappeared. Later there was one person coming to take my family down to Staung (ស្តាង); and then another person took us into a house. Later on I found out that the person who came to received

me was Duch (ឌុច). After that they sent me to Kampong Cham (កំពង់ចាម) province. My mother went to live in Kratie (ក្រីក្រាត៊ី) province, but I stayed in Kampong Cham with Uncle Nat (ណាត) (deceased). During the time I stayed with Nat, I met POL Pot (ប៉ុល ពត), but at that time I did not know who he was. After the coup d'état in 1970, Uncle Nai (ណៃ) (deceased), took me with him into the jungles at Sâmroang (សំរោង) village, in Stung Trâng (ស្ទឹងត្រែង) district, Kampong Cham province. I stayed in Office Khâ-30 (ខ-៣០), which was the headquarter of the Party Centre and located about 15 kilometers from Sâmroang village. The person in charge of the Office Khâ-30 (ខ-៣០) named Grandaunt Ry (រី) (deceased) who was POL Pot wife. I stayed there until mid 1973. At Office Khâ-30, there was another secret Office called M-12 (ម-១២), which located about 15 kilometers north of Khâ-30. M-12 was used for the secret meetings of the Centre. At that time I was a student studying with Grandaunt Ry. The 4 students were one female and three males. The 4 students included Lêng (ឡេង) (male-disappeared in 1977) who was Ta Thuch (តុច) (KOY Thuon) (កុយ តួន) son; and Din (ឌីន) (male) and Rim (រីម) (female) who were both the children of Granduncle Kèn (កែន). Granduncle Kèn was appointed ambassador to Vietnam in 1975. At that time Din and Rim went to live with their father in Vietnam. Besides studying I made bamboo spikes, and in the night I massaged Granduncle Sâ (ស) alias Granduncle Pol. In mid 1973, they sent me to live in Ktuoy (ក្តួយ) and Chheu Teal (ឈើទាល) villages in Stung Trâng district, Kampong Cham province. At that time I stayed with Aunt Choeun (ចៀន) (disappeared), and studied with her along with about 50 other students. The persons studied in the class with me were Leang (លាង) who was my girl friend, now is living in Malai (ម៉ាឡេ); Thoeu (ធៀ) alias KEO Sarăt (កែវ សារ៉ាត់) (singer-deceased); and Sophat (សូផាត់) is now living in Malai. Other than these I have forgot their names. I lived there until mid 1974, then I came to stay at the Office of Thmâ Dar (ថ្មដារ) (Teuk Chhar (ទឹកគារ)) in Prey Chhor (ព្រៃព្រលឹង) district, Kampong Cham province until 1975. My work there included looking after the cattle and guarding the Thmâ Dar Office. The chairman of the Thmâ Dar Office named Uncle Mân (ម៉ន) (died). That Office was under Srêng (ស្រែង) (died) control. In that location there were 2 Offices, one of which located in Thmâ Dar, and another located in

Beung Thom (បឹងធំ) (the Frontline Command Office) in Prey Chhor district, Kampong Cham province.

Q: Did you ever see any senior leaders come to hold meetings at the Office Khâ-30 when you stayed there?

A: I saw Granduncle Thuch, Granduncle Vann (វ៉ាន់) (IENG Sary (អៀង សារី)), Granduncle Hèm (ហែម) (KHIEU Samphan (ខៀវ សំផន)), and the a permanent worker named Uncle Kèm (កែម) (not know whether he is dead or still alive). I met with IENG Thirith (អៀងធីរិទ្ធ) in Ktuoy village in Stung Trâng district, Kampong Cham province. At that time they had me call her Grandaunt Thy (ធី). There I stayed with Granduncle Thuch wife named Ty (ទី) (died). Grandaunt Ty was the one in charge of that place and also in charge of teaching children there.

Q: Did any foreigners ever visit Khâ-30 besides the senior leaders?

A: I saw Lē Yun (ឡូ យុន) and Thăm Van Dong (ចាំ វ៉ាន់ដុង). Lē Yun came once. At that time I served him tea and gave him a massage. Thăm Van Dong came twice. When those two persons came, I saw POL Pot had a meeting with Lē Yun and an interpreter (I did not know who that interpreter was). During the meeting I heard those two persons talked about joining the Indochina Party, but POL Pot refused to join it. The two persons spoke to each other seriously. At that time I was near that place.

Q: Since 17 April 1975 where did you live and what did you do?

A: Shortly after the liberation, Uncle Srēng sent me to Kampong Cham. Later on Uncle Ly (លី) (died) took me from Kampong Cham to meet with my father in Siem Reap (សៀមរាប). In Siem Reap I stayed near the Vorak Angkor (វរ្ម័នឡាយ). I stayed there for just a short time and returned to Kampong Cham. One day I visited Phnom Penh where I met with Granduncle Thuch, who was then the Minister of Commerce (he was the chairman of Zone 304 previously), and his child, comrade Lēng (ឡេង), in the block near Wât Phnom (វត្តភ្នំ). Granduncle Thuch gave me one three-wheels vehicle. At that time Uncle Oeun (អឿន) (arrested) took me to see with Granduncle SIN Sisamut (សិន ស៊ីសាមុត) in a house opposite from the Calmett Hospital. When we arrived there Uncle Oeun told me that this is SIN Sisamut, the well known singer in Cambodia. Uncle Oeun was the chairman of Division 1 and also a former confidante and messenger of Granduncle Thuch. In late 1975 I returned to Kampong Cham province to study at a school for the children unit called (Taksen School (សាលាទុក្ខិណ)). During late 1976, I knew that

Granduncle Thuch was arrested because they accused him of being in the American CIA string. I knew about this arrest because when I asked my father to visit Granduncle Thuch, he did not let me go. Later I went with Uncle Lorn (ល្អន) (died) to visit Uncle Oeun in Phnom Penh. Uncle Lorn was the chairman of the North Zone Office. At that time I found out that Granduncle Samut was evacuated to Kâb Srov (ក្របស្រូវ) because Uncle Oeun personally evacuated him. At that time Uncle Oeun told Uncle Lorn that “Granduncle Thuch was arrested by Angkar and the situation of the country has evolved in a bad direction”. At that time Uncle Lorn asked “How should we do?”. Uncle Oeun replied “just stay where we stay”. After I had studied in Kampong Cham for two or three months, I was sent to study at the Dai Dèk (ដៃដៃក) School in Phnom Penh (Russey Keo (ប្រស្នីកែវ)). I studied engine parts for 4 months. The teacher was an engineer from France (Khmer national). There were many students in that technical school. In my class there were 149 students. I knew about this because I graduated as a 1st student in the class. At that school they had students eat meals communally. They gave one bowl of porridge for breakfast in the morning, one bowl of steamed rice for lunch, and another bowl of steamed rice for dinner. We ate rice with sour soup of morning glory. The chairman of the school named Granduncle Hăk (ហ៊ាក់) (died). In each class there were two teachers, one taught theory and another taught practice. At that time I was in the group of Uncle Chhy (ឈី) alias Chhăm (ធំ), who is now a soldier stationing at Preah Vihear (ព្រះវិហារ). Another teacher was Kha (ខា) alias Pich Sokha (ពិដ សុខា), now is the deputy of the Health Center in Ânlung Veng; and Thăl (ថាស់) who is now living in Speu (ស្តើ) in Chamkar Leu (ចំការលើ) district. Later on I heard that all those teachers were transferred out, but I did not know where they were sent to. That transferring took place at the conclusion of the course that followed my final course. Each course lasted for 4 months.

Q: After you finished your study what did they have you do?

A: I returned to Kampong Cham and accompanied my father to prepare a plan to build the 1st January Dam.

Q: In what year did they begin building the 1st January Dam?

A: The plan was developed since mid 1976, but I did not recall the date the construction started.

Q: Who was in charge of that 1st January Dam project?

A: The committee of the Central Zone was in charge of that Dam project. The committee composed of 4 persons included my father, Uncle Srēng, Uncle Tol (តុល), and Uncle Chân (ចាន). Uncle Srēng was the committee of Sector 41, Uncle Tol was the committee of

Sector 42, and Uncle Chên was the committee of Sector 43. The three Sector committees were in charge of gathering forces to build the 1st January Dam. According to the plan, each Sector had to send ten thousand people to join, but in reality I did not know how many people were sent. The labor forces were rotated. At the headquarter, the Public Work Office was the core force because they had mobile equipments and technology.

Q: Who were the technicians?

A: There were two technicians, Chhăm and Sokha. Chhăm was the commander of the group and the chairman of the Public Work Office.

Q: During the construction of the Dam were any people arrested and killed?

A: I visited the long halls in which the mobile unit was staying and I never saw or heard any people had been arrested and killed. But there were complaints about food shortages. There was an order from the committee to organize one group for cooking and another group for gathering food. Obviously there were food shortages. I saw sick persons in each shelter and asked about their condition. They said that they did not have any medicines to take. I told those facts to my father, who then ordered the Sectors to assign medics to help with the treatment of patients in each shelter. But the Sectors said they did not have “medicines”. During the Dam construction, I knew that there were patients dying because the lack of medicines. Later on I heard that there was an order from IENG Thirith to produce traditional medicines, using the bullet cartridge [as a mold] for pill shape to produce black pills. If you want to find out further about this story, please go to ask the medic Sêk (សែក). At that time Sêk was a military-medic, and also a surgeon working in the military hospital, which located south of the Kampong Cham provincial hall.

Presently Sêk lives in Bos Khnor (បុស្សខ្នុរ) village, Bos Khnor commune, Chamkar Leu district, Kampong Cham province. I knew about the medicine production when I drove IENG Thirith and the Laotian delegation (female) to visit the 1st January Dam. I was not sure whether or not IENG Thirith knew about people had been died from the lack of medicines. At that time IENG Thirith said that we lack of medicines, but we are doing the researches on the traditional medicines so that they can be used for treating patients. Sometimes later they brought quinine trees from China to grow in Cambodia. Those quinine trees still remain in Kampong Thom province in an area east of Taing Krâsaing (តាំងក្រសាំង), Sântuk (សន្ទុក) district. Later on there was an announcement about that [tree growing]. I heard this story with my own ears although I did not recall what were exactly the time and place. After that I drove IENG Thirith and the Laotian delegation to Siem Reap.

Q: Did any foreigners ever visit the worksite of the 1st January Dam?

A: As I recall it, there were visitors from China, for example, Chhing Ying Kuoy (ឃីង ឃីង គួយ) who was the chairman of the agriculture in China. At that time Chhing Ying Kuoy joined the mobile unit to carry soil; and so did the other members of the delegation

except the photographers, the drivers, and bodyguards. Other than the Chinese delegation, there was the Laotian delegation led by IENG Thirith as I mentioned above.

Q: Did any one at the upper echelon ever come to the worksite of the 1st January Dam?

A: There were Khmer delegations, for example, Granduncle POL Pot made 2 official visits, but he made multiple unofficial visits. When Granduncle POL Pot came, he joined people to carry soil on the shoulder also. But he did only once because too many people gathering around him.

Q: When the inauguration of the 1st January Dam was held, who from the upper echelon participated?

A: As I recalled it at that time Granduncle POL Pot and Granduncle IENG Sary participated. At the inauguration, Granduncle POL Pot said “this is the result of our efforts which is from our real sweat and blood. We joined together to create this great Dam, and this is the strength of our solidarity ...”

Q: Did you know any thing about people arrested and killed in Baray Chaon Dèk (បារាយណ៍ជាន់ដេក) Pagoda?

A: I never heard about that during the time of the Dam construction. Even later on, I never went there, so I did not know anything.

Q: Did you ever see other foreigners come to visit?

A: There were Yugoslavian, French, Soviet, Vietnamese, Laotian, Chinese, North Korean, East Timor, and Cuban. But I met these people in Phnom Penh, not at the 1st January Dam worksite, except the Chinese, as they were everywhere. At the 1st January Dam worksite, I met the Chinese, Laotians, and North Koreans.

Q: Were any leaders purged during the construction of the 1st January Dam?

A: Near the end of the construction of the 1st January Dam, 2 Sector committees, Uncle Srēng and Uncle Tol, were arrested. These two men were called by the upper echelon to Phnom Penh and disappeared ever since. Later there was a telegram to inform the Zone that these two persons had been arrested. The telegram translator at that time named Chhean (ឈាន) who him self was also arrested later. Then the forces from those two sectors were reduced by 80% and told to go back to their bases. Then Uncle Taing (តាំង) came to replace Uncle Srēng. I did not recall who replaced Uncle Tol, but his successor was also arrested later. Later they moved Uncle Oeun (អឿន) from Siem Reap to take charge of Sector 42. Uncle Chàn (ចាន) was the last one to be arrested, but I did not remember who replaced him. After Uncle Taing was arrested, Uncle An (អាន) came to take charge.

Q: Do you know any district committees in the Central Zone?

A: I knew some of them but I did not remember their names. When the Southwest Zone group arrived, the purging started. It was done from the district level down to the village. The district committee of Baray district after the arrival of the Southwest Zone was Ta Pauc (តាប៉ូច), (he is now in Anlung Veng); but I forget the names of his predecessors.

The district committee of Sândăn (សំណ្ណាន់) district was Kân (កង) (died), and [the district committee] of the Kampong Siem (កំពង់សៀម) district was Sy (ស៊ី) (but I do not know whether he is now in Anlong Veng or in Kamrieng). I saw the district committee, Sy, tortured people with my own eyes. He used people to pull the oxcart which he was driving. He did that because he was angry with those people who, [as he claimed], had whipped the cows to pull an oxcart on which they were driving. If you want to know more about this story, you can go to ask people in Kampong Siem district in the area of Phlov Kèng (ផ្លូវកែង) Phnom Pros Phnom Srey (ភ្នំប្រសំ ភ្នំស្រី). Ta Phos (តា ផុស) was the chairman of the military of Sector 42, but later he was sent to Krauch Chhmar district to help with the organization work. His original name was Ho (ហូ).

Q: After that what did they have you do and where?

A: It was in 1977 when my father sent me and my younger sister (named Sokh Ny (សុខ នី) alias Chheang (ឈាង)) to Phnom Penh to stay at the Office of the General Staff which located behind the Ministry of National Defense. Son Sen was the Minister of National Defence back then. My sister went to stay at the Ministry of Social Affairs during the time that IENG Thirith was the minister of the Ministry of Social Affairs. At present, my sister is a medic living in Anlong Veng. There were over 40 persons, included 4 women, working at the Office of the General Staff. Among those 4 women I recall Nit (និត) La (ឡា), and Touch (តូច), but I forget the name of another one. Those 4 women worked as the cooks; but they all later disappeared. The chairman of the Office of the General Staff named Rèn (រ៉ែន), who is now living in Village 107 Chăs (ភូមិ ១០៧ ចាស់) in Anlong Veng district. Another supervisor of that Office, who was a Laotian, named Thas (ថាស) (do not know his whereabouts). Dos (ដុស), who was then in charge of Information Section, is now living in Kamrieng district. Thas and Dos were very close to SON Sen. Mèn Keo (ម៉ែន កែវ) (whereabouts is not known now) was a driver of the Office, and Phàn (ផាន) (not know whether dead or still alive) was SON Sen personal driver. Noeun (នឿន), (a Thais), was the chairman of the Information Section, but his whereabouts is not known now. Rân (រ៉ាន) was a daily telephone operator of the Office, but his whereabouts is not known presently. As for me, I was a driver, transporting food supply from Phnom Penh to the Office of the General Staff stationing in Svay Rieng.

Generally, I transported food supply to Svay Rieng once every 2 days. At that time SON Sen was stationing in Svay Rieng. Besides transporting food supply, I helped with answering phone calls, so that I could hear certain information which related to the national defense; for example, the information on air, sea and border reconnaissance. I worked there for about 7 to 8 months from late 1977 to mid 1978.

Q: After that where did they send you to and what did they have you do?

A: After that I went back to stay with my father in Steung (ស្ទឹង) village east of Suong, which was the [joint] headquarter of the Central Zone and the East Zone. SAO Phim was the chairman and the commander of the Zone. My father was the chairman of the Central Zone and the deputy commander of the Zone military stationing at the front line. I was my father driver and bodyguard.

Q: When you worked with your father, did you see any noticeable events taking place?

A: I recalled the purging event of the East Zone cadres. The purging took place in two phases. In the 1st phase there was an order from the Centre to arrest Heng Samrin (ហេង សំរិន). After receiving that information [order], my father went to meet with SOA Phim. My father told SOA Phim “brother, the upper echelon orders the arrest of comrade Heng”. SOA Phim replied “so, Pauk, you send ‘A’ Heng to my house”. After my father informed Uncle Heng about that, Uncle Heng disappeared forever. At that time Uncle Heng Samrin was the chairman of Sector 20 and of the military division unit. The 2nd phase was the purging of the Zone leadership, the division, and the Sector within the East Zone. The purging was carried out following a direct order from SON Sen. At that time SON Sen came down to the headquarter personally, accompanied by 2 truck load of about 60 security guards in black uniform. At the same time there were 2 tanks, led by Chen (ចិន) (dead or alive is not known), coming along to protect him. When SON Sen arrived, he ordered my father to call a meeting with the leaders and then arrested them all. At that time SAO Phim was not there. I remembered that 42 leaders included their bodyguards were arrested. I saw the arrests with my own eyes. Among those arrested I knew Uncle Soth (សុទ្ធី), the committee of Sector Prey Veng; Uncle Chăn (ចាន់) (alias Toeu (តើ)) or La-et (លើត), the Sector committee and the Zone deputy (but I did not know which Sector; and Ta Kim (តា គីម), the chairman of the military division of the East Zone. The arrests of those people took place in 1978.

Q: Do you know where those people were sent to?

A: They killed those people in that same night. They ordered them to dig their own graves and take off all clothes except the underwear. They clubbed those people to the ground and then dragged the bodies into the graves (those graves were in the cassava farm). The distance from where SON Sen was staying to the grave sites was about 50 meters. SON Sen personally ordered the killing. I saw that killing with my own eyes, and because I felt pity to Uncle Kim, I sneaked to look at the killing of those people. The killers were the soldiers in black uniform of SON Sen.

Q: After the purging of those leaders, were there any other events taking place?

A: After that event, each division made phone calls to the Zone headquarter asking for their leaders. But they were told by the headquarter that their leaders had already returned”. At that time each unit was trying to contact their leaders via the radio Icom talky-walky which was installed in their leader cars, but there was no answer. Later on when they found out that their leaders had been arrested, the soldiers at the front line became turmoil.

Q: At the time of the turmoil, were there any other events taking place?

A: About 4-5 days after the leaders were arrested, there were arm clashes in Chong Ângkrong (ចុង អង្គ្រង) and Suong (ស្វង់). At the same time SON Sen ordered the Special Intervention Unit, led by Ta Pin (តា ពិន) (died) and Ta Vin (តា វិន) (died), to come to protect him, and ordered them to take full control of all divisions whose leaders had been purged. Ta Vin was a son in law of Ta Mok (តា ម៉ុក) and was also Ta Pin deputy. Ta Nhâ (តា ញ៉ា) (dead or still alive is not known) was a brigade chairman under the Intervention Division of Ta Pin.

Q: Was SAO Phim also arrested by them at that time?

A: Two days after the arrests of the leaders, Chăn (ចាន់) (the chairman of Granduncle Phim’s office) came to see me and said “I wanted to see brother Pauk”. At that time I told him “do not go because Granduncle Khieu (ខៀវ) is there”; I also told him “Uncle Kim, Uncle Soth, and Uncle Chăn were all arrested and killed”. Then he returned back to Granduncle Phim’s house in Suong. In that night Granduncle Phim escaped through Au Raing Ov (អូរាំងខ្ទី) and Chihè (ជីហៃ) in an attempt to go to meet with POL Pot in Phnom Penh. Along the road he saw they tossed the leaflets from a helicopter in which the content reads “SAOPhim is a traitor selling territory to the Yuon, so, all brothers and sisters of the armed forces please do not obey SAOPhim order ...” I also read that leaflet which was signed by POL Pot at the bottom. So, then Granduncle Phim turned back. Two days later I heard that Granduncle Phim shot himself dead in the Spean Veng (ស្ពានវែង) area in Au Raing Ov district. At that time SON Sen ordered my father to transport and bring Granduncle Phim corpse [to him]. After receiving the order, my father told Touch (តូច) (dead or alive is not known) to prepare an American 4 x 4 truck to transport the corpse. During the time they were transporting Granduncle Phim corpse, they announced to the villagers “do not follow SAOPhim path because he is the traitor selling the territory to the Yuon”. They also opened the cover for the people to see his face. Some people took a look at it, but some did not. They marched the body along the villages for people to see.

Q: After SOA Phim was dead, what was your father role?

A: After that they had my father take charge of two Zones included the North and the Central Zones in order to reorganize the rear line.

Q: Were the other levels purged later on?

A: After the arrival of the Intervention Division of Pin, they purged the elements who used to have a connection with SAO Phim. Those included cadres and commanders of the whole East Zone as well as the person in charge of the radio communication.

Q: Where did they send those arrested people to?

A: They killed the arrested people on site. During that same period, there were headless corpses floating in the Mekong River; and one day a few floating headless corpses were caught up at the dock in front of POL Pot's office.

(The interview of the witness paused at 16:20 o'clock)

(This interview resumed at 10:45 o'clock on 05 June, 2009)

Q: Can you continue to describe that event further?

A: At that time POL Pot wondered why there were corpses floating in the river. He then sent a telegram calling my father to Phnom Penh immediately. At about 4 o'clock, I and my father left for Phnom Penh on a Dakota airplane (a military airplane). At first I worried and was afraid that they would arrest my father because before boarding the airplane, they took away his gun. They never did that previously. While disembarking from the airplane, I saw they had a car waiting for picking up my father; so, I felt relieved because the car looked like that for receiving a delegation. But I did not accompany him. When my father returned, I asked him "what happened?"; he replied "there was a strange matter because Brother (POL Pot) saw the floating corpses were caught up in front of his office; so he ordered an immediate investigation". After my father returned home, he ordered a division chairman named Chhay (ឆាយ) (died) to lead an investigating group over those floating corpses.

Q: What was the result of the investigation over the floating corpses?

A: The investigation found that the Cham people had been arrested, placed in the boats, and then were beheaded before they were dumped into the river.

Q: Did you go with them?

A: No, I did not. That event took place in Krauch Chhmar district opposite from Steung Trâng (ស្ទឹងត្រាំង) district. The Intervention Unit of the Centre led by Pin was involved in that killing.

Q: After receiving the result, how did your father plan to do?

A: After receiving the result, my father made a report and sent it to Office M-870.

Q: Later on did you recall any other events happened?

A: At that time there was another event. After their arrival, the Southwest Zone group, under Ta Mok, took control of the group leadership level up to the Sector throughout the Zone, and carried out purging. During the purging many people fled into the jungles. At the same time the Zone sent the report to the upper echelon about the sweeping clean of the Islamic people in Krauch Chhmar; that was why there were floating corpses, and there were people in the Central Zone fleeing into the jungles because they were afraid of being purged. The upper echelon then distributed leaflets to announce a pardon for those who had fled into the jungles regardless of their involvement. They appealed to them to return and to live in the society again, and Angkar would not punish you. At the same time there was a Directive ordering the release of the medium and light [crime] prisoners. That Directive came from M-870. That event happened in about mid 1978. Followed that Directive [prisoners] were released; for example, prisoners who had committed immoral acts were released.

Q: How did you see the release was done?

A: I rode a motorcycle to see that event in front of the new prison near the provincial hall of Kampong Cham. At that time I saw the persons released were Thal (ថាល់), who is now living in Speu (ស្ទើ), Chamkar Leu (ចំការលើ) district; Vēng (វ៉ែង) who is now living in Kor (គី) village, Prey Toteung (ព្រៃតូតឿង) district; Son (សុន) who is heard to be still alive, but his place of living is not known; Thol (ថុល) who is not known whether he was dead or still alive; and many others whose names I did not know. During the time they released those prisoners, they did not let them come out right away because those people were emaciated and exhausted. Some prisoners were crawling out of the prison. After the prisoners had gained enough strength, they let them go back to their original units.

Q: Was it true that there was an evacuation of people from the East Zone?

A: There was an evacuation of people from the East Zone to other Sectors. At the same time fighting along the borders were also intensifying. In mid 1978 there were more than thirty thousands Khmer Rouge soldiers killed in combats. The bodies of the dead soldiers were taken to be cremated in Boeung Snay (បឹងស្នាយ) kiln in Kampong Cham province.

Ta Phauk (តា ហ្នាក់) was in charge of that kiln. I knew about this story because I went there to search in a list for the names of my 2 cousins who, as it was heard, had died and were sent there. But later on I did not know how many more people died. Brother Sēk (សែក) also knew about those corpses.

Q: At which level did the evacuation policy come from?

A: As I knew it, the evacuation policy was a military strategy to move people out of the combat zone in order to avoid being hit by the bullets.

Q: Was the evacuation a part of the killing plan?

A: That evacuation was not a part of the killing plan, as I knew it. There were people dying from a long trip without enough food. Even normal people, who were not evacuated, still faced the shortage let alone the evacuees. I remembered, at that time, that there was a policy to receive those evacuees, but in practice I did not know how they did it because the Southwest Zone group was still in control. An interesting point was that even the base-people were killed let alone the evacuees.

Q: During the time you worked with your father did you see any killing of the people?

A: One day while I was driving a motorcycle around, I saw about 10 military trucks fully loaded with people going toward Phnom Pros Phnom Srey. At that time I drove my motorbike to follow them behind. When they arrived there, they ordered people out of the trucks, aimed the guns at them and ordered them to undress. I stopped my motorbike at a distance from their trucks. At that time three soldiers saw and walked toward me. When seeing that, I started my motorbike and drove back home and told my father about that story. My father then called Ta Vey Reap (តា វ៉ែយ រ៉ាប) (died) in and asked him “where those people were transported to?”. Vey Reap, the new chairman of the division of the Central Zone replied “brother An (អាន) gives an order to transport those people to the new village”. My father asked further “where is the new village?”; Ta Reap replied “in the Phnom Pros Phnom Srey area”. Then my father asked “why I was not informed?”; Ta Reap answered “brother An gives an order to transport those people there where they will be mashed”. I was also there during that confrontation. Ta An was the deputy of the Central Zone, and was also the chairman of Sector 41. He is now living in Kamrieng district.

Q: When your father found out about the killing of the people, what was his reaction?

A: I did not know. But I remembered later my father received news about people in truck loads were killed at Phnom Pros Phnom Srey. One day after he received that news, he went down to the 1st January Dam. During the trip he stopped by Krâva Baksna (ក្រវ៉ាបាក់ស្នា) village in Baray district where he saw about 200 families who had been arrested and put in the pagoda waiting to be killed. At that time he asked those people “why many of you are gathering here?”; the people replied “Pauk, you should not do this to us”. My father continued “what has happened?”; the people replied “Pauk, you order them to arrest us to kill, and they will kill us tonight”. My father told me this story personally. At that time the person who drove him there named Chiem (ជៀម) (dead or alive is not known). He [my father] knew all of those people because they used to support him with food since during the time he was in the struggling movement in the jungles. At that time he told the militias to call the district committee named Pauch (ប៉ូច) to come and see him, but the district committee refused to come. Then the commune committee of the Krâva or Baksna commune arrived, so my father ordered him to release all those people and warned that no one absolutely was allowed to touch these people. In the Zone, Ta An took over my father role because my father was busy with his work on the battlefields

along the border. During that time 3 of my cousins were also killed; they were Nhim (ញឹម), Bin (ប៊ិន), and Huon (ហួន). Those 3 were in the Baray district.

Q: What was the name of the committee of Sector 41 at that time?

A: From the beginning the committee of the Sector named Srēng. After Srēng was arrested, Taing took over. Later, Taing was also arrested, and An took over until the Yuon arrived (An was from the Southwest Zone).

Q: Other than the purging mentioned above, did you know about the purging of any other levels?

A: I remembered that there was a killing of a prince named Tara Dēpau (តារាដេប៉ូ). But I did not know for sure whether Tara Dēpau was killed during the period of Taing in control or that of An.

Q: How could you know about this event, please describe?

A: One day in 1976, Prince Sihanouk and Ta Pèn Nut (ប៊ែន នុត) came to Kampong Cham.

The purpose of Prince Sihanouk trip was to meet his son in Kampong Cham. I remembered that there was a reception party in an evening to receive the Prince. At the same time Uncle Srēng brought one person from Teuk Chhar to keep in a separate house where two guards were guarding. At that time, my father ordered me to prepare a car to take a guest around town. I then told Touch to prepare a Land Rover for the trip. When I and Touch arrived at the guest house, the guest appeared. Out of wondering, I decided to take that guest around by my self. In the car, I asked the guest “brother, wherever you want to go, I will take you there”; he replied “all places are the same”, meaning that they all were quiet. I asked him further “what is your work?”; he answered “I am just an ordinary person like you, brother”. I continued “where are you from?”; he answered “from Thmâ Dar (ថ្មដារ) Teuk Chhar (ទឹកឆារ)”. I told him that “I used to stay there also”.

He asked “when you were there what did you do, brother?”; I replied “I looked after the fast cow”. Then I asked him “what did you do there?”; he answered “I build dam, dig canal, and do rice farm”. At that time I took him around Kampong Cham and to the auditorium and then to Chroy Thmâ (ច្រូយថ្ម). I remember that it was in the dry season.

During our trip, I was suspicious about him and thinking that he was a prince named Tara Dēpau who was once sent to study in China. Furthermore, his face and gait looked almost exactly the same as that of Prince Sihanouk. Later, when we both went down the river to drink water, I said to him “I used to know a prince named Sihamony (សីហមុនី)”. At that time he reacted “Sihamony is the younger brother”; then I said, “brother, are you Tara Dēpau?; he answered “yes, if you know this, do not say anything. It is better to keep this in secret”. He continued “soon there will be a change, and if we were lucky, we will meet again”. In that afternoon I drove him back to the guest house.

Q: When you drove Tara Dēpau back home what happened?

A: When we arrived home from that trip, I opened the door for him as he was getting off the car, and I followed him into the house. At that time one person came to tell us that comrade, please take a bath and rest before eating dinner. That person told me “tomorrow there will not be any program”. At that time Tara Dēpau facial expression changed, and he turned to shake hand with me as a last farewell. I did not know the name of the person who spoke to me earlier. I used to see that person at the bungalow which was under Lorn (ល័ន) (died) control. Then I returned to the provincial hall where the reception party for Prince Sihanouk, who was from Phnom Penh, was still going on. The party was prepared followed the order from the Centre. The Centre ordered us to prepare a party to warmly and cordially welcome and receive Prince Sihanouk. All foods for that reception were closely examined and checked. After a handshake welcome, Prince Sihanouk was invited to sit at an honorary table. At that time he appeared to be anxiously waiting for something to happen. Then Uncle Srēng announced “now the party is starting, so, on behalf of the Zone I would like to invite the Prince and all comrades to toast and welcome the arrival of the Prince to our Zone”.

Q: Why did they not allow the Prince to meet with Tara Dēpau?

A: I asked my father about that matter. He said “there was an urgent order from the upper echelon banning a meeting between Prince Sihanouk and Tara Dēpau”. It said that “the son is not allowed to see the father”. That message arrived in the same day as the reception party was held. Next morning Prince Sihanouk returned to Phnom Penh. After Sihanouk returned, I heard my father said that Prince Sihanouk wanted to come and stay in Kampong Cham. Later, there was an order to prepare a place for the Prince to stay. But the prince did not come to stay there because, as I heard from my father, the upper echelon said “the environment is not clean”. After 1979 I heard people said some royal families were killed during 1976 in Prey Sos Kyâl (ប្រែស៊ុនក្យាស់) and Phnom Ampil (ភ្នំអំពិល) area in Steung Trâng (ស្ទឹងត្រង់) district.

Q: Did you get any information regarding Tara Dēpau later on?

A: One day I met with comrade Kry (គ្រី) (died) who was Uncle Taing’s child. Kry told me that Tara Dēpau was killed along with his two body guards. Those three persons were killed and buried together in the same grave. At that time I did not believe Kry, but he said “if you did not believe me, I can take you to see that grave”. However, Kry did not say who ordered the killing and who the killers were. Then Kry took me to the site of the killing. The killing site was near the bottom of the Teuk Chhar (ទឹកធ្លាវ) Dam and north of the water gate. I went to the place and saw that pit, but the pit was almost completely filled up with soil.

Q: Did you know who were the commune committee and the district committee there?

A: I do not recall the names of the commune committee and the district committee there during that time, but I remember that Ta An was the committee of Sector 41. If you want to know more about this story, please go to ask the villagers of Chheu Bäk (ឈើបាក់) village about it because they lived there during that time.

Q: Did you know the structure of the Democratic Kampuchea regime?

A: I knew part of it. They organized it into two sections, one was the Party Centre Standing [committee] controlled by POL Pot, NUON Chea, SAO Phim, VORN Vet, SON Sen, IENG Sary, and KHIEU Ponnary (ខៀវ ប៉ុណ្ណារី); and another was the Party Standing [committee], composed of ministers and Zone [secretaries], included Ta Mok, KOY Thuon (កុយ ធ្នូន), Ta Ya (តា យ៉ា) (alias Chäkrey (ចក្រី)), YUN Yat (យុន យ៉ាត), IENG Thirith, ROS Nhim (រស់ ញឹម), KHIEU Samphan, Ta Keu (តា កើ), Ta Soth (តា សុទ្ធ), Ta Laing, KÈ Pauk (កែ ពាក់), and some others whose names I did not recall. Later, some of the persons mentioned above were arrested, and by late 1978 there were only 7-8 persons left.

Q: Did you know about the purging theory?

A: The purging theory, as I knew it, began since 1973. The slogan said “an opponent is considered as a traitor and must be smashed”. From 1970 to 1975 there was a meeting held in every evening, which contained two programs. In every weekend, there was a meeting called a profound meeting, which meant the meeting for criticism and self criticism. I also attended that meeting during which they specified that if anyone was being corrected for the same offenses repeatedly for two to three times, he/she would be punished. There was a red flag book in which it said “an individual who does not follow the Party line will be considered as an opponent of the Party”. At that time the leadership applied that theory, that was why the purging was made.

Q: Who were purged?

A: Those who were purged included KOY Thuon, Ta Ya, SAO Phim, VORN Vet, Ta Soth, Ta Laing, ROS Nhim, and Ta Keu. They were considered as the persons who did not apply the Party line, so they were considered as the opponents and traitors, and must be smashed.

(The interview of the witness paused at 16:10 o'clock)

(This interview resumed at 10:15 o'clock on 06 June, 2009)

Q: Other than the security office in Kampong Cham, did you see any other offices?

A: I only went to see the prison in Kampong Cham. I did not see any other prisons.

Q: Were any torturing carried out in the prison?

A: There were torturing in the prison after the arrest of the person who caused an explosion in Kampong Cham. After that explosion, my father called Ly (ឈី) (died), who was the deputy of the division in charge of logistic and armored cars, to see him. At that time Ly reported that there was no casualty in the armored car unit, but many were killed in other units, especially, the prisoners and the prison guards. The survivors and wounded prisoners left the detention houses to stay in a park behind the provincial hall. After that, my father ordered Ly to arrest 20 persons. That explosion happened in 1977 at the same time the construction of the 1st January Dam was in progress.

Q: Were the people tortured after they had been arrested?

A: They were tortured. When I went inside the prison, I saw they tortured them. The purpose of the torturing was to make them to reveal the leader who gave the order. Later, Koeun (ក្រឿន), the head of the armored car technical unit, confessed that Brother Ly gave the order. After that, Phauk (ផាក) led forces to arrest Ly along with over 100 other persons. Those arrested were killed even before the circular was issued. Some persons died in the prison and others were tortured to dead. Phauk was the one who tortured the prisoners. Phauk was himself later arrested and sent to Phnom Penh.

Q: Did you know when was Ta Laing arrested?

A: I knew that Ta Laing had been arrested, but some people said that Ta Laing was assassinated. My father said "Brother Laing was arrested". Ta Laing was arrested after Ta Thuch.

Q: Did you ever see the name list of people to be purged from the Centre?

A: I saw the name list sent from S-21. That list contained the names of the leaders in the Zone. At that time I saw some names were crossed with the red pen. After they saw the names in the list crossed with the red pen, the Zone told those persons to go to Phnom Penh. Before they left for Phnom Penh, a meeting was held to talk about work around the Zone Office. When the meeting ended, the chairman said the following; for example, comrade A, comrade B, and comrade C...go to Phnom Penh on this date....in order to receive the new plan. But those persons did not know what they would have them do there. As for me, I was not an attendee of the meeting, but I was a guard. They used the loudspeakers during the meeting. Obviously, my uncle named uncle Yean (យ៉ាន), the chairman of the division logistic, was invited to Phnom Penh and disappeared ever since. Lorn (ល័ន), who was the chairman of the Zone office at that time, was also invited to Phnom Penh along with some others whose names I did not remember. I saw a district committee committed suicide by hanging him self after the meeting, but I did not remember his name. The arrests of the cadres were mostly not made by the Zone level but by the Centre. For the Zone, even they knew that their relatives were called, they still could not help them, and must told them to go to Phnom Penh. It was not negotiable.

If the [targeted] persons failed to go, the security unit of the upper echelon would come to get them on site. As I knew it, any name that was crossed with the red ink was the person who had been implicated by at least 3 prisoners at S-21. That was why his/her name was crossed with the red pen. The name list was then sent to the Zone so that the Zone could tell the person, whose name was crossed, to go to Phnom Penh by him/her self.

Q: Did you ever see NUON Chea, KHIEU Samphan, IENG Sary, and IENG Thirith during the time you stayed in Phnom Penh?

A: During the time from 1975 to 1979 I met POL Pot, IENG Sary, and IENG Thirith. As for NUON Chea and KHIEU Samphan, I never met them.

Q: Do you know any ones who used to work with the leadership like NUON Chea, KHIEU Samphan, IENG Sary, and IENG Thirith?

A: I do not recall. But if you want to find out who used to stay with IENG Sary and IENG Thirith, please contact Chiem (ឃីម). He is now living in Malai (ម៉ាលៃ).

Q: Do you have anything else you want to add?

A: I have no more.

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

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

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

This interview ended at 16:30 o'clock on 06 June, 2009.

Witness

Interpreter

Investigators

[Signature/Thumbprint]

[Signature]

[Signatures]