



D22/1370-21

SPECIAL ENGLISH EDITION, FIRST QUARTER 2005

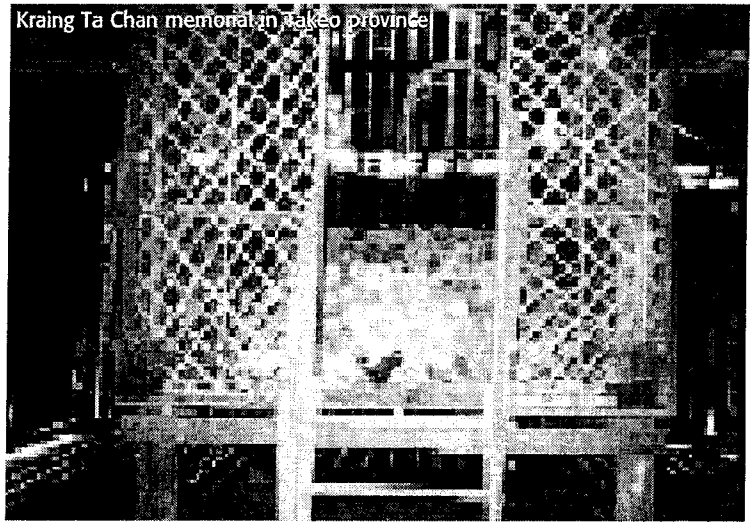
and 5 meters in length. They placed a number of executed prisoners at the bottom of the pit, and then buried them. After adding more corpses, they, in the same grave, buried the dead bodies again," said Sen, recalling his job during the Khmer Rouge period.

Siang, a former Khmer Rouge cadre in Kraing Ta Chan, said, "in mid-1975 such a large number of prisoners were sent in night and day that [I] scarcely found time to sleep."

Sen was an eyewitness to the execution of prisoners at Kraing Ta Chan.

Before the killings began, the prison's guards turned on loud music so that the screams of the prisoners being murdered would not be heard. Then executioners took two or three prisoners to be killed at one time. Sen said that the executioners tricked prisoners by telling them that they were allowed to return to their cooperatives. On hearing the phrase "return to one's cooperative," prisoners became so happy that some of them applauded, but instead they were taken to be killed. Khmer Rouge guards tied the prisoners' hands behind their backs, blindfolded them, and brought them to the killing site. Then they clubbed prisoners on the backs of their heads. When the prisoners fell to the ground, the executioners turned them over on their backs and cut their throats with long swords before dragging them to the grave. "Sometimes they [the executioners] were tired. Therefore, they ordered Chin and I to pull the corpses over to the grave and fill it up," said Sen. According to this witness, some people were jailed even if they committed such minor offenses as stealing coconuts or potatoes, deliberately drinking palm juice, breaking a spoon or a basket, and so on. These prisoners were all executed.

Sen survived because he knew how to make sour palm juice [a local alcoholic drink]. Ann, chief of Kraing Ta Chan prison, ordered Sen to make this



juice both day and night. Sen added that to relieve Ann's fatigue after killing prisoners, Ann ordered him to produce sour palm juice even at midnight. Sometimes Sen, from the top of a palm tree, saw executioners cutting children's throats. "For young children, they [the Khmer Rouge guards] cut their throats, sliced open their stomachs, and took their gallbladders to eat while drinking wine."

Sen's father was also murdered at Kraing Ta Chan prison. Sen remembered that before they took his father to be killed, the executioners ordered Sen to collect cow manure at a stable near the prison. While Sen was gone, the guards had executed his father and placed his body in a grave. After discovering the body, Sen took off his father's clothes, washed them, and kept them for his own use. "They told me to gather the manure, but they took my father to be killed," said Sen. Unable to control his feelings, Sen asked Siang, "will I be killed?" "Keep calm! You are allowed to live, so you have to live calmly. If we did not allow you to live, you would have been killed," answered Siang.

In addition to those who were executed, five or six prisoners died every day from starvation or torture during interrogation. The Khmer Rouge guards did not allow the prisoners to move when they were sleeping, even though they were being bitten by lice

