



Prosecutor Tarik Abdulhak completed his questioning of witness Norng Sophang at the ECCC on Tuesday.

“Everyone Was Insecure”: Witness Describes Later Stages of Khmer Rouge Rule By Mary Kozlovski

On Tuesday, September 4, 2012, trial proceedings in Case 002 involving the accused Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, and Khieu Samphan, resumed at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

The prosecution and civil party lawyers concluded their questioning of witness Norng Sophang, whose testimony focused on communication under the Khmer Rouge regime. The hearing was adjourned at midday. Ieng Sary monitored proceedings from a holding cell, while Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan were in court for the morning session.

Prosecution Continues Examination of Witness Norng Sophang

International Senior Assistant Co-Prosecutor Tarik Abdulhak resumed the prosecution’s examination by continuing to present the witness with Democratic Kampuchea (DK) era telegrams, beginning with:

- *Telegram – April 10, 1978; No. 324; copied to Grand Uncle; Grand Uncle Nuon; Grand Uncle Van; Grand Uncle Vorn; Office; Archive; date of receipt April 11, 1978; signed by “Se”; “respectfully sent to beloved Committee 870.”*

In response to Mr. Abdulhak, Mr. Sophang said he did not know Se, and he saw the annotation in the top left-hand corner that read “Uncle Nuon.”¹ Mr. Abdulhak quoted from the telegram about the situation along the Thai and Lao borders:

The base of these traitors is on the Dangrek Mountain. We have a plan to search and destroy it. Ah In Tam group previously used the traitors in Sector 103 whose leader was Ah Hang.² He was their supporter. But after we arrested Hang and all of his henchmen in Chaim Ksan district and in Sector 103 military unit, In Tam group has no more support.

Mr. Sophang confirmed to Mr. Abdulhak that Hang from Sector 103 was the same sector secretary Mr. Sophang referred to in his earlier testimony.

- *Telegram – January 10, 1978; copied to Uncle; Uncle Nuon; Brother Van; Brother Vorn; Brother Khieu; Office; Archive; to “respected and beloved 870 committee.”*

Mr. Abdulhak asked if Mr. Sophang had translated this document. The witness referred to the “newly established” Zone 801 – after autonomous zones in Siem Reap and Preah Vihear were removed – from which his team used to decode messages.³ Mr. Abdulhak quoted an excerpt from the telegram describing a study session at which it was said there was starvation in most places in Preah Vihear sector, as there was a large amount of “transplantation” that lacked quality due to a poor harvest. The prosecutor inquired if Mr. Sophang recalled information about shortages and harvests being communicated from the “new North Zone.” After a brief period of confusion when the witness could not locate the aforementioned passage in the document, Mr. Sophang said he had seen other telegrams noting an increase in production.

When Mr. Abdulhak asked if the telegrams Mr. Sophang had been presented with in court appeared to be genuine documents from the DK period, the witness said the telegrams reflected those decoded by his group, with the exception of the telegram sent to “M-081,” which he had never seen.

Mr. Abdulhak cited a transcript from a FBIS (Foreign Broadcast Information Service) report dated April 17, 1975, and aired in Khmer by the Voice of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK). Mr. Abdulhak noted the witness had previously described a message he translated into written language for broadcast on that day and asked if the following text corresponded to that message:

Special news: We have completely liberated Phnom Penh; in the morning of 17 April 1975, at 9:30, we completely liberated Phnom Penh. ... On the northern front, we stormed in from the head of the Chroy Changvar bridge and captured and occupied Wat Phnom on the morning of 17 April. We then advanced forward and occupied both the new and old central markets. On the northwestern front, on the night of 16 April, we occupied all of Tuol Kork. In the morning of 17 April, we vigorously pressed forward and occupied the entire Phnom Penh railway station and all of the ministerial area south of the railway station.

¹ The English translation of this response was unclear, but it appeared that Mr. Sophang did not identify the author of the annotation.

² In Khmer, “Ah” is a derogatory term.

³ The English translation of this response was unclear, but it appeared that Mr. Sophang identified the telegram as originating from this area.

Mr. Sophang confirmed the extract was from the same message he had received on April 17, which was sent by Ponn's group in the battlefield to the rear to be prepared for radio broadcast and which aired for several days.

Mr. Abdulhak turned back to a broadcast from a FBIS report of February 1975 translated into Khmer, aired originally by the Voice of the FUNK and dated February 26, 1975. Mr. Abdulhak said the broadcast was the text of a February 26 press communiqué about the February 24 to 25 second session of the national congress held by FUNK representatives and other organizations.

Concerning the seven traitors in Phnom Penh, the national congress has decided as follows: traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Son Ngoc Thanh, Cheng Heng, In Tam, Long Boret, and Sosthene Fernandez are the chieftains of the traitors and ringleaders of the treacherous anti-national coup d'état which overthrew the independence, peace, and neutrality of Cambodia. ... On behalf of the National United Front for Kampuchea, the Royal Government of the National Union of Kampuchea,⁴ and the Cambodian Peoples' National Liberation Armed Forces, the national congress declares it absolutely necessary to kill these seven traitors for their treason against the nation.

Mr. Sophang said he did not then have a radio and did not know when or where the national congress was held.

Mr. Abdulhak moved his questioning to another document attached to Mr. Sophang's interview with investigators from the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges (OCIJ). A chart drawn by the witness was projected on the screen, which showed a complex series of rectangles and circles with arrows pointing in multiple directions. Mr. Abdulhak attempted to weave through the diagram, first asking Mr. Sophang if it was correct that the four rectangles, starting from the left, contained: "870 K-1"; "870 K-1" with "Pol Pot" in brackets; "President of the State Presidium Khieu Samphan"; and "People's Representative Assembly – Nuon Chea." Mr. Sophang verified the description. Mr. Abdulhak noted that below "870 K-1" there was a circle with "telecommunication" and the names Ponn, Phang, and Yuos. Mr. Sophang confirmed that



"Phang" referred to him. Mr. Abdulhak described two-sided arrows linking autonomous zones and sectors with the telecommunication unit and inquired if this was the communication structure during the DK period.

Mr. Sophang said the diagram demonstrated communication through telegrams but was not "exhaustive," noting that "Zone 801" could have been included and there may have been new communication lines by "8 of 1978."⁵ At that time, the navy, the port at Kampong Som, the fishery, and a group stationed in Aranh⁶ had to report directly to the center, Mr. Sophang said.

⁴ The Royal Government of the National Union of Kampuchea is also known as the GRUNK.

⁵ "8 of 1978" in the English translation is believed to refer to August 1978.

⁶ "Aranh" is today located in Thailand.

Mr. Abdulhak asked about the significance of two-sided arrows between rectangles in the bottom left of the chart – sector, district, commune, village, and zones – and the telecommunications unit. Mr. Sophang explained that messages from villages, communes, and districts went through zones before reaching the telecommunications section. The witness said the zones prepared messages before they were forwarded to the upper echelon, and this system applied in each zone, except the autonomous zones of Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey, and Mondulhiri, which could report directly to the center or telecommunications section. Mr. Sophang explained that autonomous zones were “independent” and unsupervised by another zone; autonomous sectors could report directly to the central committee without going through a zone.

Mr. Abdulhak noted another circle to the right of “telecommunications,” which was entitled “S-71” with the names Pang, Phum, and Khen. Mr. Abdulhak quoted Mr. Sophang as saying in his statement⁷ that Committee 870 guided S-71 with Pang as chairman, Phum as deputy chairman, and Khen as member and chief of the security unit at K-1:

Surrounding S-71 were offices K-7, K-8, K-12, K-18; many other Ks surrounded S-71. The K network around Pang and all these Ks were under the direct guidance of the party center. Pol Pot was party secretary and chairman of Committee 870. No one used the term chairman of Office 870. The telegrams were usually designated as 870, *i.e.*, the central committee.

When asked if it was an accurate summary of his statement, Mr. Sophang concurred. Mr. Abdulhak noted that “870 committee” in a rectangle above “S-71” on the chart; President of the State Presidium Khieu Samphan to the right of “870 committee”; a number of ministries below the presidium; and the People’s Representative Assembly with Nuon Chea at the top on the far right. Mr. Abdulhak sought confirmation of Mr. Sophang’s statement that various ministries – such as the Ministry of Propaganda – were under the center and the state presidium chaired by Khieu Samphan, while the Ministry of Defense headed by Son Sen was separate and under the party center, which led everything. Mr. Sophang testified that he wrote the statement, but corrected that Vorn Vet was in charge of industry and the railway station, not the Ministry of Economics and Finance. Mr. Sophang explained that there were several divisions under the Ministry of Defense – including the air force – that did not report directly to the telecommunications section with the exception of the navy, led by Mr. Muth.

Mr. Abdulhak quoted another passage from Mr. Sophang’s statement in which he said the party led the State Presidium and the People’s Assembly chaired by Nuon Chea. “Committee 870 referred to the central committee with Mr. Pol Pot, Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, and other senior leaders, and S-71 was a small unit of the party center which did not have rights to cover the various ministries and did not have rights over the army,” Mr. Abdulhak quoted Mr. Sophang as saying.

Mr. Sophang confirmed the veracity of the statement. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Abdulhak, Mr. Sophang said that based on his experience under the regime, everything was managed by the party, which had the highest authority. “My understanding is that no one was

⁷ The “statements” are believed to refer to Mr. Sophang’s interviews with investigators from the OCIJ.

above the party, no one was above Committee 870, and, in other words, it was Brother Number One who was the person with the highest authority and power,” he testified.

Prosecution Moves Forward to January 1979

Mr. Abdulhak questioned Mr. Sophang about what happened to copies of records retained at his office in January 1979 before Vietnamese forces arrived. Mr. Sophang said he had not kept a single sheet of paper and everything was “burned down,” which he decided to do as he was the last person to leave at 9:30 a.m. on January 7, 1979, and believed he would never return. Mr. Abdulhak asked if Ponn and Yuos worked in their offices until the arrival of Vietnamese forces, to which the witness said he did not know what happened to them.

At this point, Mr. Abdulhak read from a table of names entitled “from Ministry S-71,” noting that “Number Eight” on the list is:

- *Rath Kan, alias Yuos – who appeared to be listed as age 26 and male; Chairman – Office K-18; May 11, 1978; “under ‘making dossier.’”*

When Mr. Abdulhak asked if the person listed was the same person Mr. Sophang described in his testimony, Mr. Sophang said he did not know Yuos’ real name, though K-18 “belonged to him.”

Mr. Abdulhak read “Number 18” from the list as:

- *Ouch Tan, alias Ponn – age 30; male; Chairman – telephone office of the ministry; April 4, 1978, “under interrogation.”*

Again, Mr. Abdulhak inquired if the person listed was the same person Mr. Sophang referenced in his testimony. Mr. Sophang said he did not know Ponn’s real name, though he noted Ponn was in charge of all telephones in Phnom Penh. However, Mr. Sophang said he was “uncertain” as there was no photograph and it did not refer to Ponn as being in charge of Pol Pot’s “confidential messages.”

The prosecution concluded their questioning of Norng Sophang.

Civil Party Lawyers Commence Questioning of Witness

National Civil Party Co-Lawyer Ty Srinna began questioning of Mr. Sophang by citing his August 29 testimony, asking for detail about his meeting Pol Pot and Nuon Chea at B-17 prior to 1975. Mr. Sophang said he did not meet or speak with Pol Pot or Nuon Chea directly at B-17, but they walked past while inspecting his group’s work. Mr. Sophang said others told him about the two men because he was new and did not recognize them. When asked about B-17 as a “refashioning” or “tempering” site, Mr. Sophang said that at the time he had to be “tempered” in order to fulfill his tasks because he was middle class. Mr. Sophang said they had to see if he could sustain working in the fields day and night, and in the rain, as an “ordinary peasant.” Mr. Sophang testified that his stance had to be tempered before he was assigned to work on the decoding team, but this process did not just apply to that team.

Ms. Srinna inquired if Mr. Sophang came across telegrams discussing measures to be taken against former soldiers from the Lon Nol regime, during his time working in Phnom Penh in the post-1975 period. Mr. Sophang said he did not decode any telegrams concerning Lon Nol and was not aware of such measures. When Ms. Srinna asked about the different types of telegrams, Mr. Sophang said telegrams from sector committees to the upper echelon were confidential as they concerned meetings of “leading cadres” with the upper echelon, and he did not see any from sectors or zones requesting meetings with the upper echelon. There were “open” and “confidential” telegrams, with open telegrams discussing victories that could be broadcast nationwide and worldwide, and confidential telegrams that required a multi-layered encryption, Mr. Sophang testified. Mr. Sophang said his entire team could see which telegrams were open or confidential, and leaders sometimes annotated messages with “confidential” or “strictly confidential.”



When Ms. Srinna asked if another person verified the messages that Mr. Sophang decoded, the witness said that he supervised the team members in their tasks and checked the messages before they were sent to K-1. Mr. Sophang said that Ponn or his group would call to check any potential mistakes with him.

Ms. Srinna queried the witness about his previous testimony on sequentially numbered telegrams, asking how numbers were determined and if they had to be reset. Mr. Sophang said the decoding team usually reset the numbers once they reached 99, though he noted that some telegrams ran to three-digit numbers, which was not a “major issue.”⁸

When Ms. Srinna inquired about the form of telegrams in the DK period, Mr. Sophang said a telegram had a heading addressing the recipient, and closed with compliments – such as wishes for victory or warm fraternity – along with a date and signature. Though various units and zones used different headings and the middle section of the telegram varied, the form was consistent, Mr. Sophang said. He also testified that, in principle, telegrams had to be “short and precise.”

Citing the witness’ prior testimony, Ms. Srinna inquired if he was aware of the population movement from the East to Northwest Zone. Mr. Sophang said he did not decode messages about the evacuation of Muslim people and he did not know what happened at the bases, or during purges or evacuations, as he worked in his office.

Ms. Srinna noted that Mr. Sophang previously testified to his uncertainty about some of his comments to OCIJ investigators that he said should not be used, asking if Mr. Sophang was referring to portions of his statements or the entire documents. Mr. Sophang said sections in which he used “perhaps” and “maybe” should be removed. When Ms. Srinna appeared to repeat the question, President Nonn informed the civil party lawyer that Mr. Sophang’s response was clear.

⁸ The English translation was unclear in this part of the testimony.

Ms. Srinna cited Mr. Sophang's statement to OCIJ investigators in which he responded to a question about a telegram by saying that Pol Pot would respond immediately to certain matters but convene committee meetings about others. Ms. Srinna asked Mr. Sophang to clarify which issues Pol Pot could not decide on his own.⁹ Mr. Sophang said he was unsure and asked the court not to rely on that portion of his statement. In response to a question about standing committee meetings, Mr. Sophang replied that he was not a member of the committee.

Ms. Srinna quoted from Mr. Sophang's second interview with OCIJ investigators that he infrequently decoded letters from Nuon Chea. When Ms. Srinna asked about the content of the messages, Mr. Sophang said Nuon Chea dealt with People's Representative Assembly meetings and, once a year, he would invite assembly members from the bases. Mr. Sophang said he only received one such message in 1977, after which the assembly could not convene due to the situation in the country.

Ms. Srinna cited Mr. Sophang's chart,¹⁰ asking how Committee 870, the State Presidium, and the People's Representative Assembly communicated through telegrams. Mr. Sophang said he never saw a telegram calling for a meeting between the three bodies, as they were all based in Phnom Penh and it was not difficult for them to communicate. Ms. Srinna inquired about correspondence between Cambodia and other countries. Mr. Sophang said he was not able to comment.

Ms. Srinna asked if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) ever sent telegrams to Committee 870 through the witness' unit. Mr. Sophang said the MFA was based in Phnom Penh and made no telegram communications through his team, and he did not know if there was communication between the two bodies. When Ms. Srinna asked if the MFA had its own decoding team, International Lawyer for Ieng Sary Michael Karnavas interjected and asserted that the question had been asked and answered the previous day. Ms. Srinna countered that she was seeking clarification about whether ministries had their own decoding teams and if overseas telegrams did not go through his unit, they could go straight to Committee 870. Mr. Karnavas objected that Ms. Srinna was testifying and making assumptions about the workings of the MFA.

President Nonn said the chamber had reminded the witness of his obligations and he was attempting to provide appropriate testimony. He overruled the objection, stating that the question was different from that previously put to the witness. Responding to Ms. Srinna's question, Mr. Sophang said he knew that communications with other countries existed – including diplomatic relationships – but he was not instructed to deal with any matters concerning the MFA. In response to a query from Ms. Srinna, Mr. Sophang said he did not know how many Committee 870 members there were, or who they were.

⁹ The English translation was unclear in this part of the testimony.

¹⁰ This document appeared to be the chart drawn by the witness during his interview with OCIJ investigators, which Mr. Abdulhak questioned him about earlier in the day.



Ieng Sary (right) waving to the departing East Timor delegation during their visit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea. (Source: Documentation Center of Cambodia)

Citing Mr. Sophang's August 29 testimony, Ms. Srinna asked the witness how matters at the front battlefield were resolved. Mr. Sophang said there were telegrams about victories achieved at various front battlefields that were broadcast on the radio, and when he was at the rear, there was no telegram communication between the two.¹¹ When Ms. Srinna asked if any sector or zone had failed to report to Committee 870, Mr. Sophang said he did not observe any such incidents and had never observed anyone being reprimanded by the upper echelon regarding reports. Ms. Srinna inquired as to who would receive and respond to telegrams on Pol Pot's behalf if he was absent, Mr. Sophang said he did not know and that messages he decoded were sent to the "inside part" to be managed.

Witness Describes Phnom Penh During the Regime

Ms. Srinna asked Mr. Sophang about when he lived and worked in Phnom Penh. The witness responded that initially everything in Phnom Penh was regular, however:

In late 1977 up to early 1979, it seems that everyone was insecure. I also saw reports from the base regarding the incursion or the conflict from the eastern border front. I also saw wounded combatants, and the hospitals were full of those wounded combatants. I also saw people who were displaced from the East and they resided along the riverside, and some even went further than Phnom Penh. I also heard and saw – that is in Phnom Penh during 1978 - there was sabotage. There was hand grenade throwing, killing foreign diplomat, and there were assassination of cadres that occurred in 1978. For all those reasons, I did not live happily. I was always concerned, and that was my impression during that period.

In response to a query from Ms. Srinna about the grenade attack, Mr. Sophang said he did not know who was responsible, but it occurred in 1978. Ms. Srinna asked if telegrams addressed to "870" discussed the purging of enemies. Mr. Sophang said there were many telegrams that discussed this, though he never witnessed it.¹² Ms. Srinna inquired if Mr. Sophang knew of communications Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, and Khieu Samphan had with Pol Pot, or their respective relationships. Mr. Sophang said he had a minor role at the time and did not know about leaders' affairs.

¹¹ The English translation was unclear in this part of the testimony.

¹² The English translation was unclear in this part of the testimony.

Taking over from her colleague, International Civil Party Co-Lawyer Philippine Sutz inquired about Mr. Sophang's August 28 testimony in which he referred to plans to liberate Phnom Penh in the pre-1975 period. Ms. Sutz quoted Mr. Sophang as saying he "received instructions regarding attacks" as there was an "existing plan" with ammunition prepared, and asked for more detail about his instructions. Mr. Sophang said he did not know about the plan as he was attached to the rear and never saw telegrams from Angkar instructing the military to attack. Mr. Sophang noted he had told the chamber that Pol Pot went to the front to the west of Phnom Penh and did not need to send telegrams about the attack because all divisions already surrounded Phnom Penh. When Ms. Sutz attempted to inquire about the witness' family, President Nonn told the witness he did not need to respond, as the question was not relevant to the facts at issue.

Mr. Sophang was again asked about the situation in Phnom Penh during the regime and replied that the city was "quiet" but it only became "strange" in late 1977 and early 1978, with some things that were "out of the ordinary." Mr. Sophang said at the time he saw factory workers who produced goods for distribution to cooperatives and soldiers in the city. In response to a query about his movements, Mr. Sophang said he could not travel frequently because he had to perform his tasks, though he provided training on some occasions. "At that time, even when my brother was sick, I was not able to see him because I could not make such a decision of my own accord. I did not dare ask permission to leave work to visit my sick brother because I did not want to miss the assignment, the tasks handed down to me by Angkar," Mr. Sophang said. He confirmed that people "could not move about freely."

Referring to Mr. Sophang's previous testimony, Ms. Sutz inquired why Mr. Sophang was only able to telephone three locations. Mr. Sophang said he only had a landline telephone, the purpose of which was to facilitate communication and correspondence, and orders and instructions that had to be rendered. Mr. Sophang said that if he had to transmit an urgent message to K-18 that was not decoded, he could ask people to wait for him to decode the message and then communicate it.¹³

Witnessed Questioned about Child Trainees

Ms. Sutz posed a series of questions about Mr. Sophang's previous testimony on children he trained, beginning by asking Mr. Sophang how the children were selected for training. Mr. Sophang said Angkar recruited the children if they came from a "good clean class" and were children of the base people. "They would like people who were honest," Mr. Sophang testified. He said the children told him they stayed at a location on the riverside before coming to his office, and he had to teach some of them to read and write. When Ms. Sutz asked who cared for the children, the witness stated that the children were as young as 12 years old and "could be on their own."

They could dress by themselves; they could take care of themselves. And at the same time I also treated them as my younger siblings, or brothers and sisters. When at night they forgot to cast the mosquito net, I would then help prepare the bed for them because I was at that time as their second parent.

¹³ The English translation was unclear in this part of the testimony; however Mr. Sophang appeared to suggest that if a message was urgent he could communicate it via telephone.

Noting first that Mr. Sophang's interview with OCIJ investigators recorded him as saying the children were aged between 10 and 12 years, Ms. Sutz asked if the children were strictly disciplined. Mr. Sophang said the children were regarded as the "most sincere people," their living conditions were decent, and they were not pressured. Mr. Sophang said while at the school, the children were allowed to eat coconuts and pick fruit from the trees. When Ms. Sutz asked if the children were punished, Mr. Sophang said he never tortured them and if they failed to perform their tasks properly, he would advise them to improve and to become good citizens for the party and the country.

Next, Ms. Sutz quoted from Mr. Sophang's second interview with OCIJ investigators, in which he stated:

The term "to remove" meant to remove from one place or transfer from one tempering place to another, but I did not know the exact location where one was removed and taken. When one was removed it meant that one had committed a mistake or offense. To my knowledge, Yuos was already removed and Pauk had been assigned as his replacement. As for Ponn and The at K-1, I do not know, but they may have been removed as well. As for Ponn, I do not know. The and Ponn, I do not know which one disappeared first.

Ms. Sutz noted that some of Mr. Sophang's statements appeared to be contradictory, and inquired if he knew whether Ponn and The were removed or disappeared. Mr. Sophang said he did not know at the time, but investigators "bombarded" him with questions about this issue. Mr. Sophang said he could only say that he did not know and noted that he also did not know how people were removed at the bases. The witness said he was "very worried" he would be removed if he did not perform his tasks well and tried to "refashion" himself to follow good moral and ethical conduct. "By doing so, I was sure that if I committed no wrongdoing or mistake, I would not be the one who would be removed," Mr. Sophang testified.



Asked if he noticed any people vanishing. Mr. Sophang said he learned that when Yuos disappeared, Pauk became chair of K-18, which he felt was "not normal" because he had received instructions from Yuos up until 1978. Mr. Sophang testified that Yuos' disappearance worried him because there must have been a reason for it.

Ms. Sutz sought clarification from Mr. Sophang on comments in his previous interviews, asking whether he understood Office 870 to refer to both the central and standing committees. Mr. Sophang said he was unclear about the term "committee" and therefore stated that he was not sure, as several terms were used interchangeably.¹⁴ Ms. Sutz again inquired if, for Mr. Sophang, "Office 870," "central committee," and "standing committee" refer to the same entity. Mr. Karnavas asserted such a question mischaracterized Mr. Sophang's testimony. President Nonn instructed Mr. Sophang not to respond to the question.

¹⁴ The English translation was unclear in this part of the testimony.

Ms. Sutz cited Mr. Sophang's first interview with OCIJ investigators in which he was shown telegrams and asked why Nuon Chea was copied into them, and replied that Nuon Chea was "in charge of the service¹⁵ relating to people." Ms. Sutz asked about Nuon Chea's responsibilities. Mr. Sophang said it was publicly announced that Nuon Chea was chairman of the People's Representative Assembly and he therefore knew about matters related to the people, as he represented them.

Quoting an extract from the witness' statement in which he said issues of internal misconduct were under Nuon Chea's purview and "moral offenses" pertained to rape, Ms. Sutz asked if Mr. Sophang handled many telegrams that dealt with moral offenses, and rape specifically. Mr. Sophang responded, "It was sent from Mondulkiri. I only saw one telegram on this. And at that time, when someone was reported as having committed moral offense, it means that person could have been committing the sexual offense or misconduct."

Next, Ms. Sutz cited Mr. Sophang's second interview with OCIJ investigators in which he referred to a person named Kammy as the head of a military unit in Committee 870 who had "sacrificed his life on the battlefield" in 1978 to 1979.¹⁶ When asked to provide more information about Kammy, Mr. Sophang said Kammy was from an ethnic minority group in the Northeast and led a unit of soldiers from the office adjacent to the school where Mr. Sophang worked. "Mr. Kammy led the unit that was under the direct supervision of S-71 and direct supervision of 870," Mr. Sophang said, noting that Kammy would arrange security matters for visiting guests. Mr. Sophang said he did not know the name of the military unit. When Ms. Sutz asked if he knew the code name "Y-10," Mr. Sophang said he had heard of it. Ms. Sutz inquired if Mr. Sophang was in a position to say that Y-10 was the code for the military unit headed by Kammy. The witness testified that he did not know.

Civil party lawyers concluded their questioning of Norng Sophang.

At midday, President Nonn adjourned the day's proceedings, which are set to continue on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 9 a.m., with questioning of Norng Sophang by the defense team for Khieu Samphan.

¹⁵ The word "service" was later translated as "sector" in the English translation.

¹⁶ The statement also referred to K-1 as "Pol Pot's station" and K-3 as "that of Khieu Samphan."