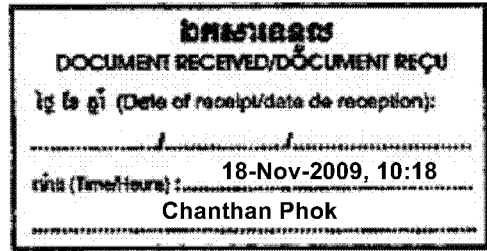




**អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា**  
Extraordinary Chambers in the  
Courts of Cambodia

**ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា**  
**ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ**  
**Kingdom of Cambodia**  
**Nation-Religion-King**

**ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត**  
Office of the Co-Investigating Judges



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

**កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់ចម្លើយសាក្សី**  
Written Record of Witness Interview

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

On the twelfth day of October, two thousand and nine, at 9.40 a.m, at the Referral Hospital, Anlong Veang (អន្លង់វែង) District, Oudour Meanchey Province.

We, EM Hoy (ឯម ហ៊ឺយ) and Philip Caine, Investigators of the Extraordinary Chambers, being assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges, dated 24 July 2009,

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 LENG Heng An, as sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers,

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១  
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Original KH: 00389519-00389530



Recorded the statements of PECH Sokha (ប៊ិច សុខា), a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:

The undersigned PECH Sokha, no alias/revolutionary, born on 10 November 1960 in Mien (មៀន) Village, Mien Commune, Prey Chhor District, Kampong Cham Province. He is of Cambodian nationality. His father, PICH Un (ប៊ិច អុន), is deceased, and his mother, PIE Hiek (ពៀ ហៀក), is deceased. Currently, he is a nurse (mid-level nurse) and the Deputy Chairman of the Referral Hospital. His present address: Svay Chek (ស្វាយចេក) Village, Thlat (ថ្កាត) Commune, Anlong Veang (អន្លង់វែង) District, Oudour Meanchey Province. His wife, KHUT Nit (ហុត និត), is alive; she is the mother of two sons and two daughters.

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 other languages.
- Therefore, the original of this Written Record is written in the Khmer language.

- We instructed 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.

**Questions and answers:**

Q: Do you recall when you were sent to study in Phnom Penh?

A: I recall that in 1976, they sent me to study in Phnom Penh at Ruessey Keo (ប្រស្នីកែវ) School in Phnom Penh city. There they had us select a course to study. They had many fields of study: public work, car repairing, lath machine, agriculture, irrigation, hydroelectricity and the iron. I was interested in the irrigation and hydroelectricity. I attended this course at Ruessei Keo School for six months.

Q: Do you remember the names of your teachers?

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A: I recall there were two teachers who taught me at Ruessei Keo School. One was named Teacher Taum (ត្នែម); he was from France and Russia. Later on, he disappeared; I did not know where he went to. Teacher Taum was a pure Khmer; he received a scholarship to study in France, and another teacher (whose name cannot be recalled) was from France; he also disappeared.

Q: During the time you studied, how was your living condition?

A: For the study there, I was very severely tempered. As for eating, we ate communally; there was gruel mixed with red corn. Sometimes, I had enough food according to the ration they gave.

Q: How many people went to study in Phnom Penh with you?

A: Only I was from Sector 41. At that time, Srēng (ស្រែង) (dead) who was the Sector 41 committee, sent me to study in Phnom Penh. Srēng was my father's friend; after my father died, my grandfather took me to live with Srēng.

Q: How many trainees were in the course?

A: There were approximately 100 trainees, but there were 10 in my section. I was the youngest among them. I recall that the people who were in the same section were me from Sector 41, Chhām (ឆាំ) from the Central Zone, Long (ឡុង) from Sector 42 and Hao (ហៃ) from Sector 43.

Q: During the course, did they say about the political line of the Communist Party of Kampuchea?

A: No. In the course, they only said about technicalities; they did whatever to enable all the trainees to get knowledge to serve the Party. If any trainee did not pass the examination, he had to continue the study, but in my course there was no one remaining because everyone was very afraid to fail.

Q: Do you remember the name of the course chairman?

A: No. After I finished the study, they sent us back to our respective sectors.

Q: What did they assign you to do afterwards?

A: In early 1977, they collected four of us to build the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam. We were surveying technicians. At that time, the upper echelon gave the 1<sup>st</sup> January plan. After receiving the plan, we worked as surveyors and put sign markers. Besides doing the survey, we helped carry earth at night when there was an urgent need; sometimes, we also carried until 10 p.m.

Q: Please describe about the survey.

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A: At first, we examined the plan; in the plan, there was indication of the length, width, depth and height of the dam. After that, we did the survey by using surveying equipment "with three legs កែវរជើងបី ", produced in Germany.

Q: What were you in charge of?

A: My work was to survey and put marker posts for others to dig, and when I had time, I helped carry earth to fill the dykes. We dug a deep dam at the place where the earth level was high; if the earth level was low, we dug a shallow dam. The plan indicated that within the distance of 1 kilometre, it was required digging of 2 centimetres lower. I surveyed according to the plan and the project defined by *Angkar*.

Q: How long was the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam?

A: The water reservoir of the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam was 2 kilomtres long; the upper surface of the canals was from 20 metres down to 8 metres. I did not know who *Angkar* was; I just heard *Angkar*. My task was to survey the dams and canals from the start until the end. I did not join in building the bridges.

Q: Do you think the plan that you surveyed was correct according to the scale?

A: I think that the plan was clear because if we looked from the upper surface, at the widths and right and left sides, they had correct scales.

Q: How many years did it take to complete the dam construction?

A: The upper echelon gave the duration of one year to complete this plan, but it was not completed according to the plan. The dam construction used not only man powers but also excavators and machineries to dig up rock. I heard the announcement from the loud speakers, telling people to be careful because gun powder was placed to break the rock. Moreover, because it was rocky at Baray (បារាយ័ន), they used such devices to break the rock. According to the plan, they decided that the water depth was 1.2 metre, but we did not manage to dig to reach the goal; we managed to dig 0.6 metre because that area was very rocky. Obviously, the water height at Baray was lower than the water height at Santuk (ស័ន្ទក).

Q: Were there foreign engineers taking part in the survey?

A: No. I received the plan from the upper echelon, *Angkar*; then I implemented the plan right away.

Q: Do you have a note related to the plan?

A: No.

Q: Do you know how many people joined in building the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam?

A: Based on what I heard from the loudspeakers, they said the participating forces

were ten thousand people from Sector 42, one thousand people from the mobile units in Sector 41 and ten thousand people from Sector 43, so in total, there were forces of more than twenty thousand people. I recall that the Sector 41 secretary was named Srēng; the Sector 42 secretary was Ta Oeun (តៃ ឡែន) (dead), who was the brother-in-law of KÈ Pok (កែ ពក) (dead).

Q: At the dam construction site, how did they have people stay?

A: At the dam construction site, they built long wooden shelters using bamboo and wood with leave roofs for people who built the dam to stay in; males and females were separated.

Q: How was the health issue of the people there?

A: Talking about health, it was not pleasant; the people’s health was weak, but there were medics at the site. If there were sick people, they were given medicine, but if the patients were seriously sick, they were sent to hospital.

Q: Was there enough medicine? Where was the medicine taken from?

A: Perhaps not enough. Both tablets and injection medicine were home-made. The injection medicine was put in used orange juice bottles, and there were liquid tube medicine; there was also some foreign medicine. The medicine was effective because I recuperated after I took it; for instance, when I had fainting spell and diarrhea.

Q: What were the approximate ages of the medics?

A: The male medics were the elderly, and the female medics were mid-aged.

Q: How did you recognize the medics?

A: We did not have anything to survey; we just noticed that if anyone carried a medic’s bag, that person was a medic. Now we can recognize one as a medical doctor or nurse according to the colour of the clothes.

Q: How about eating?

A: I ate at the construction place, but I went to the construction site (away from the place I stayed), I ate rice with the people who worked at that construction site. When there was food shortage, they mixed gruel with morning glory. If we had plenty, they gave steamed rice mixed with corn and yam (when steamed rice was cooked, it was cut into pieces and gave each person a piece). Apart from this, they cooked dessert and gave us to eat once in every ten days. I ate what people ate because I did not hold any position. Even Ta Chhām, my chairman, also ate the same food like me.

Q: How about hygiene?

A: Normally, the hygiene was low when living communally; it was very different from the present because there were many people; boiled water was not enough for them, so they had to drink water from tributary, causing many people to have

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diarrhea, but they allowed sick people take a rest from work.

Q: Were there people who died of diseases or starvation?

A: Regarding the death caused by diseases, we could not know because people who were seriously sick were sent to the provincial hospital; if people were not seriously sick, they were sent to the central office in the construction site.

Q: How did they define the working hours? How did they divide the work?

A: From 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; in the afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. During the working hours, they were allowed to have a 15-minute break. At night, the work started from 6.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The dam construction was divided into sectors, districts, groups, and individuals; each person dug 2 cubic metres a day and carried to build the dykes. If one finished digging and carrying early, he could take a rest. But at that time, the locations to be dug were checked. If it was rocky in any place and could not be dug, they would withdraw the forces to other places. For instance, it was very rocky at Baray; they used the device to explode the gun powder to break the rock. I know this well because I personally survey the land, and I carried earth when I was free from my work.

Q: Did those people complete according the plan?

A: I think that those people completed according to the plan. If they did not complete according to the plan, they could continue to work at night; there was electricity for lighting.

Q: At your work place, were there arrests of people accused of being enemies?

A: As for me, I never came across, but in my group, two people named Long and Hao disappeared. Both of them were summonsed by *Angkar* to return. Both of them showed me the letter and said goodbye to me. The letter was hand-writing. Both of them were well-educated; I learned a lot from them. I just knew after the reintegration that both of them were arrested and killed.

Q: Did you think both of them were arrested?

A: I think both of them did not pay attention because they came to say goodbye to me; they said goodbye happily and told me to continue keeping up hard work, and I wished them meeting their relatives.

Q: Did you know about killing of the people at that time?

A: I did not know about the killing. If I had known at that time, I would have died of heart disease or mental illness. I did not know about killing of the people at that time.

Q: Did you attend meetings?

A: I, Hao and Long did not attend meetings or have a discussion; we just had a chat. At that time, I felt miserable, but I did not know what to do. We did not dare to say;

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we had better just act like deaf and dumb (grow kapok trees ដាំដើមគវ). I did not want anything; I just wanted to survive.

Q: You said that you did not dare to have a discussion; did you know about people being sent for execution?

A: My teachers told me that for communism, just do what we were told to do; do not challenge them; you had to grow kapok trees to survive. If we had ideas for change or gave ideas, we would be in trouble.

Q: Did you know the existence of Baray Choan Dèk (បារាយណ៍ជាន់ដេក) pagoda?

A: It seems that I did not know because I never travel; I only did my work.

Q: Did you know the existence of the re-education centres or prisons in that regime?

A: I never knew. I never had a chance to know; I only knew about myself. I just knew later time.

Q: Did you see the security guards or militiamen walking and supervising at the workplace?

A: There were no militiamen; there were only the zone soldiers, but there were not many. They patrolled in the construction site, being afraid that the enemy destroyed the achievements. They did not disturb us; there was no even a gunshot. I never saw people being shot to dead either.

Q: After you did the survey, did you report to the upper echelon?

A: It seemed that we did not report to the upper echelon because only the upper echelon was only KÈ Pauk who was the Central Zone committee and the overall manager of the construction site. KÈ Pok came to control almost every day by jeep with his two or three body guards, so we did not need to report to the upper echelon, but I did not know if KÈ Pauk reported to the higher level or not. Ta Pauk never scolded us; when he came, he always advised us to follow the plan properly, not to do anything deviant from the plan. We did not do anything different from the plan; at that time, Chhām was my group chairman because he was older than me.

Q: Do you know the names of KÈ Pauk’s driver?

A: I did not know his driver.

Q: You said that you received the plan; was the plan for the whole dam?

A: I received the entire plan (dam plan).

Q: You said that a dam with a big water reservoir and long canals would be built; is it correct that it was 60 kilometres long?

A: Sixty kilometres did not include only the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam, but the sixty kilometres

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also linked to the 6<sup>th</sup> January dam.

Q: How many per cent was the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam and the 6<sup>th</sup> January dam completed?

A: The 1<sup>st</sup> January dam was Kampong Thmor (កំពង់ថ្ម) tributary, called Chinit (ជីនិត) tributary, its construction was started first. This dam was completely finished, but only hydroelectricity such as water wheel and water dynamos were not yet installed. The dam was considered to be 100 per cent completed; they examined and evaluated that this dam was completed according to the number of the kilometers and met the quality. As for the 6<sup>th</sup> January dam, it was called Tang Krasang (តាំងក្រសាំង) tributary. These two dams were systematically linked. I knew that the 6<sup>th</sup> January dam was not completed, and the construction of this dam was continued by Sector 43. The dam was named the 6<sup>th</sup> January dam to mark the date when Yuon (យួន) attached to enter Cambodia in the first time (6 January 1978), and it was also the date of opening the construction of the 6<sup>th</sup> January dam. Until 6 January 1979, the Vietnamese attacked and entered. On 6<sup>th</sup> January 1978 and 6<sup>th</sup> January 1979, the dam was not completely finished. After finishing the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam, I surveyed the land to link the 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 6<sup>th</sup> January, but I did not join in surveying the 6<sup>th</sup> January dam.

Q: How about the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam? Who gave the name?

A: I did not understand. I saw the name of the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam in the plan, and I did not know its meaning either.

Q: Do you know if there was an opening ceremony of the dam construction?

A: I recall that there was an opening ceremony of the dam construction participated by the zone secretary and the sector chairmen. As for the senior leaders from the Centre, I did not see their participation. During the opening of the construction site, four of us also joined to listen with people. At that time, they said about the principles of *Angkar* " were to stop water from flowing to farm paddies ", and there was a slogan "where there is water, there are fish; with paddy rice, we have everything ". After the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam was completed, I noticed that it was real that dry-season paddies were farmed, and there were fish". Everyday, they played revolutionary songs at the site; it looked like it was happy; they played songs everywhere, but in fact, it was very difficult in both eating and staying, and there were health problems, but nobody dared to say. Now if I looked back, it was terrifying; I should not have survived until this time. I think that the song they sang "Great leap forwards" was correct because they used people to work without paying money.

Q: Did you see foreign guests visiting the construction site?

A: I saw Chinese and Korean guests ... coming to see and take photos; then they returned.

Q: When the delegation came to visit the site, who accompanied them/

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A: The zone committee and others I did not know.

Q: Did you hear or see if IENG Thirith (អៀង ធីរិទ្ធ) brought the delegation from Laos to see the dam?

A: I never saw; perhaps I was not there, or I do not recall. Moreover, I rarely went to the warehouse for cement, iron and rock; at the site, thousands tons of iron, cement and rock was stored to prepare to build the dam.

Q: Did you see KHIEU Samphan (ខៀវ សំផន), NUON Chea (នួន ជា) and POL Pot (ប៉ុល ពត) come to visit the 1<sup>st</sup> January dam?

A: I never saw those people come to visit because the senior leaders never walked to let us see them.

Q: Did they summon you to attend study sessions?

A: I was never summoned to attend any study session; I did not know if they summoned Long and Hao to attend study sessions because they were older than me.

Q: Did you join in surveying the dam location before the plan was drawn?

A: No, I never did. After I arrived, they had already paved the way.

Q: Did you know about the purge of the Central Zone leaders?

A: I did not know, but when I visited my younger sibling who lived with Srēng at the public work office of Sector 41, I knew that Srēng had disappeared. At that time, Tiāng (តាំង) took over. Later on, when I visited my sibling in the second time, Tiāng also disappeared. Srēng and Tiāng were my father's friends; both of them disappeared in 1977.

Q: Besides Sector 41, did you know about the purge in other sectors?

A: I did not know; I did not know the district committee of Prey Chhor (ព្រៃឈរ) either.

Q: After Srēng disappeared, did you hear the announcement about his disappearance?

A: They did not announce; they kept it very confidential. If they had announced, the war would have happened at that time.

Q: Did you know about the division of people into the special unit at the construction site?

A: I knew that there was no division at my place because each person was assigned the same work of 2 cubic metres.

Q: Did you hear of male and female moral offences?

A: I did not know because there were only males at my place, and I was still young.

Q: Did you know about the evacuation of people from Phnom Penh city?

A: I just knew that there were 17<sup>th</sup> April people; they came to live in villages and communes.

Q: Did you know about the purge of Cham (ចាម) ethnics?

A: I did not know.

Q: In your village, were there Cham ethnics living in?

A: In my village, there were no Cham ethnics living in. It was hard for me to recognize because in that regime, they wore the same black clothes.

Q: Did you know about the Khmer Rouge policy regarding the purge of those related to the Vietnamese?

A: I did not know; it was even far beyond me (not know).

Q: Did you get married after the Khmer Rouge regime or in the Khmer Rouge regime?

A: I got married in the camp after the regime.

Q: Did you know about collective weddings in that regime?

A: I heard that they had collective weddings. I heard that they had weddings of many couples on that day, but I did not join.

**The interview paused at 3.30 p.m.  
The interview resumed at 2. p.m. on 13 October 2009.**

Q: At that time, did you know about the publication of the Revolutionary Flag magazine and Revolutionary Youth magazine?

A: I never saw them. Those who knew were only the focal points, youth league and party members. Only these people had these books to read.

Q: Were you a party member?

A: No, I was not. If I had been a member, I would have had a book to read like others, but I saw the monthly picture magazine published on the agricultural achievements, dams, canals and photos of big water wheels taken from various provinces.

Q: Was the magazine published only to distribute to your sector?

A: The magazine was published nationwide. Every person could read that magazine.

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Q: Where did you see that magazine?

A: I saw that magazine because they distributed to us to read.

Q: Where did you go to get that magazine?

A: They kept it for everyone to read; it was distributed to be read at the dam construction site. The magazine did not say about the fighting at the battle fields; the magazine did not say about the enemies and the purges of the enemies, and it did not tell people to be alert in the cooperatives.

Q: Do you have anything to add?

A: No.

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 it.

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

End of the interview: at 3.30 p.m. on the same date.

Witness

Interpreter

Investigators

[Thumbprint]

[Signature]

[Signature]

PECH Sokha