



អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា
Extraordinary Chambers in the
Courts of Cambodia

ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត
Office of the Co-Investigating Judges

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

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

On the second of March two thousand and ten, at 13:45 hours, at Chamkar Chrey
Chheung (ចម្ការច្រំខាងជើង) Village, Anlung Reap (អង្គឃុំរាប) Commune, Veal Veang
(វាលវែង) District, Pursat (ពោធិ៍សាត់) Province,

We, LIM Sokuntha (លីម សុគុណ្ណា) and Herbert KARUGABA, Investigators of the
Extraordinary Chambers, being assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating
Judges, dated 25 February 2010,

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,

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១
ទូរស័ព្ទលេខ +៨៥៥(០)២៣ ២១៨៩១៤ ទូរសារលេខ +៨៥៥(០)២៣ ២១៨៩៤១
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ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ
Kingdom of Cambodia

Nation-Religion-King ឯកសារទទួល

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du dossier: Uch ARUN

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បម្លើយសាក្សី
Written Record of Witness Interview

ឯកសារប្រកាសច្បាប់ត្រឹមត្រូវតាមច្បាប់ដើម
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..... 18 / 05 / 2010
មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé
du dossier: Uch ARUN

With Mr. UN Sam An (អ៊ុន សំអន), as sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers,

Recorded the statements of CHUON Thi (ជួន ធី), a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:

The undersigned CHUON Thi, alias/revolutionary name: THI Ov (ធី ឌី), was born on 1 February 1949 in Rolëang Thlaeng (រលាំងថ្លើង) Village, Prambei Mum (ប្រាំបីម៉ុំ) Commune, Thpong (ថ្លង) District, Kampong Speu (កំពង់ស្ពឺ) Province. He is of Cambodian nationality and a farmer.

His father, TEP Chheng (ទេព ឆេង), is deceased, and her mother, CHUN Heng (ជួន ហេង), is alive.

Present Address: Chamkar Chrey Chheung Village, Anlung Reap Commune, Veal Veang District, Pursat Province. He is married to SĀO Heng (សៅ ហេង), alive, and is father of three 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 me that he is not in relation with 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.

Questions and answers:

Q: Please tell us the reason why you are called THI Ov.

A1: I am called THI Ov because I am a modest and gentle man. I never stir up problem with others. That is why my former subordinate soldiers call me THI Ov

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ទូរស័ព្ទលេខ +៨៥៥(០)២៣ ២១៨៩១៤ ទូរសារលេខ +៨៥៥(០)២៣ ២១៨៩៤១
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until now. I have been called THI Ov since 1978 when I was transferred from Koh Kong (កោះកុង) to Svay Rieng (ស្វាយរៀង).

Q: When and why did you join the revolution?

A2: I joined the revolution in early 1970 after LON Nol (លន់ នល់) conducted coup d' état to oust Samdech Sihanouk (សម្តេចសីហនុ) from power. I joined the revolution in order to claim power back to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. At that time, all people in my birth place agreed to join in military service to fight against LON Nol and bring back Samdech Sihanouk to power. Our parents also encouraged us to join that revolution. First time when I became a soldier I was under the supervision of Ta Sros (តាស្រស់) (probably died in 1976) who was the commander of Battalion 1 stationed north of the National Route 4. Battalion 1 was under the control of the Southwest Zone, of which Ta Mok (តាម៉ុក) was the secretary; Ta Pál (តាប៉ាល់) and Ta Si (តាស៊ី) were deputy-secretaries. At that time, the West Zone did not yet exist. It was established after 17 April 1975. I do not recall how many sectors in that Southwest Zone. I also do not remember the names of the sector committees. I only knew that sector committees were zone members and sector committees attended zone meetings. Sector committees had to implement policies imposed by the zone committee.

Q: Why do you say that sector committees had to attend the meeting with the zone committee? Why did the former have to implement policies imposed by the latter?

A3: In mid 1978, I attended a meeting in Kampong Chhnang (កំពង់ឆ្នាំង) with POL Pot (ប៉ុល ពត), Ta Pál the deputy secretary of the West Zone, Ta Sarun (តាសារុន) the secretary of the Sector 31 and others whom I did not know. At that time, Ta Si became the secretary of the West Zone but he was not present at that meeting. At that time, I was in Prey Nub (ព្រៃនប់), Krong Kampong Som (ក្រុងកំពង់សោម) as the commander of the Regiment 15 of the Division 1 of the West Zone. At that time, Ta Socung (តាសៀង) (deceased) was the Division 1 commander, Ta Sari (តាសារី) (deceased) and Ta San (តាសាន) (unknown to me if deceased or alive) were deputy-commanders. Probably in 1972, Division 1 was established and SOU Samēt (ស៊ី សាម៉េត) and Ta Soeung were its commander and deputy-commander.

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In early 1976, SOU Samēt was promoted as the commander of the Division 502 in charge of air force for Pochentong (ពោធិ៍ចិនតុង) in Phnom Penh; thus, Ta Soeung became the Division 1 commander replacing SOU Samēt.

Q: You mentioned about the meeting with POL Pot in June 1978 in Kampong Chhnang. Can you confirm with more details about it, for instance, where did the meeting take place; where were the agenda of the meeting; why were you invited to attend the meeting with POL Pot at that time; did you know who POL Pot was?

A4: The meeting took place in Krong Kampong Chhnang approximately 100 metres north of the Independence Monument. It was in a one-storey concrete building which looked like a school (the witness stated that he went to that place again in 2003 but he did not see the remains of that building). That building could accommodate about 500 people. There were not so many people attending the meeting, only leaders and cadres whom I have mentioned earlier. Almost 100 people attended the meeting and it lasted about one week. I was invited to that meeting because I was the Regiment 15 commander of the Division 1 and even Battalion commanders were allowed to attend it, except that the Division commander and deputy-commander were not present. POL Pot chaired the meeting and spoke from the beginning until the end for almost one week. The meeting was about:

- Protection: POL Pot mentioned that war in Cambodia was now over; so we must protect our territory from the foreign aggressors, whom POL Pot mainly referred to Vietnam. We must be very cautious with Vietnam because this country wanted to annex Cambodia into the Indochinese Federation.
- Rebuilding: POL Pot mentioned about the rebuilding of Cambodian economy from least advanced to progressive one and facilitating people to get three meals per day: breakfast, lunch and dinner. POL Pot also asked the participants who were cooperative chiefs, sub-commune committees and district committees whether *“people at the base level had sufficient food.”* Most cooperative committees responded that their people had sufficient food; only a few said they did not have enough food. POL Pot further asked *“where the harvested rice go.”* Those cooperative committees responded *“the rice production was not good.”* POL Pot stated that *“the surplus of rice must be exported to exchange agricultural materials from other foreign countries.”* POL Pot also stated about rebuilding agriculture and industry from the least advanced to modern one by using modern agricultural materials to replace human force for agricultural production. He added that *“within 10 to 20 years we must increase number of population up to between 20 and 30 million in order to have enough forces to protect our country.”* In this sense, POL Pot stated that he required arrangement for marriage to increase number of population by instructing lower echelons to arrange the wedding for people.

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I knew that POL Pot at that time was the Secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea from the radio announcement which was made nationwide about his position. On the day that I attended the meeting with POL Pot in Krong Kampong Chhnang, POL Pot personally called me to meet with him and told me that now the Vietnamese forces had entered Krong Svay Ricng. Therefore, he instructed me to gather my forces from Koh Kong in order to fight against the Vietnamese forces in Svay Rieng province. POL Pot made this order verbally only.

Q: In relation to his clarification about the Vietnamese invasion, did POL Pot mention any people who were linked to or cooperated with the Vietnamese?

A5: As far as the link and cooperators with the Vietnamese are concerned, POL Pot did not mention in that meeting. I also did not hear it was mentioned in any other meetings because I was in charge of military; I was too busy protecting the border to attend many meetings.

Q: You have told us informally that POL Pot said in 1978 and his words were also published in the Revolutionary Flag Magazine that “ordinary people do not betray but the leaders do.” The traitors were CIA or KGB who conspired with the Vietnamese to defeat the Democratic Kampuchea. Please clarify about the point mentioning that CIA or KGB conspired with the Vietnamese. Which volume of the Revolutionary Flag Magazine mentioned this point?

A6: I knew that the Revolutionary Flag Magazine was published monthly. There were two-flag magazine and five-flag magazine which were distributed to the Youth League (សម្ព័ន្ធហ្ម័នកុមារ) and the Pillars (ជនបង្គោល). The Youth League was the right hand of the Party while the Pillars were ranked lower. Personally, I never heard POL Pot mentioning about CIA or KGB who conspired with the Vietnamese. However, I heard him mentioning about the betrayal when I met him along the Cambodian-Thai border after the Khmer Rouge collapsed in 1982-1983. Regarding the issue of CIA or KGB who conspired with the Vietnamese, I found it when I read the Revolutionary Flag Magazine.

Q: Did you know who wrote the Revolutionary Flag Magazine?

A7: I did not know who the writers were because that magazine did not mention the writer’s name. I could read when it was distributed to various units.

Q: There were large-scale purges of the Eastern Zone cadres in 1978 because the Eastern Zone leaders were accused of cooperating with the Vietnamese in order to defeat the Communist Party of Kampuchea. As a member of this Party, how much did you know about the plan and those purges? Please explain in more detail. Did you know what the term “purge” mean?

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A8: In June 1978 I was ordered by POL Pot to take one regiment of more than one thousand soldiers from Division 1 of the Western Zone to fight against the Vietnamese who were fighting into Cambodia at the border of Svay Rieng at Chi Pu-Bavet (ជីក្ស័-ប៉ាវិត) point.

Q: You stated that POL Pot met with you alone and verbally ordered you. Please explain more clearly how he knew you very well and why such an order was made so urgently.

A9: I would like to clarify that when I was called for the meeting with POL Pot in Krong Kampong Cham in June 1978, a list of participants was prepared and as a member of Division 1 and the commander of Regiment 15, POL Pot must have known about me and my position. Therefore, that day he called to meet with me personally in order to arrange the forces to fight against the Vietnamese forces in Svay Rieng province. I never attended in any other meeting with POL Pot or other senior leaders of the Communist Party of Kampuchea during the Khmer Rouge regime. However, I used to see NUON Chea once in Phnom Penh probably in 1977.

Q: What were you doing in Phnom Penh when you saw NUON Chea?

A10: I was going for sightseeing with other soldiers in Phnom Penh once in 1977 and suddenly I saw NUON Chea by chance when he was walking with his messengers. I knew he was NUON Chea and his messengers when my friends told me.

Q: We learn that during the Democratic Kampuchea travel was very restricted. Please tell us the reason why you could travel to visit your friends in Phnom Penh?

A11: I would like to clarify that in 1976 Ta Soeung replaced SOU Samēt as the commander of Division 1 and the latter became the commander of the Division 502 for Pochentong while Regiment 17 of Division 1 was annexed to Division 502. Since I was the commander of Regiment 15 of Division 1 all members of Regiment 17 were my old friends. Therefore, I could travel freely from Koh Kong to Phnom Penh.

Q: Please explicate the structure of the Division 1 in the Western Zone.

A12: Division 1 was established in 1972, as I have mentioned earlier, and SOU Samēt was its commander in charge of political affairs, Ta Soeung and Ta Sary the deputy-commanders were in charge of military affairs. At that time, Division 1 had 4 regiments with approximately five thousand soldiers. I was just a combatant at that time. In early 1976, when Division 502 was established and SOU Samēt became its commander Ta Soeung became the commander of Division 1, Ta Sary

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became the deputy-commander and I became the commander of Regiment 15. At that time, Division 1 had Regiments 15, 16, 17, Artillery Regiment and Intervention Unit. I do not recall names of the commanders of those regiments.

Q: Document with ERN: ... of a witness's statement proves that you have participated in meetings with POL Pot, NUON Chea, Ta Mok and SON Sen (សុន សែន) in Phnom Penh probably in 1977, during which POL Pot and NUON Chea mentioned about the plan of purging Eastern Zone cadres who cooperated with the Vietnamese. Can you confirm whether the statement of that witness is true?

A13: Honestly speaking, like what I have stated earlier, I attended the meeting with POL Pot only once in June 1978 where POL Pot verbally ordered me to select one regiment of more than one thousand soldiers to fight against the Vietnamese soldiers who were invading into Svay Rieng province. Soon I got the order I returned to Koh Kong and transported my forces on more than 10 GMC convoys towards Svay Rieng across Phnom Penh. Since then, I never returned to Phnom Penh until the Vietnamese invaded completely into Cambodian territory in January 1979. In Svay Rieng, I met and knew many other people including Rèn (រ៉ែន) (Ta Mok's son-in-law) the commander of the division in charge of Svay Rieng province, THY Poussé (ធីតូសេ), Phàn (ផាន), Sung (ស៊ីង), IENG Phan (អៀង ផាន) and SOKH Chhean (សុខ ឈាន) etc. Those people were from the Southwestern Zone. So, I neither attended any meeting with other Khmer Rouge senior leaders than POL Pot in Kampong Chhnang nor heard of the plan of purging people from the Eastern Zone.

Q: Please explicate the plan to fight against the Vietnamese in Svay Rieng.
A14: In Kampong Chhnang, POL Pot met with me for about two minutes and told me that "the Youn forces are now arriving in Krong Svay Rieng. You, comrade, must take your forces to fight against them in Svay Rieng province." Soon after that, I took my Land Rover car towards Prey Nub and Koh Kong in order to gather my forces. We used trucks and machine boats to collect the soldiers. At about 6 a.m. more than 10 GMC convoys of forces left Prey Nub towards Svay Rieng across Phnom Penh. But we did not stop by in Phnom Penh, went straight and arrived in Svay Rieng at about 7 a.m. There, we were stationed at Vai Kou (វ៉ៃកូ) river and it was very quiet; no civilians were there only soldiers. Rèn told me to arrange my forces for fighting.

Q: Please explicate the military structure after you arrived in Svay Rieng province.

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Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, National Road 4, Choam Chao, Dangkoa, Phnom Penh
Mail Po Box 71, Phnom Penh Tel:+855(0)23 218914 Fax: +855(0) 23 218941.
Chambres extraordinaires au sein des tribunaux cambodgiens. Route nationale 4, Choam Chao, Dangkoa, Phnom Penh
Boite postale 71, Phnom Penh. Tel: +855(0)23 218914 Fax: +855(0) 23 218941.

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A15: Rèn was in charge of controlling all forces in Svay Rieng and became the commander of Consolidated Division (កងពលធំ). This division was the combination of Division 703 commanded by Sung (deceased) from the Southwest Zone, Division 340 commanded by me (THI Ov) and THI Poussé (deceased) was my deputy, Division 460 commanded by Phàn (deceased) from Southwest Zone and Soy (deceased) was his deputy, Division 221 was the Intervention Unit commanded by IENG Phan from Southwest Zone and SOKH Chhean was his deputy. Besides, Artillery and Tank Units belonged to the Central Committee also joined in with Rèn's Division; but I do not recall commanders' names of these units. I did not know the exact number of forces of this Consolidated Division.

Q: You were the commander of a regiment stationed in the area of Prey Nub and Koh Kong. Were you aware of Koh Kyâng (កោះខ្យង) Security Centre?

A16: I used to hear when soldiers said that they knew about a security centre in Koh Kyâng but I never went there. I knew that Koh Kyâng Prison was established in 1978 for detaining the lazy, the stealer who were civilians. Chief of this prison was named Voeun (វ៉ៃន) (died in late 1978).

Q: When you were fighting against the Vietnamese forces in Svay Rieng province, did you ever see any leaders visiting there?

A17: I occasionally saw SON Sen in Svay Rieng when he went to check on the forces and prepare for fighting; but I did not see other leaders.

Q: Who were the upper echelons whom you reported to about the plan and military situation? How did you report? Was such a report copied to any Khmer Rouge senior leaders?

A18: In the Division 1, I had to report to its commander Ta Soeung but did not copy to others beside the commander; but I knew that he had to report to his upper echelon because it was the way the military affairs went. For mode of reporting I used communicating radio C25 to report to the division leadership.

Q: Did you ever receive any telegraph from any senior leader regarding military or other plans?

A19: I used to receive some telegrams involving plan and activity only from division leadership and such a telegram were translated from the original ones which contained of secret codes. But it was copied to other leaders than sent directly to me. The telegrams mentioned the enemy's activities.

Q: Do you have any suggestion for the trials of Khmer Rouge senior leaders?

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១ 8
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A20: I do not have any suggestion since I am not interested in such a trial. There were many involvements and I must start from the earliest stage of the regime, not only when the Khmer Rouge held power.

Q: If ECCC would like you to provide testimony before the court, will you agree to do so?

A21: I do not want to get involved because I think it is useless.

- One copy of the Written Record was provided to the witness.
 - The Written Record was printed out for the witness to read and correct by himself; the witness had no objections and signed on the corrected version.
 - After the Written Record was read out to the witness, the witness refused to sign it.
- End of the interview: at 1645 hours on the same day.

Witness	Interpreter	Investigators
[Thumbprint]	[Signature]	[Signatures]
THI Ov	UN Sam An	LIM Sokutha Hebert KARUGABA