

Ong Thong Hoeung began his testimony before the ECCC on Tuesday.

**The Court Hears Testimony from Two Intellectuals
Who Returned to Cambodia During the Democratic Kampuchea Regime**
By Erica Embree, JD/LLM (International Human Rights) candidate, Class of 2015,
Northwestern University School of Law

Witness Suong Sikoeun, former personnel at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Khmer Rouge intellectual, continued his testimony Tuesday, August 7, 2012, in Case 002 against accused Nuon Chea, Khieu Samphan, and Ieng Sary at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). During the afternoon proceedings, the court heard testimony from a new witness, Ong Thong Hoeung due to Mr. Sikoeun's health concerns. The day's proceedings were observed by 300 villagers from Kampong Cham province and 150 villagers from Kampong Speu province.

All parties, except the accused Ieng Sary, were present in the courtroom. Ieng Sary was in his holding cell and had made a request to follow the day's proceedings from there due to his health issues. Trial Chamber President Nil Nonn granted his request.

Issues with Ieng Sary's Trial Observation Raised

After the court was called to order for the day, National Co-Lawyer for Ieng Sary Ang Udom was recognized by President Nonn. Mr. Udom brought it to the Chamber's attention that his team was informed by their client Ieng Sary that he was unable to follow the proceedings yesterday. The counsel explained that, particularly during the afternoon session, Ieng Sary's "memory deteriorated greatly." He noted that if this continues to occur and if so instructed by their client, they would request that the Chamber adjourn the hearing of testimony from important witnesses, particularly when the testimony would relate directly to Ieng Sary and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After hearing this statement by Mr. Udom, the judges conferred. President Nonn acknowledged Mr. Udom's statements regarding Ieng Sary's status. He stated that the bench had not made a decision, as there was not a clear request put before them and instructed counsel that if they wished to make a formal request, they should use the appropriate procedure. President Nonn then gave the floor to the prosecution to examine the witness.

The Witness Testifies about the God-Like Nature of the Party

International Senior Assistant Prosecutor Vincent de Wilde started off the day's testimony with the reading of an excerpt from a manuscript written by the witness. Mr. de Wilde quoted: "To be accepted as a member of the party and to be well regarded by the leadership ... that was everybody's basic wish. The party represented an all-powerful institution. It was, in a way, a new god." Mr. de Wilde asked the witness whether it was "simple" to accept, as an intellectual, "the paramount power of the Democratic Party of Kampuchea." The witness explained that there were two facets of this matter, the intellectual and the revolutionary who wanted to be a communist. He described that during the Democratic Kampuchea (DK) regime it was thought that the second facet was of greater priority than the first.

When asked if he could critically examine the party's policies during the DK regime, Mr. Sikoeun replied:

It was not achieved. I myself together with other party members did not have the intention to pursue it, as we all considered the party as a god. Whatever was said by the party we had to follow it and accomplish it. Whatever views expressed by the party we had to agree and conform to such opinion of the party. We were educated in the Western countries, which were the best for the capitalist and the feudalist. Even if we try to eliminate our old views and try to get hold of the new views, we could not be 100 percent pure. We were still influenced somewhat by the old view.

When asked if the god-like nature of the party might have explained why the party did not allow other religions to exist or be practiced, the witness referred to Karl Marx who, he said, once stated, "Religion is an opium for a people." The witness explained, "So religion was considered as an opium in the ideology which was against the revolution."

Mr. de Wilde Asks about Spies and Disappearances

Returning to the document, Mr. de Wilde quoted again from the witness's manuscript, from the section "Official Proclamation of the Communist Part of Kampuchea." He quoted:

On the 27 of September 1977 an official delegation of the Communist Party of Kampuchea led by Pol Pot traveled to the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on official visit. This provided the leadership of Democratic Kampuchea with an opportunity to officially proclaim the existence of the Communist Party of Kampuchea. ... For two consecutive days and nights the entire Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff was mobilized to prepare and circulate French and English translations of a document about the history of the party under the title *Solemn Proclamation of the Official Formation of the Communist Party of Kampuchea*. We also wrote the speech that Pol Pot was due to deliver in China and North Korea.

Mr. de Wilde then put a document before the witness and read identifying information from it. The document was titled *Grandiose Victory of the Communist Party of Kampuchea*, and purported to be a speech by Pol Pot, as published in 1977 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. When asked if this document was one of the ones drafted at the time to which the previous

excerpt, Mr. Sikoeun simply noted that the document had been translated into French and English, was disseminated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs's Propaganda and Information department.

Moving on, Mr. de Wilde recalled the witness's testimony that he had four and a half incriminations against himself and that Keat Chhon had 60 incriminations. Mr. de Wilde inquired whether there were incriminations in documents against Thiounn Prasith. Mr. Sikoeun replied that he was aware of Thiounn Prasith having been accused of being an agent with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and that the security section planned to arrest him and Keat Chhon. Regarding how he found out that these two individuals had been incriminated in documents, Mr. Sikoeun replied that he became aware of it through Ieng Sary in a meeting. However, he could not remember when the meeting occurred. When asked how Ieng Sary got these confessions, specifically Touch Kham-Doeun's confessions and other ones that incriminated the witness, Mr. Sikoeun replied that he did not have clear knowledge of this matter.



Regarding what other confessions Ieng Sary read or referred to during meetings, the witness recalled that Ieng Sary read aloud some confessions and gave examples. One confession was from Poeng Kimsea, who had been a doctor and the younger brother of Poeng Kimsoy. His brother Poeng Kimsoy was an editor-in-chief of a newspaper and a close friend of the witness, as well as of Ieng Sary, Pol Pot, and Khieu Samphan. Mr. Sikoeun recalled from Poeng Kimsea's confession that he was alleged to have been inducted into the CIA network. The witness stated that he concluded that the writing was done under coercion because the induction process described therein was very similar to the induction process to become a member of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK). He stated that the "swearing words were almost identical," as was the formality observed.

When Mr. de Wilde inquired whether other confessions were read out by Ieng Sary, such as Koy Thuon's confession, the witness confirmed that there were others. The witness referred to one instance involving a document that referred to Keat Chhon's wife who was Vietnamese and worked at the Pasteur Institute. Regarding Koy Thuon's confession, Mr. Sikoeun explained that it was not read aloud by Ieng Sary. He explained how he himself had briefly looked at it when So Hong, the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the time, gave it to him on the morning of January 7, 1979, before the Vietnamese invasion of Phnom Penh. The witness stated that he destroyed the document, although he was not aware if it was the original or a copy, on the night before he left Phnom Penh.

The prosecutor quoted Mr. Sikoeun's response in his interview with the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges (OCIJ), reading:

The situation was tense, especially within the Foreign Ministry in 1978. ... We had started hearing about the disappearances of Koy Thuon, Ho Nim, Touch Phoeun, and there were also people who disappeared from the office within the Ministry. For example, Ms. Seu Vasy who was born Cheam

Sam-Art who was in charge of the diplomatic store, provisioning the diplomats. Everyone was worried. I remember that Ms. So Se from the East Zone was terrified.

Asked about Cheam Sam-Art's role, the witness testified that she was a party member and that she was involved with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the diplomat section. Mr. de Wilde questioned whether Ieng Sary defended her like he had defended Keat Chhon or Thiounn Prasith. Mr. Sikoeun first stated that he wanted to clarify the difference between arrest and disappearance. He indicated that a radio report had been broadcast yesterday [August 6, 2012] that described the witness as saying people had been arrested, when he had said they disappeared. He emphasized that his reference to these people's disappearances did not mean they were arrested; some, he said, could have been transferred elsewhere. Regarding Ieng Sary's defense of people, he said he could not answer because he did not know what happened to them. Mr. de Wilde noted that Thiounn Prasith was on a S-21 prisoner list, wherein he is described as a member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. de Wilde quoted again from the witness's OCIJ interview, "Militants were required total frankness towards the party. 'Enemy from within' were divided into several categories; they were the CIA agents, KGB agents, Vietnamese agents, and agents of the SDECE – French Counter-Intelligence Agency." Mr. de Wilde requested the witness list who had been identified members of the French Counter-Intelligence Bureau. Mr. Sikoeun explained that the allegation was based on a confession, and only two individuals were identified, Chao Seng, who was Prince Sihanouk's former Chief of Cabinet and a minister in the Front, and, Van Piny, who was the former cultural advisor connected to the Cambodia's embassy in France and a Vice Minister of the GRUNK. The witness further testified that these two individuals did not work at B-1, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He could not recall who told him they were secret agents of France, explaining that it might have been through a confession, but he could not recall whose.

Mr. de Wilde inquired whether Mr. Sikoeun knew of someone named Lean Seveivuth, to which the witness replied that Mr. Seveivuth was his cousin, who had worked in the DK embassy in Beijing prior to returning to Cambodia. The witness further stated that Mr. Seveivuth was the brother-in-law of Kong Sam-Ol. When asked if Mr. Seveivuth was also accused of being a spy for France, the witness said he did not know. He described how he later read his cousin's confession but cannot clearly recall it, but he believes it indicated that "he had his network with the official of the Khmer Republic under the Lon Nol administration." Mr. de Wilde noted that Mr. Seveivuth's confession was in the case file and that Van Piny was on the S-21 prisoner lists in the case file.

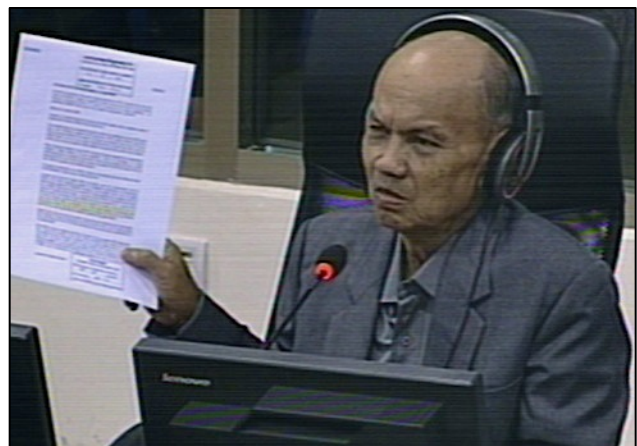
Mr. de Wilde next requested that Mr. Sikoeun provide the names of persons alleged to be KGB agents when he was working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The witness stated that he knew that Hak Seang Lay Ny, the former President of the Khmer Student Union in the USSR, was a KGB agent. When asked about Keo Bory and Krin Lean, the witness said he had no knowledge of whether they were accused of belonging to the KGB but added that people who studied in Russia were typically accused of being KGB members. He also added that he was accused of being a KGB member while in China and then was accused of being in the CIA when he returned to Cambodia. He concluded, "It was all exaggeration." Mr. de Wilde noted that the S-21 confessions of Hak Seang Lay Ny and Krin Lean *alias* Som were placed in the court file.

Continuing down the list of intelligence agencies, Mr. de Wilde asked the witness to give examples of CIA agents. To clarify to what he was referring, Mr. de Wilde quoted from the witness's OCIJ statement, in which he stated, in response to a question relating to who were accused of being CIA agents, "We can mention Koy Thuon, Ho Nim, In Sopheap, all the intellectuals, the members of the General Association of Khmer Students, all the regional leaders of the Northwest Zone, Ke Kimhuot, Khek Penn, Van Piny, etc." When asked who Ke Kimhuot was, Mr. Sikoeun explained that Ke Kimhout's Revolutionary name was Soth and that he was responsible for Sector 4 or 7 of the Northwest zone prior to being appointed in 1978 to represent the DK in Yugoslavia. The witness further testified that Mr. Kimhout did not take up this post as a DK representative, explaining that Ieng Sary told Ny Kan, the director of the Protocol Office, that he informed the Ambassador of Yugoslavia in Cambodia that Ke Kimhuot was not going to Yugoslavia because he was ill. The witness testified that he did not know where Ke Kimhuot went after that. Mr. de Wilde stated that the S-21 confession of Ke Kimhuot was in the case file.

Next, the prosecutor asked the witness about Khek Penn. Mr. Sikoeun testified that Khek Penn did not work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but that, to his knowledge, Mr. Penn was living in Poi Pet and was in charge of the Communication Committee for the Cambodian-Thai Relation Committee. The witness indicated that he met Mr. Penn at the Ministry and confirmed that Mr. Penn's revolutionary name was Sou. Mr. de Wilde noted that Khek Penn's confession was in the case file.

Mr. de Wilde brought up Svay Bory. He asked for clarification on Mr. Bory's position at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, asking if Svay Bory was employed temporarily there. Mr. Sikoeun replied that he was not aware of whether Svay Bory was at the Ministry on a temporary basis. He described how Svay Bory was not assigned to specific duties when he arrived at the Ministry, explaining that he was "under observation as to which position he was to be given." He added that Svay Bory was only at the Ministry for a short time. The witness further testified that he was not aware of what happened to Svay Bory after leaving the Ministry, adding that he disappeared like Sarin Chhak and Duong Sam-Ol. Mr. de Wilde stated that Svay Bory is referred to in an S-21 prisoner list and that his confessions were also in the case file. He indicated that it is mentioned that Svay Bory was a deputy in the Information and Propaganda section of the Ministry.

Mr. de Wilde next inquired whether base cadre, like Ke Kimhuot, were summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be diplomats or whether they were told they were going to be diplomats. The witness discussed in his reply how the group of intellectuals could not become diplomats because they "were not considered pure and [their] position was not considered firm." Mr. de Wilde asked the witness whether in the DK period base cadres who came through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to become diplomats, such as Ke Kimhuot, disappeared prior to assuming their duties. Mr. Sikoeun did not directly respond



to the question and instead talked about how the people who were to be diplomats had to meet DK qualifications and that Pol Pot decided who was to be sent to the Ministry.

Mr. de Wilde then specifically asked for names of base cadres who went through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then disappeared, such as Meas Touch, the Ambassador in Laos who was then executed at Tuol Sleng, as the witness had indicated in his draft manuscript. Mr. Sikoeun stated that he could not remember all the names he gave to the Co-Investigating Judges. He added that he did not know that Meas Touch was sent to Tuol Sleng, noting that he did not know of either Tuol Sleng's or Boeng Trabek's existence at that time. He explained that Van Piny told him where Meas Touch was. He added that, as for the diplomats, Meas Touch, the ambassador to Laos; Chhoeun, the ambassador to North Vietnam; Ke Kimhuot, from the Northwest; and some other cadres "were separate from the rest." He added there were also Teanh and Nart, and they came to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a short time. Mr. de Wilde stated for the record that the confessions of Meas Touch, Nart, and Teanh were in the case file.

Mr. de Wilde asked the witness if Ieng Sary ever informed him about why Ieng Sary allowed these individuals to be temporarily kept at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Co-Lawyer for Ieng Sary Michael Karnavas was recognized and objected that Mr. de Wilde asserted a fact that was not in evidence. Reframing his question, Mr. de Wilde asked the witness how he knew Pol Pot decided to keep these individuals temporarily at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The witness, in his response, asserted that only base cadres were qualified to be diplomats, not intellectuals, adding, "There was nothing strange for them to temporarily stay at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs awaiting for the posting." He also stated that these cadres, despite temporarily staying at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were not under Ieng Sary's instruction.

The prosecutor asked for the source behind the witness's assertion that Pol Pot made this decision regarding the base cadre. Mr. Sikoeun indicated that there was not an official record for appointments. He then explained his reasoning behind his assertion, stating that his understanding was that as the Party's Secretary, Pol Pot "had all the power to decide." He asserted that when it came to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pol Pot could make decisions without Ieng Sary's knowledge. He testified that he did not know whether Pol Pot consulted with others while in the Standing Committee but said he stayed with Pol Pot for two years and knew that the leader made unilateral decisions without consultation. After the witness concluded his response, Mr. de Wilde informed the Court that he had concluded his examination of the witness, and the court adjourned for the morning break.

The Witness's Health Poses Concerns

Returning from the break, President Nonn asked the witness about his health and whether he could continue giving testimony, noting that the court had received word that his health was not good. Mr. Sikoeun indicated that his health was deteriorating, noting problems with his hearing and eyesight. He expressed the concern that continuing testimony would exacerbate his health issues and requested that he not be required to testify during the afternoon. Regarding tomorrow, the witness indicated that he thinks he could testify in the morning and will try his best to do so in the afternoon but asked that he be allowed to inform the court during the morning if he is not feeling well enough to testify during the afternoon. After conferring with the judges, President

Nonn granted his request and noted that the witness will continue testifying until 12 p.m. this afternoon, and then testimony of another witness will be heard.

Counsel for the Civil Parties Examine the Witness

After the floor was handed to the counsel for the civil parties, National Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyer Pich Ang announced that Civil Party Co-Lawyers Moch Sovannary and Ferdinand Djamman Nzepa would complete the examination

Ms. Sovannary began her examination of the witness by inquiring whether Mr. Sikoeun knew an individual named Ouk Ket when he was at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The witness replied that Ouk Ket was not a part of the Ministry but explained that he knew both Ouk Ket and his wife, a French national who worked with the DK embassy in Senegal or Egypt. He described them as “industrious,” “gentle,” “polite,” and “open-minded” and noted that Ouk Ket was easy to approach. The witness did not know if Ouk Ket worked overseas during the entirety of the DK regime or whether he returned to Cambodia.

Asked whether it could be said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs directed and supervised the management of the DK embassies abroad, the witness replied that generally, this was the case. He added that the DK regime “was a communist regime, so in any particular ministry it was not up to the leader of that institution or ministry was responsible, but instead the secretary of the party attached to the ministry or the embassy who had the power and had all overall responsibility. As for the actual movement or internal work arrangement, I did not know.”

Ms. Sovannary asked the witness whether there was a formal procedure that each section or department had to report to Ieng Sary. Mr. Sikoeun replied that he did not know but added that he was aware that the report was made orally and rarely in writing, as confidentiality and secrecy had to be kept during the DK regime.

When asked if the witness knew Rochoem Ton *alias* Phyu Phuong *alias* Chiem, the witness replied that he did not know him “clearly,” adding that he knew Mr. Ton had been at one point the deputy governor of the Malai district.



Ms. Sovannary referred to the witness’s March 12, 2009, OCIJ interview, quoting the witness, “At one time there was even discussion whether to transfer the administration of Phnom Penh to the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs], but Ieng Sary opposed it.” Ms. Sovannary asked what body made the decision relating to the administration of Phnom Penh. Mr. Sikoeun replied that he did not know what body had made the decision but stated that he learned about it from Ieng Sary. He added that the governing of Phnom Penh’s administration, as well as civil aviation, which had also been referenced in the quote, were “not actually within the Foreign Affairs Ministry.”

Ms. Sovannary inquired whether Ieng Sary’s opposition, which the witness mentioned in his statement, was effective. Mr. Sikoeun replied that he was not aware of whether others objected to

the idea, but added, “His opposition to this idea was effective because later on the administration of Phnom Penh was not under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.”

Moving on, Ms. Sovannary referred to an excerpt from the witness’s May 7, 2009, OCIJ interview, quoting, “In order to avoid the criticism, I requested to live at the countryside, and as for the Democratic Kampuchea becoming a poor peasant was the last ambition of all party members. However, we were disappointed when Ieng Sary said we would be killed when we go there.” Ms. Sovannary asked whether, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ framework, Ieng Sary had the authority to make the decision regarding the transfer of personnel to the countryside to work. Mr. Sikoeun said he did not know and added that it was he and In Sopheap, who had also been criticized, who made this request.

Next, Ms. Sovannary asked about discipline of Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff, inquiring what measure was taken when it was decided that Ministry personnel had made a serious mistake. The witness said he did not know exactly how it was in practice but described generally that there would first be reeducation for party members or Ministry staff. He explained, “This means that we treat the people’s sickness in order to make the people become better.” If this education was ineffective, he explained, then another measure would be taken, which included the suspension of the person’s party membership, which was a “serious organizational matter to be taken.” He noted that this sanction did not happen within his section “since no one actually violated the disciplines.”

Switching to a different topic, Ms. Sovannary indicated that she was going to ask about the intellectuals who returned to Cambodia. Ms. Sovannary referred again to the witness’s March 2009 statement with the OCIJ. She quoted, “Everyone had to transit through the Cambodian Embassy in Beijing and as the head of communication with other embassies in Phnom Penh it was done in two lines, that is the party’s line and the state of the government line. ... As for me I was in charge of only receiving them at the airport.” Ms. Sovannary asked the witness how many times he received diplomats from the airport and when. The witness clarified that he received foreign diplomats at the airport but not Cambodian diplomats returning from abroad. The latter, he said, he did not receive at the airport, adding that he only met them once in late 1975 in a house in Phnom Penh.

Turning to confessions, Ms. Sovannary asked the witness about why Ieng Sary read certain confessions to the Ministry’s staff. Mr. Sikoeun recalled that the confessions were read when Ieng Sary was presenting on the internal situation, which he said “also covers the situation regarding the production and the fulfillment of the quota set by the party and the strengthening of the new revolution and the enemy activities both inside and outside the country, within the party’s rank, as well as within the military.”

Regarding the disappearance of staff at B-1, she asked how effective Ieng Sary’s defense was of Thiounn Prasith and Touch Kham Doeun, to which the witness replied that it was effective since they continued to work at the Ministry.

Ms. Sovannary moved on, referring to the witness’s December 19, 2007, interview with the OCIJ. She quoted:

There was one case in 1977 when there was a meeting in the unit with Ieng Sary. There was a report that Seng Ly, an engineer from France who was at the Chrang Chamres unit, went to shoot a bird and walked into the military administered zone, and he was arrested by the military and disappeared since. At that time, the Chrang Chamres unit contacted the military for his release, but the military responded that they did not know.

Ms. Sovannary asked the witness what was discussed during the meeting in which Ieng Sary described this incidence. Mr. Sikoeun replied that he could not remember the type of meeting it was but did recall that the meeting took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. When asked if he knew why Seng Ly disappeared, he replied that he did not, adding, "I did not try to know that matter, because at that time we should only know what we were supposed to know."

Ms. Sovannary referred to the witness's earlier testimony that he returned to Cambodia in May 2005. She inquired whether he witnessed the people being evacuated from the Phnom Penh. Mr. Sikoeun replied that he did not see the evacuation, noting that it had already concluded by the time he returned by ship to Cambodia and arrived in Phnom Penh. He also did not see, during his stay in Phnom Penh until the fall of the regime, the return of these people to Phnom Penh.

Reading again from the witness's March interview with the OCIJ, Ms. Sovannary quoted, "I was the Khmer Rouge cadre until 1975, because the Khmer Rouge were not wrong until then, but they subsequently betrayed their ideals." Ms. Sovannary asked the witness if he observed during the Khmer Rouge regime activities that "betrayed their ideals." Mr. Sikoeun replied that he was not aware of the killings and crimes taking place throughout Cambodia from 1975 to early 1979. He explained that he remained in Phnom Penh and when he went with a foreign delegation to the countryside, he did not see these crimes. Ms. Sovannary sought clarification, questioning what in particular had lead Mr. Sikoeun to assert that the party had "betrayed their ideals." Mr. Sikoeun explained that he made this conclusion after 1979 and reemphasized that he did not know of these crimes while working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Sovannary concluded her examination and handed the floor to her colleague, Mr. Nzepa.

Co-Civil Party Lawyer Ferdinand Djamman Nzepa Examines the Witness

Mr. Nzepa began by asking the witness about his experience of the city when he arrived in Phnom Penh by boat in May 1974. Mr. Sikoeun stated that "frankly" he was not surprised, as he was aware that the city had been evacuated. He described his first impression, after being overseas for so long, was of the smallness of the city. He also said he saw Maol Phorik, who was an engineer in public works and had been a former member of the Marxist-Leninist circle in Phnom Penh; Mr. Phorik, explaining his presence in the city, had told the witness that he was allowed to remain in the city to help with the works.

Next, Mr. Nzepa asked the witness about the place he stayed upon his arrival in Phnom Penh and inquired whether Mr. Sikoeun met with people at this house. The witness replied that, upon arrival, he staying in the "pink house," which had belonged to one of the wives of Prince Sihanouk and was near the Royal Palace. He testified that he was staying there with Keat Chhon and described how some of Mr. Chhon's former friends, including Touch Phoeun and a few other teachers, used to come to the house. Mr. Nzepa clarified that he wanted to know whether the witness talked about the current situation within the country with visitors. Mr. Sikoeun

replied that guests usually spoke of their friends, asking where they were, for example. He indicated that their friends were mainly members of the Marxist-Leninist circle in Paris and included Khiev Komar and Ros Cheathor, who were intellectuals returning from abroad. Mr. Nzepa sought clarification about whether this meant that the witness did not discuss the evacuation of Phnom Penh with these people. Mr. Sikoeun replied that, in so far as he remembers, he did not discuss the evacuation with them because “the party kept them in Phnom Penh in order to undertake certain functions so they did not talk or describe anything concerning the evacuation of Phnom Penh city.”

Mr. Nzepa next asked the witness about his statement in one of his OCIJ interviews in which he said he had been in charge of security in Beijing before Phnom Penh fell. When asked who appointed him as the head of security, Mr. Sikoeun, after stating that he was a member of the FUNK in Beijing then, said that he was appointed to this security position by General Duong Sam-Ol, who chaired the committee. Regarding whether he needed to have specific skills for this position, he explained, “I did not have any necessary qualification or skills because security back in Beijing was not an issue because it was in Beijing, in China.” He then explained that General Sam-Ol appointed him since they were close, adding, “I assumed that position because I knew him personally, if it was not him as the supervisor then I would not do it because I was not interested in arresting people or so.” He indicated that his interest was in economics.

Turning to the topic of the intellectuals, Mr. Nzepa asked the witness who encouraged the Cambodian intellectuals living overseas to return to the country. Mr. Sikoeun replied, “Overall it was the responsibility of the Front or each organs; for example, if it was in France, then the organization in charge of that would appeal them to return. And I think the situation of that time was quite pressing that even if there was an appeal, then the people would be eager to come back to the country because at that time there was a united front headed by then-Prince Sihounouk.” He added that Cambodian youth loved Khieu Samphan, Hou Youn, and Ho Nim, noting that Cambodian people tend to respect the Monk, the Buddha, and Dama and that Khieu Samphan was considered a Buddha, Hou Youn a Monk, and Ho Nim a Dama.



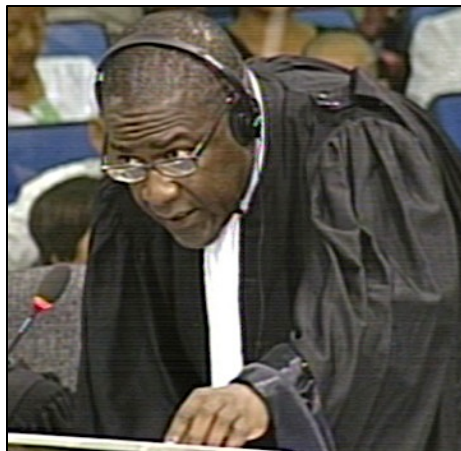
Suong Sikoeun (center) joins Khieu Samphan (right) and Lao Prince Sihanouk (left) during the Prince's visit to Cambodia during DK. (Source: Documentation Center of Cambodia)

When asked whether he knew if Ieng Sary had to travel overseas during 1970 to 1975 to encourage intellectuals to return to Cambodia, Mr. Sikoeun stated, “It was his duty.” He noted that Ieng Sary’s commitment in returning to Cambodia to “serve the people and the nation” was well received by intellectuals living in France. He also said that he did believe that Ieng Sary did not know what would happen to those who returned.

Mr. Nzepa referred to the witness’s earlier testimony that he accompanied Ieng Sary in 1974 to Paris to convince intellectuals to return from abroad and asked whether any students challenged or criticized what was happening in Cambodia. Mr. Sikoeun clarified that the trip had occurred in 1975 and said he could not recall who was in the delegation. He described how “those national compatriots were eager to come back to the country to help rehabilitate the country and there was no one who objected.”

Questions Arise over Authorship of a Letter Attributed to the Witness

Mr. Nzepa next referred to a letter dated October 5, 1996, which he said was the witness’s reply to his former wife and in which Ny Kan and Son Sen are referred to as “butchers of the people.” When asked what these individuals did to be called butchers, Mr. Sikoeun requested to be shown the document. He also asserted that he did not say these two individuals were butchers, emphasizing that Ny Kan was his friend. After he was shown the letter, he asked for the original letter, which he said was handwritten in French. He indicated that the letter before him was not in his handwriting but was a typed document.



International Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyer Elisabeth Simonneau Fort was recognized; she stated that the document was contained in the case file and is not disputed. President Nonn asked the witness to review the document, noting that the letter had been re-typed. Mr. Sikoeun asked President Nonn to allow him to talk with his duty counsel. President Nonn noted that the witness may consult with his duty counsel when it relates to concern over self-incrimination but that this question does not incriminate the witness.

Mr. Sikoeun stated that he did not recognize the document and that from what he remembers, he did not make this accusation about Ny Kan. He insisted that Ny Kan was a close friend of his, as was his wife. He further indicated that his work was not related to the work of Ny Kan, who was a Secretary at the West Zone. The witness again asserted his desire to verify this document against his original letter, which was handwritten, and said that he wanted to talk with his duty counsel about the probative value of the document. President Nonn replied that the document was in the case file. Ieng Sary’s counsel, Mr. Udom, argued that it is important that the witness review the original before the document is admissible. President Nonn asked the civil party counsel if they had the original, at which point Mr. Nzepa stated that there was another document from the *Phnom Penh Post*, wherein the letter to his former wife was published in its original form in November 1996. Mr. de Wilde clarified that the original letter itself was not in the file, but what had been published in the *Phnom Penh Post* was.

Prior to adjourning for lunch, President Nonn told the witness that his testimony had not concluded and that he was to return tomorrow by 9:00 a.m. International Co-Lawyer for Nuon Chea noted Nuon Chea's current health issues and requested that his client be allowed to follow the proceedings during the afternoon from his holding cell. This request was granted.

Witness Ong Thong Hoeung Takes the Stand

After returning from lunch, the court's graffier confirmed that the next witness, Ong Thong Hoeung, has no relationship by blood or law to any of the accused but noted that he does have a blood relationship with one of the civil parties. Further, the graffier stated that the witness had already taken an oath.

Once the witness was summoned to the courtroom, President Nonn asked him several identifying and preliminary questions. The witness's name is Ong Thong Hoeung. He was born on August 7, 1945. He currently resides at Brussels in Belgium and is retired. His wife's name is Chhuo Buny, and he has two daughters.

The witness confirmed that he only has a blood relationship to one of the civil parties to the proceedings and not to the accused or other parties. He also confirmed that he had taken an oath this morning. President Nonn informed the witness of his right as a witness not to self-incriminate and his duty to tell the truth and respond to the questions posed. The witness said that he did not require a duty counsel.

Mr. Thong Hoeung testified that he was interviewed once by the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges (OCIJ); this interview took place in Phnom Penh, near the Independence Monument, and occurred over three years ago. He confirmed that he reviewed the written records of the interviews and that these records reflected his statements to the investigators.

Prosecution Begins Examining the Witness

Senior Assistant Prosecutor Dararasey Chan asked the witness about his education, specifically about what schools he attended and what degrees he has. The witness replied that he studied at his native village, then at the college in Koh Thom, and then at the lycée in Phnom Penh. The witness also went to France in 1965 to study political economy. He stated that he did not study in any other field but said that he closely followed European affairs as well as French literature.

The Prosecution Examines the Witness on His Time in France

Regarding why he left Cambodia to go to France, the witness referred to France as a "symbol of education" to people in Cambodia and said it was his childhood dream to travel to France, so when he was offered the chance he went. He testified that he was in France from 1965 until 1976. When asked if he joined a political party or movement while in France, Mr. Thong Hoeung replied that he was a sympathizer of the French Socialist Party, and after Lon Nol's coup d'état and Prince Sihanouk's appeal in 1970, he became a member of the Khmer Student Union.

When Mr. Chan inquired about why the witness joined the Khmer Student Union, Mr. Thong Hoeung explained that he had great respect for Khieu Samphan, Ho Nim, and Hou Youn, and that he knew they had been members of the Khmer Student Union, so he wanted to follow in

their footsteps. When asked about why the Khmer Student Union was established, the witness explained that, from what he knew, senior students, including Ritay Vong, formed the Khmer Student Association after World War II which was made up of approximately 20 members. He explained that there was later a leftist and rightist split, with the Khmer Student Union being the leftist one. When the witness was asked about the relationship between the Khmer Student Union and the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK), he said that he was not aware at that time of the party's existence.

In response to more questions about the Khmer Student Union, including who the president was, Mr. Thong Hoeung explained that Suong Sikoeun was the president and that he got in touch with Mr. Sikoeun at the Khmer house shortly after his arrival. When asked who founded the Khmer Student Union, the witness replied that Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan, and Thiounn Mumm did, as well as other senior people whose names he could not remember. He further testified that the Khmer Student Union was established around 1956, and that he became a member of it sometime after Lon Nol's coup d'état.

Mr. Chan then asked the witness when Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan returned to Cambodia from France. Mr. Thong Hoeung replied that he could not recall the precise date but said that Ieng Sary arrived before Khieu Samphan and Khieu Samphan probably returned in 1954. He explained that he was not aware of why these leaders returned to Cambodia during that period.

The prosecutor next asked whether Mr. Thong Hoeung knew of the term "Khmer Rouge" while he was in France, to which the witness responded "I heard of the word 'Khmer Rouge' since I was in Cambodia, and while I was young there were the Khmer Rouge. ... They were represented by Ho Nim, Hou Youn, and Khieu Samphan."



The Witness Testifies about the FUNK

Moving on to the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK), Mr. Chan asked the witness when the FUNK was established and why. The witness replied that it was established in Beijing after Sihanouk's "five-point appeal," which he noted was drafted by Thiounn Mumm and Sarin Chhak. When asked about the primary reason FUNK was established, Mr. Thong Hoeung described the FUNK's political programs as being "to reunite Cambodian and Khmer people in order to build a just and fair society and it was not a communist society, so people from different political beliefs could join the Front [FUNK]." When asked who FUNK's chairman was, the witness replied that it was chaired by Prince Sihanouk and Pen Nouth. When asked about FUNK's funding, he expressed his supposition that the Cambodian people at the time would not have the funds, so China probably funded it.

When asked if Khieu Samphan or Nuon Chea participated in the FUNK, the witness replied that today was the first time he met Khieu Samphan in person but that he had learned Khieu Samphan

was a FUNK member. He said that, at that time, he had not heard of either Nuon Chea or Pol Pot. Asked if Ieng Sary was involved with the FUNK, he responded that he started to hear more about Ieng Sary and said that after the coup d'état, Ieng Sary went to Beijing representing the Cambodian party. He stated that Ieng Sary influenced the Cambodian student community in Beijing. Asked about the relationship of Ieng Sary with Cambodia's communist movement in the country and his relationship in Beijing, Mr. Thong Hoeung said it was "beyond my ability to respond," noting that he was young at the time.

After noting that the FUNK started in Beijing and then moved into Cambodia, Mr. Chan asked the witness if he could explain where the FUNK operated in Cambodia. Mr. Thong Hoeung replied that, from the information received by him at the time, FUNK activity started largely in the countryside. He noted that in the cities there were also some sympathizers. He then added, "It is my supposition, but I heard from Mr. Ieng Sary once in a while that the FUNK political agenda was based on reuniting Cambodia, and Mr. Ieng Sary did not take that political program very seriously." President Nonn reminded the witness that he was not to speculate because this type of testimony lacked probative value. Khieu Samphan's counsel Anta Guisse also requested that the parties slow down.

Mr. Chan then asked the witness how Ieng Sary communicated with students in France. Mr. Thong Hoeung explained that, from his observation, Ieng Sary disseminated information via FUNK's information bulletin. Also, the witness said, Ieng Sary "tried to establish a core force of Cambodian students, and he would train them to hold on to the standpoint which he represents back in Cambodia."

Next, Mr. Chan asked about the Sihanoukist movement, or *Sihanouk Niyum* in Khmer. The witness testified that this movement was established by Prince Sihanouk and noted that it had "many trends, one of which were those who were close to the Royal Palace and another, supportive of those who worked closely with Pen Nouth and Sarin Chhak, namely, Van Piny, Chan Youran, Hor Namhong and others."

Moving on, Mr. Chan inquired whether the FUNK started a representative office in Paris. Mr. Thong Hoeung confirmed that it had an office in Paris, noting that this was the FUNK's second location and that it was headed by Hok Sokun. He further testified that the overarching goal of this office's establishment was to disseminate propaganda to students in France and Europe. He also noted two other objectives, which were to publicize to the media in Europe and to create relationships with political parties and dignitaries in Europe.

When asked about the relationship between the FUNK and the Khmer Student Union that was in France, Mr. Thong Hoeung responded, "Students did not resist in order to support communism, but instead they tried to resist to support non-communist movement, that was what I knew at that time. Secondly, the Front movement, under the direction under Ieng Sary, was meant to reconcile and unite Khmer people who had different political trends to join as one unified association."

Mr. Chan asked the witness to expand upon his previous testimony regarding FUNK bulletins in France, asking specifically what the bulletins called. Mr. Thong Hoeung replied that they were referred to as the *National United Front of Kampuchea Bulletin*.

The Witness Testifies about Delegations Led by Ieng Sary

Moving on, Mr. Chan inquired about the purpose of Khmer delegations to France. After indicating that he was not aware of the “main purpose,” Mr. Thong Hoeung said he knew they went there “to publish information to the international community.” Regarding who was in this delegation, the witness listed Ieng Sary, Suong Sikoeun, Chan Youran, and others. When asked for details about Ieng Sary’s visit, including what statements he made in Paris, he testified that Ieng Sary gave many statements and that he remembered the point that “the Cambodian people would succeed and gain victory based on our own force.” The witness stated that this statement was made after the meeting between the United States, Vietnam, and other imperialists.

When asked how often Ieng Sary lead a delegation to France, the witness replied that “Ieng Sary visited France the most because he was the one who communicated with his foreign counterparts.” He further said that, in Paris, Ieng Sary met with Cambodian students and communities. He elaborated that Ieng Sary “often stopped by Paris.” Mr. Chan asked if Ieng Sary visited before or after 1975, but Mr. Thong Hoeung was not sure, saying that it could be both.

Next, Mr. Chan inquired whether Ieng Sary attended a United Nations (UN) General Assembly. The witness replied affirmatively, explaining that Ieng Sary would go to the UN and then stopover in Paris. The witness could not remember when Ieng Sary went to the UN Assembly. When asked on what topic Ieng Sary addressed the UN, the witness recalled Ieng Sary repeating that the Democratic Kampuchea was an independent country and “a country that does not oppose against imperialism.”



Ieng Sary inspects a fighting boat with a foreign delegation while on a trip to a coastal province of Cambodia during the Democratic Kampuchea period. (Source: Documentation Center of Cambodia)

Witness Testifies to His Awareness of the Situation in Cambodia while in France

Mr. Chan moved on and asked the witness whether, while he was in France, he heard that people in Cambodia were being tortured or killed. Mr. Thong Hoeung replied that after Phnom Penh’s evacuation, he learned of the hardships and mistreatment of people in the countryside, such as

how people could not pick fruit they grew. He explained that he did not believe what he heard, stating, "I only believed that Cambodian people did not kill their own people."

Regarding how he heard about the Phnom Penh evacuation, the witness explained that he became aware of it through the international news, particularly the news in French, which he said discussed the evacuation and the people who had taken refuge in the French embassy. He reiterated that he did not believe what he heard and that he was convinced that this was not the real situation in Cambodia at the time.

Mr. Chan asked the witness if he heard any explanation from the DK leadership of the evacuation. Mr. Thong Hoeung recalled that Ieng Sary made a press statement while at the UN General Assembly that the evacuees were gradually returned to the city. He described himself as a sympathizer, explaining that he thought "those people who had sacrificed their life and their happiness to save the country would not do anything to put their country at risk. So, whatever he said at the time, I believed completely."

The Prosecution asks the Witness about His Return to Cambodia

Switching topics, Mr. Chan indicated that he would focus on the witness's return to Cambodia and asked what his motive was for returning to Cambodia. Mr. Thong Hoeung explained how many felt they did not want to remain in a foreign country but wanted to return and die in the country where they were born.

Mr. Chan next asked the witness whether he returned voluntarily or was forced to do so. Mr. Thong Hoeung said he did so voluntarily, explaining that he was thinking of his country and his wife, who had returned six months earlier. Regarding his wife, he said that she was a professor and did not concern herself with politics and explained that he wanted her to return to Cambodia and so she agreed to do so.

When asked with whom he returned to Cambodia, the witness replied that he returned in July 1976, with around 10 former military personnel from the United States; the charge d'affaires of the GRUNK from Cuba, and Hai Kim Seang, his wife and their daughter. He described that several relatives of Ieng Thirith were also on board, including her mother, two of her younger sisters, and one niece and two nephews. When asked if he received information from Ieng Thirith's relatives regarding the situation in Cambodia, Mr. Thong Hoeung recalled that they had "sad faces," but indicated that he did not know why they were sad, if it was because a family member had passed away or because they were returning to Cambodia. He described them as friendly and said he respected Ieng Thirith's mother, who was "gentle in her speech." The family was "not politically motivated, they did not know much about politics," he recalled. Regarding the others, including the former military personnel from the U.S., he said, "They were actually those who recently fled from Kampong Som to Thailand, and they were former residents in Kampuchea Krom and their wish was to return back home to defend their country, and some of them were experts in different fields."

When asked if he received "bad news" about the situation in Cambodia before returning, Mr. Thong Hoeung spoke of his anxiousness for news of his wife, as he had not heard from her since she returned. He said his friends told him that she was okay but noted that he did not know if his

friends told him the truth. He noted that there was information from Cambodian refugees of starvation in the countryside but said he did not believe it, as he felt food should be abundant.

Mr. Chan inquired whether there were any layovers while the witness was on his way to Cambodia. Mr. Thong Hoeung replied that he stopped in Beijing and remained here for two nights. Regarding who received them at the Beijing airport, he explained that four or five young Cambodians wearing short-sleeve shirts and black trousers, who were the staff members of the embassy, were at the airport waiting for them. He said that Ieng Thirith's family members were taken by a Chinese official. Hai Kim Seang, the charge d'affaires to Cuba and a former student in Moscow, stayed at the Cambodian Embassy in Beijing. Lastly, the witness said he himself was taken to a hotel near the airport.

When asked if he was given information about Cambodia upon his arrival in Beijing, Mr. Thong Hoeung indicated he did not. He noted that the youths who met them at the airport, who were former combatants, told him he should visit the Cambodian Embassy if he had time and he did so. The witness remarked that he was struck by how many young people were at the Embassy. He said that Pech Chhiem was the Ambassador at the time, noting that Mr. Chhiem's physical appearance did not suggest that he was a diplomat. He recalled that Mr. Chhiem discussed the situation in Cambodia with him and asked the witness questions regarding his knowledge about Cambodia. The witness said Mr. Chhiem told him that the information he heard about Cambodia was false. "He continued to convince me that those people were of revisionist sentiment so now Cambodian society at the time did not need those people anymore," Mr. Thong Hoeung recalled.

The prosecutor inquired whether at this point the witness still intended to return to Cambodia. Mr. Thong Hoeung indicated that although there was some suspicion, he had already decided to return, so he was going to return. When asked if he ever met with Ieng Sary or other DK leaders while he was in Beijing, the witness said he did not. Mr. Thong Hoeung stated that he left Beijing no more than two or three days after his arrival and further testified that he did not receive statements by Ieng Sary or other DK leaders prior to his departure.

Moving on, Mr. Chan asked the witness for his impressions on the Pochentong Airport. Mr. Thong Hoeung described how the military students were excited to have arrived home, and how the people, who saw the damage caused by the American bombardment, were "deeply moved." He also recalled seeing at first only a few Chinese mechanics and technicians when they landed, who were in different clothes, all in white, causing him to wonder what country he was in. He described how someone with a bucket searched the passengers and removed their belongings. After exiting the airport, he hoped that his wife would be there, he explained, but instead, he was met by So Hong, whom he had met earlier in France once or twice. He said that So Hong looked at him as if he was not his equal; he described how So Hong pointed to other people, said they would receive him, and walked away. Mr. Thong Hoeung said he was then transported to the Khmer Technical Soviet School.

Mr. Chan asked the witness if he met anyone else at Pochentong Airport. Mr. Thong Hoeung replied that he met a few other Khmer people who used to live abroad, including Hak Seang Lay Ny, who used to be a student in Moscow. He said, "He just tapped on my shoulder and then left," which the witness said was surprising because they had been close. When asked if So Hong

informed the witness of his position, the witness replied that he did not but added that he was told that So Hong was Ieng Sary's close aide. Mr. Chan also inquired whether the witness asked why his passport was taken from him. Mr. Thong Hoeung replied, "I dare not ask, because I understood the atmosphere over there," noting that he had observed the serious expressions on people's faces.

The prosecutor asked the witness for his impression of the situation on his way to Phnom Penh. Mr. Thong Hoeung indicated that he was familiar with the area from the time before he left Cambodia. He noted that when he returned he noticed that there were not a lot of people, there were broken cars on the roadside, certain things had not been maintained, and certain houses were not occupied, as seen by the grass growing on some houses. He noted that he did not see civilians, stating that he only saw "very young soldiers." When asked whether the leaders, including Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, or Khieu Samphan, prepared a welcome ceremony for people returning from abroad, the witness replied that he did not meet the leaders, adding that he only met Ieng Sary a few weeks later at Boeng Trabek.

The Witness Testifies about the Khmer Soviet Technical School

Moving on, Mr. Chan asked the witness where he went after Pochentong. Mr. Thong Hoeung replied that from the airport he was taken to the former Khmer Soviet Technical School. When Mr. Chan asked if they assigned him work, the witness described how upon their arrival they were told to rest a little bit and were offered old rice; he also noticed that people near the school were "very skinny." They were eventually given assignments, he said, explaining that these tasks included working in the rice field, restoring broken houses, removing rocks to make way for rice crops, and assisting with moving houses.

When asked if he received news on his wife, Mr. Thong Hoeung said that he saw his wife from a distance but said she dared not approach him then. That afternoon, he remembered, she went to him and told him to follow their directions and to be polite and never to put his hands on his waist; she also told him if he had something on his person like candy, he must not share because he would get in trouble if they found out about it. He and his wife came to live together again one week or 10 days after this time, he recalled, and they were given a place on the third floor at the Technical Institute.

Returning to the subject of the Khmer Soviet Technical School, Mr. Thong Hoeung confirmed that its code name was K-15. He explained that Phoem, who used to study at the Institute, was the head at the Institute and received them when they arrived. K-15 served as a reeducation center, the witness stated. He was not aware of when it was established but noted that it must have been before January, as his wife arrived then.

Mr. Chan asked the witness if he recognized anyone else working at the Institute. Mr. Thong Hoeung noted that there were three or five young soldiers there. When asked if he ever observed Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea, or other Khmer Rouge leaders holding a meeting there, the witness indicated he did not but said he was told by his wife that Khieu Samphan held a study session when she arrived. Regarding the content of that study session, the witness recalled that his wife said that Khieu Samphan noted that they were being patriotic in returning to

Cambodia, that Cambodia was undergoing development and required resources, and that “we have to build ourselves.”

Continuing, Mr. Thong Hoeung explained that generally K-15 was for Cambodian people returning from abroad, noting that there were two groups – Khmer students from abroad and soldiers. He noted that he later learned that some who had returned were taken away. Some who were not taken to K-15, he saw among the prisoners named at S-21. He said the majority of people at K-15 came from France, and others were from the United States, the Soviet Union, and the Eastern Block, whom the witness noted were later taken away.

The witness further described his time at K-15. He said, “The general situation was that we had to rebuild ourselves.” He referenced the tasks they were given, including breaking rocks for rice fields, and he explained that they were told “intensive labor was an effective way to rebuild oneself.” He also stated that they attended criticism and self-criticism sessions, as well as a weekly team meeting, and, less frequently, a study session. He added that some worked with “Fertilizer Number 1,” which he said was feces mixed with urine and which figured into a main strategy of the party. The witness said, “If we were able to produce effective Fertilizer Number 1, it would mean we were effective in rebuilding ourselves. So, in short, it means we would be able to get rid of our existing stance or status in the class.”

Mr. Chan turned to the topic of discipline and freedom at K-15, asking specifically if anyone at K-15 was given any freedom and what would happen if someone made a mistake. Mr. Thong Hoeung indicated that freedom was not in existence because Angkar – the organization – was freedom. Angkar also represented justice, he explained. The witness further testified that they could not criticize all K-15 workers, only those within their own group. He said that they did not have the freedom to speak or to remain silent. Regarding how someone who made a mistake was disciplined, Mr. Thong Hoeung replied that he never saw anyone being beaten or tortured and he never saw anyone die there. He did see people being removed, including some dissatisfied soldiers who arrived with him, although he did not know why these people were removed. He asserted that he never thought that they would be executed.

Turning to the subject of food at K-15, Mr. Thong Hoeung explained that the food ration was a thick gruel consisting of morning glory, a few grains of rice, and a little fish. He said, “It’s like the food we give to pigs to eat.” Regarding who decided what food they would eat, the witness replied he did not know, adding that everyone said it came from Angkar.



Moving on, Mr. Chan asked why Angkar was established and what Angkar meant. Mr. Thong Hoeung replied, “I think we have to ask the brothers” who established Angkar. “For us, Angkar asked us to reeducate ourselves,” he concluded.

When asked if he heard of Ieng Sary, Nuon Chea, or Khieu Samphan disseminating information about party lines to the lower echelons at K-15 or other places, Mr. Thong Hoeung indicated in his response that while he was in Cambodia, he did not know of Nuon Chea. He said that at K-15, he heard about

Angkar. He reemphasized that he did not know the purpose behind reeducation.

Mr. Chan next asked the witness about his awareness of disappearances. Mr. Thong Hoeung explained that he only came to know about the disappearances in May or June 1979, when he returned to Phnom Penh and went to Tuol Sleng. There, he said he saw the names of comrades who disappeared, noting that some also had been sent to the Red Land Camp in Strung Trang district. He further testified as to his isolation during the Khmer Rouge regime while he was in the camps, describing that he did not have contact with the people outside the camp and that no letters or visits were received or made. He was also prohibited from contacting those outside his group, he explained.

The Prosecution asks the Witness about D-2

Moving on, Mr. Chan asked the witness what D-2 was, where it was located, and why it was established. Mr. Thong Hoeung explained that after an approximately three-month stay at K-15, he was transferred to D-2, along with four others, to an old factory in between Phnom Penh to Prek Pnheu. He noted that others were sent to Angkor Chey, a farm. Sok, the head of the factory, said that Angkar told him and his group of 200 soldiers to stay at D-2 and to make the machinery operational. The witness noted that a couple Chinese Cambodian families were also at D-2 and he was told that they used to work in the factory and could instruct the soldiers on the machinery operations.

When asked if he met Cambodian intellectuals that he knew there, Mr. Thong Hoeung said aside from the four others in his group, he saw the soldiers and their families. He stated that he would also sometimes see Vorn Vet who was inspecting D-2 but added that he did not know him. The witness did not see Ieng Sary, Nuon Chea, or Khieu Samphan at D-2.

Mr. Chan asked the witness what his main function and work at D-2 was. Mr. Thong Hoeung replied that D-2 mainly functioned as a rice mill. He also described how a young teen would go to Phnom Penh daily to collect iron pieces that would then be refined. He testified that he was appointed as the team leader of the carpenter team and that his team was in charge of cutting wood. The witness said he had not crafted wood before and had to learn this skill. He added, "I knew something, but I did not share with them because I was terrified and worried."

With the conclusion of this answer, President Nonn adjourned the day's proceedings and stated that the proceedings would continue on Wednesday, August 8, at 9:00 a.m. with the examination of Suong Sikoeun by Khieu Samphan's defense team.