

TheObserver

Enemies of the people – review

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Over a period of several years, Cambodian journalist Thet Sambath won the confidence of Nuon Chea, the notorious second-in-command to Pol Pot, who was closely involved in Khmer Rouge's genocidal activities of the late 1970s. He financed the film personally, even risking his wife and children's health in the process, and concealed the fact that his parents and other relatives had died in the killing fields. Gradually he gets Nuon Chea to describe the mad dedication to revolution and total reform that drove him on to commit his atrocities and the weird logic that continues in his old age to justify his deeds. Finally, Nuon Chea does get around to a sort of apology, before belatedly the helicopter arrives to take him to face a trial. A fascinating documentary that illustrates Georges Bernanos's famous dictum: "La colère des imbéciles remplit le monde."