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Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens

អតិន្នុន្នរិស្តិន្តរិស្តិន

Trial Chamber Chambre de première instance

ព្រះព្យាឈាន ម្រែងតិ ជា ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាតុក្រុ

Kingdom of Cambodia Nation Religion King Royaume du Cambodge Nation Religion Roi

ឯនសារជ្វើន

ORIGINAL/ORIGINAL

ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ (Date): 02-Feb-2012, 12:14 Sann Rada

TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL PROCEEDINGS **PUBLIC**

Case File No 002/19-09-2007-ECCC/TC

26 January 2012 Trial Day 22

Before the Judges: NIL Nonn, Presiding

Silvia CARTWRIGHT

YA Sokhan

Jean-Marc LAVERGNE

YOU Ottara

THOU Mony (Reserve)

Claudia FENZ (Reserve)

Trial Chamber Greffiers/Legal Officers:

DUCH Phary

Natacha WEXELS-RISER

The Accused: **NUON Chea**

> **IENG Sary** KHIEU Samphan

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PICH Ang

Élisabeth SIMONNEAU-FORT

LOR Chunthy **Chet Vanly HONG Kimsuon** SAM Sokong Philippine SUTZ

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia Trial Chamber – Trial Day 22 Case No. 002/19-09-2007-ECCC/TC 26/01/2012

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List of Speakers:

Language used unless specified otherwise in the transcript

| Speaker | Language |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| MR. ANG UDOM | Khmer |
| JUDGE CARTWRIGHT | English |
| MR. KARNAVAS | English |
| MR. LYSAK | English |
| THE PRESIDENT (NIL NONN, Presiding) | Khmer |
| MR. PESTMAN | English |
| MS. PRAK YUT (TCW-542) | Khmer |
| MR. SAM SOKONG | Khmer |
| MR. SENG BUNKHEANG | Khmer |
| MS. SIMONNEAU-FORT | French |
| MS. SUTZ | French |
| MR. VERGÈS | French |

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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 (Court opens at 0908H)
- 3 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 4 Please be seated. The Court is now in session.
- 5 Mr. Duch Phary, could you please report to the Court on the
- 6 presence of witness Prak Yut. Is she here?
- 7 THE GREFFIER:
- 8 Mr. President, Prak Yut is here and she is at the waiting room,
- 9 awaiting call by the Chamber. Thank you, Mr. President.
- 10 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 11 Thank you, Mr. Phary.
- 12 [09.10.36]
- 13 Before we proceed with the hearing on the testimonies of Prak
- 14 Yut, the Chamber would like to see whether parties have anything
- 15 to raise at this moment and that such applications or requests
- 16 shall be addressed before the witness is summoned into the
- 17 courtroom.
- 18 Counsel for Ieng Sary, you may now proceed.
- 19 MR. KARNAVAS:
- 20 Good morning, Mr. President. Good morning, Your Honours. And good
- 21 morning to everyone in and around the courtroom.
- 22 [09.11.15]
- 23 I do have an application. I'll try to be brief. I'm mindful that
- 24 we have a witness waiting, and hopefully we can try to complete
- 25 her testimony today.

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1 The Prosecution, yesterday, aside from asking leading questions

- 2 throughout the examination -- a topic which I will bring up
- 3 shortly -- went, in our opinion, well beyond the scope of the
- 4 first trial. Now, how could that be? The Prosecution, in their
- 5 summary of this particular witness, noticed the particular
- 6 paragraphs in the Closing Order to which this witness was
- 7 expected to testify. That summary was well -- was prepared well
- 8 before Your Honours issued your Decision of 22 September 2001
- 9 severing the case -- severing the Closing Order into several
- 10 cases.
- 11 [09.12.21]
- 12 In looking at their summary, it would appear that they anticipate
- 13 eliciting testimony from the witness on paragraphs 168 to 177,
- 14 178 to 2,000 -- to 204, 205 to 215, 353 to 363, 740 to 744, 745
- 15 to 790, and they list the topics.
- 16 In your Severance Order, Your Honours, you made it abundantly
- 17 clear, especially having attached an annex which is E124/7.2,
- 18 informing the parties as to the nature of the first trial and
- 19 it's our understanding that save for the experts who are entitled
- 20 to testify about the entire Closing Order or anything within the
- 21 entire Closing Order, witnesses are limited to the first part of
- 22 -- the first trial with the exception that if leave is sought for
- 23 good cause and leave is granted -- this was brought up at one of
- 24 the meetings and it was -- and we understood that there must be
- 25 an application for leave and they must demonstrate why a witness

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- 1 would need to be questioned outside the scope of the first trial.
- 2 On 17 November 2001, Your Honours, you issued a memorandum where
- 3 you state quite clearly on page 2 -- and this is E141, for the
- 4 record, on page 2, you say: "No examination of topics to be
- 5 included in the latter trials will be permitted." So you were
- 6 rather explicit there.
- 7 [09.14.32]
- 8 On 28 November, you again issued a memorandum, E141/12, wherein
- 9 you note -- and I'll quote this paragraph:
- 10 "The Chamber reminds the Co-Prosecutors that their examination
- 11 shall be limited to facts relevant to the first trial. If it is
- 12 considered that these witnesses ought to be -- to also testify on
- 13 matters beyond the scope of Case 002/01, the Co-Prosecutors may
- 14 make an oral application to the Trial Chamber who will determine
- 15 whether it is in the interest of effective trial management to
- 16 hear these witnesses also on other topics. However, the Chamber
- 17 advises that such applications shall only rarely be granted. 28
- 18 November 2011."
- 19 [09.15.36]
- 20 Then, in -- on 29 November 2011, in E145, Your Honours issued
- 21 another memorandum and on page 3 of this memorandum, you also
- 22 indicate that no questioning on areas outside the scope of this
- 23 trial will however, be permitted.
- 24 It would appear, Your Honours, that you have been not just clear,
- 25 but crystal clear as to what you expect the parties or what you

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- 1 expect from the parties concerning testimony to be elicited or
- 2 adduced from the witnesses and it is for the parties, I daresay,
- 3 to self-manage themselves and police themselves to ensure that
- 4 they stay within the confines of your orders and your decisions.
- 5 It is our respectful submission that that is not the case, at
- 6 least with this particular witness. Yesterday, there was
- 7 testimony concerning dams and it is very clear that that
- 8 testimony, it would appear, falls right outside the parameters of
- 9 the first trial.
- 10 [09.17.00]
- 11 There may be an explanation. Perhaps because the testimony was
- 12 elicited in such a fashion that we were plainly unaware
- 13 throughout the entire period of the questioning as to what period
- 14 in time the gentleman was eliciting questions and was trying to
- 15 adduce evidence from this particular witness.
- 16 It must be stressed, it must be stressed that we realize that
- 17 prior to the Severance Order when the cases were being
- 18 investigated, statements were provided by these witnesses. The
- 19 investigators, at the time, obviously were not aware of -- that
- 20 down the road, there would be a severance. So the statements may
- 21 contain areas -- may contain valuable information to the
- 22 Prosecution or to other parties that fall outside of the first
- 23 case. But simply because it's in a statement, it doesn't mean
- 24 that it can be referred to and referenced to and questioned about
- 25 without first seeking leave if you're going outside the

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- 1 parameters of 001.
- 2 [09.18.14]
- 3 We would respectfully request that you issue an order to all the
- 4 parties that they are to strictly abide by the -- by your orders.
- 5 There are two -- there are three prosecutors today; I believe
- 6 there were three yesterday. Surely if one transgressed, the
- 7 others would have known about it; presumably they're coordinating
- 8 and it begs the question, is this a calculated design to go
- 9 outside or is it a mere lapse of due diligence.
- 10 Either way, Your Honours, it takes up valuable time for us to
- 11 stand up and object. It also gives the appearance, rightly or
- 12 wrongly, that we on the Defence side, are somehow trying to
- 13 obstruct the process. It eats up valuable time. It is much more
- 14 efficient if the parties stay within the confines and I would
- 15 expect in the future, Your Honours, that with -- when witnesses
- 16 come that perhaps prior to the witness being -- testifying that
- 17 whoever leads the witness make an offer of proof as to the
- 18 paragraphs they intend to elicit testimony from and give the
- 19 other parties an opportunity to respond and this would avoid the
- 20 constant interruptions that come with objections.
- 21 I didn't object yesterday because I did not want to break the
- 22 flow. I'm raising it at this point in time hoping that the
- 23 Prosecution can recalibrate its examination so that it can be
- 24 much more streamlined, much more efficient, and within your
- orders. If they don't, obviously I will be objecting and I will

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- 1 be objecting repeatedly and vigorously.
- 2 [09.20.13]
- 3 And the same thing goes with leading questions. Yesterday there
- 4 were a series of leading questions where the question assumes
- 5 facts that have not been elicited from the witness. Perhaps they
- 6 are in the statement and perhaps there is this misquided notion
- 7 that if it's in a statement, you can use the statement as facts
- 8 from which to build a question even though those facts have not
- 9 come from the witness's mouth.
- 10 We would object to any leading questions, especially when the
- 11 questions are quite suggestive to the witnesses.
- 12 [09.20.49]
- 13 Those are my submissions, Your Honour. I appreciate you taking
- 14 the time to hear me. If the Prosecution wishes to respond that's
- 15 fine, but I certainly -- if they do respond, I certainly would
- 16 like an explanation for Your Honours as to how the dams fall
- 17 within the confines of the first trial. Which paragraphs in
- 18 particular? Which period?
- 19 Thank you.
- 20 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 21 International Co-Prosecutor, you may now proceed.
- 22 MR. LYSAK:
- 23 Thank you, Mr. President, and I will try to be brief.
- 24 I certainly agree that we want to avoid interruptions and I think
- 25 this objection and speech was entirely unnecessary if counsel had

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1 himself engaged in the due diligence of reading these sections of

- 2 the Closing Order that are part of Case 002/1.
- 3 In particular, a large focus of our examination and one of the
- 4 principle reasons that this witness was included in our list was
- 5 because of her role as a member of the sector committee and the
- 6 district secretary.
- 7 As the Court is aware, paragraphs 64 to 71 of the Closing Order,
- 8 which deal with national administrative structures, as well as
- 9 paragraph 72 through 112, which deal with communications
- 10 structure, are part of this case and what those paragraphs -- the
- 11 facts in those paragraphs specifically deal with is the authority
- 12 of zone, sector, and districts; the communication of party policy
- 13 and instructions down from the centre through the zones, sectors
- 14 and districts and the reporting of information up from the
- 15 communes, districts to sectors and zones. To give you an example,
- 16 paragraph 68 includes the following facts -- paragraph 68 of the
- 17 Closing Order:
- 18 "Implementation of decisions of the Central and Standing
- 19 Committees was performed by the secretaries of the zones and the
- 20 autonomous sectors. Policies and instructions of the Central and
- 21 Standing Committees were disseminated to the zone and autonomous
- 22 sector secretaries who in turn would disseminate them among
- 23 sector and district-level secretaries for implementation.
- 24 Conversely, the sub-districts reported back up to the district
- 25 committees, which reported to the sector committees, which in

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- 1 turn reported to the zone committees."
- 2 [09.23.53]
- 3 And I could continue on reading from here, but the point is that
- 4 as part of the plan for this trial, the Trial Chamber has
- 5 requested that the proof be made regarding the general
- 6 administrative structures, who had authority to do what within --
- 7 as between zones, sectors, districts, and how reporting of
- 8 information and reporting of instructions worked.
- 9 In order to cover those topics, obviously, we need to get into
- 10 some details. We do not intend to go into specific details of
- 11 crimes that are not part of this case, but it is obviously
- 12 necessary, in order to properly inform the Court as to how a
- 13 district secretary reported up above to get into a little bit of
- 14 information about the subjects that were reported.
- 15 [09.24.48]
- 16 So to specifically respond to counsel's question, the reason dams
- 17 were brought up is because part of this witness's statement
- 18 before was on the reporting of what went on at dams and the
- 19 hardships that people faced there including starvation and
- 20 numbers of deaths and how that information was reported up to the
- 21 upper echelon. And that is the reason that we are covering that.
- 22 We do not intend to get into details of dams or worksites that
- 23 are part of later cases. We are using this information to prove
- 24 the facts that are part of the administrative structure and
- 25 communications section.

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- 1 So I hope that is that is informative to the Court.
- 2 That-Obviously, in addition to those subjects, we will have some
- 3 questions for this witness, related to the first and second
- 4 forced movements. I will have some questions related to the
- 5 People's Representative Assembly, which is also one of the
- 6 subjects that is included in this part of the case.
- 7 [09.25.54]
- 8 And the only other thing I would add to this is that for any
- 9 witness, I think it is important to get some background
- 10 information about the witness; where they were located during --
- 11 before and during the democratic period, what their positions
- 12 were; just so we have a context to understand their testimony.
- 13 Those are the areas that we have endeavoured to cover this
- 14 witness. We will do that within the time that has been allocated
- 15 and I think this objection would have been entirely unnecessary
- 16 if counsel had simply read the relevant sections of the Closing
- 17 Order.
- 18 I will add that the second reason that we wanted to call this
- 19 witness is something we will not be covering, and that is the
- 20 issue of the purge of the central zone because that is part of a
- 21 crime that is part -- currently not part of this case. And,
- 22 certainly, that was a significant reason that we wanted to hear
- 23 from this witness because she was one of the cadres from the
- 24 southwest zone who was sent up to the central zone to take over
- 25 positions -- districts and sector positions when the existing

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- 1 cadres were purged.
- 2 [09.27.08]
- 3 Now, there will be some need -- it's impossible for her to tell
- 4 her story without touching briefly on that, but we will not be
- 5 getting into details about the arrests, the broads -- the broad
- 6 purge of the zone. That is obviously the subject of another
- 7 trial. But in the sense that it is necessary to understand her
- 8 testimony and that it relates to the structural issues and
- 9 reporting issues, that would be the only extent we would cover
- 10 subjects like that.
- 11 I hope that is helpful.
- 12 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 13 Lead Co-Lawyer for the civil parties may proceed first, before we
- 14 give -- or hand over to counsel for Ieng Sary.
- 15 [09.28.01]
- 16 MS. SIMONNEAU-FORT:
- 17 Yes, Mr. President. We, of course, support the concerns of the
- 18 Defence, that is, to say -- to abide by the rules, but we,
- 19 however, believe that the Co-Prosecutors have not overstepped the
- 20 scope in their questioning by limiting themselves, of course, to
- 21 the confines of the sub-trial.
- 22 However, I would like the rules to be applied strictly to
- 23 everyone. And as far as I remember, the civil parties are
- 24 subjected to the same rules as the witnesses and I have an
- 25 example here that troubles me. I remember Klan Fit, for example.

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- 1 The prosecutors and the civil parties limited themselves to the
- 2 confines of the first sub-case without bringing up the purges.
- 3 Whereas the Defence overstepped, we believe, the confines of this
- 4 first sub-case.
- 5 So we would therefore like the rules to be applied to all parties
- 6 in terms of questioning, including the Defence.
- 7 [09.29.17]
- 8 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 9 Counsel for Ieng Sary, please proceed.
- 10 MR. KARNAVAS:
- 11 Thank you very much, Mr. President, Your Honours.
- 12 What we heard was a rather clever excuse for going into areas
- 13 outside the scope. Paragraph 7 makes it very clear, "no
- 14 cooperatives, worksites", and goes on. What part of "worksites"
- does the prosecutor not understand?
- 16 They say: Well, this was for purely administrative purposes. We
- 17 want to show that there's communication.
- 18 And then the question begins how people were eating, how much
- 19 food there was, did you see them -- in a very leading fashion --
- 20 getting ill, maybe dying. What does that have to do with the
- 21 administrative structure? Nothing.
- 22 [09.30.08]
- 23 What the attempt is, is to get -- to inch in and to begin talking
- 24 about specific worksites because once they get into that area, it
- 25 then invites the other side to get into it.

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- 1 Now, I understand that they have some problems. They are -- the
- 2 way the Severance Order is drafted and the way the Closing Order
- 3 is drafted and that you need context. But at what point does
- 4 context stop and we go into substance?
- 5 There lies the problem, Your Honour. I could care less if the
- 6 Prosecution has the authority or the right to go into all the
- 7 areas. I just want to know, from the beginning, what it is
- 8 because it puts us at a disadvantage. And to simply say, well,
- 9 "we're just talking about the reporting system" and in the
- 10 process, you begin using matters that are in the statement in a
- 11 leading fashion that goes into the substance of areas that are
- 12 strictly prohibited.
- 13 [09.31.09]
- 14 Now, maybe they-- maybe it's hard to decide -- to draw that
- 15 distinction -- to draw the line. My point is, the better practice
- 16 is to say: We're going to be touching upon these areas and this
- 17 is how far we're going to go; do we have permission? Otherwise,
- 18 it causes us to object and this was a good faith effort to bring
- 19 this matter to some sort of a resolution.
- 20 But if the Trial Chamber thinks that the Prosecution is entitled
- 21 to go into these areas for contextual reasons, then I reserve the
- 22 right to make my record by objecting every time I think that it's
- 23 outside the scope. Thank you.
- 24 [09.32.02]
- 25 MR. PRESIDENT:

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- 1 Counsel for Nuon Chea, you may now proceed.
- 2 MR. PESTMAN:
- 3 I see you're very eager to discuss this topic. I just want to
- 4 take this opportunity to support my colleague.
- 5 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 6 Could you please hold on a moment?
- 7 (Judges deliberate)
- 8 [09.34.45]
- 9 Before we proceed to counsel for Nuon Chea, I would like to hand
- 10 over to Judge Silvia Cartwright to clarify things a little bit.
- 11 Thank you.
- 12 Counsel for Nuon Chea, could you please be on your feet?
- 13 JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:
- 14 Yes, thank you, President. Counsel for Nuon Chea, this is not in
- 15 any way intended to cut off your submission.
- 16 MR. PESTMAN:
- 17 Yes.
- 18 JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:
- 19 I just want to clarify the procedure for future occasions. If
- 20 counsel -- as has happened this morning -- for Ieng Sary makes a
- 21 submission, it should then be answered by the prosecutor, the
- 22 civil -- the Co-Lead Lawyers, other defence counsel who wish to
- 23 support or clarify, and then counsel for Ieng Sary will have the
- 24 final right of reply knowing what everyone has to say.
- 25 So I just want to clarify that procedure for the future.

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- 1 [09.36.08]
- 2 For the present time, I gather that you support the submission of
- 3 Ieng Sary, so that is taken into account.
- 4 MR. PESTMAN:
- 5 Yes.
- 6 JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:
- 7 And if counsel for Khieu Samphan wish to support or oppose,
- 8 perhaps they could say so, but that means we then have to give
- 9 counsel for Ieng Sary a further say, which we want to avoid
- 10 having to occur.
- 11 So could you please limit your comments, now, unless you've got
- 12 some extended matters that you wish to say simply to support or
- 13 otherwise, as the case may be?
- 14 And this is simply to clarify the procedure for future occasions
- 15 of this nature. Thank you.
- 16 MR. PESTMAN:
- 17 All I wanted to do was support the submissions made by my
- 18 colleague. I think we need clear parameters -- instructions or
- 19 what is allowed and what is not allowed to discuss or to ask a
- 20 particular witness, especially when discussing events after 1975.
- 21 That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.
- 22 MR. VERGÈS:
- 23 Defence for Khieu Samphan is in full support.
- 24 [09.37.36]
- 25 JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:

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- 1 And I presume, Mr. Karnavas, you have nothing further in
- 2 response?
- 3 MR. KARNAVAS:
- 4 No. No, Your Honour. Thank you for enquiring.
- 5 (Judges deliberate)
- 6 [09.40.16]
- 7 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 8 Thank you, Defence Counsel, for your application to the Chamber
- 9 to confirm the procedure.
- 10 On this particular subject, yesterday, as the President of the
- 11 Chamber, we advised the Prosecution very clearly, and in addition
- 12 I also advised the parties involved in discussing the subject
- 13 matters before the Chamber and we have so far directed parties to
- 14 focus on the subject matters.
- 15 Taking into account the facts in the Severance Order, in the
- 16 first mini-trial, as indicated in document E124/7.2, this is the
- 17 scope of the alleged facts that parties should examine and bring
- 18 up evidence relating to the facts set out in the scope of this
- 19 trial, which is known as Case 002/01.
- 20 Secondly, the Chamber wishes to advise parties that parties
- 21 involved in the examination of the alleged facts, it should be in
- 22 orders as set out in paragraphs indicated in document E124/2.7.2.
- 23 So the examination of evidence should be in the order of the
- 24 paragraph enumerated in this document.
- 25 And the facts set out in those paragraphs have been actually

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- 1 clear because they are the titles of the documents, for example
- 2 the administrative structure, military structure, the facts
- 3 relating to the joint criminal enterprise, the policy, and the
- 4 forced movement in phase one and phase two. And there are several
- 5 other alleged facts in those paragraphs, and the parameters have
- 6 been set very clear in order from the small number to the bigger
- 7 number.
- 8 [09.43.59]
- 9 So, once again, the Chamber would like to advise the parties to
- 10 be focused on the questions and make sure that the questions are
- 11 simple and specific so that the witness can answer the question
- 12 and the Chamber can also trace the development of questions and
- 13 facts that evolves.
- 14 So, again, the Chamber wishes to remind the parties to be focused
- 15 when putting question to the witness as directed by the Chamber
- 16 so far.
- 17 On a separate issue, in certain issue, parties may have dwelled
- 18 on other points which are considered irrelevant. However, there
- 19 are certain areas which are also useful in the discussion of the
- 20 subject matter.
- 21 [09.45.23]
- 22 And the Chamber takes into account every question the parties ask
- 23 and the Chamber will make effort to follow the line of
- 24 questioning whether or not they remain in the parameters of the
- 25 subject matter. I understand that the facts involve the crimes

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- 1 that took place across Cambodia, and of course these involve the
- 2 historical backgrounds, for example, the history of the
- 3 Democratic Kampuchea, which we have already heard the testimony
- 4 by witness, and the Communist Party of Kampuchea would have when
- 5 established long before 1975.
- 6 So there have been a lot of issues which are -- the Chamber
- 7 wishes to remind parties again that they should be focused when
- 8 putting questions. It should be straightforward and within the
- 9 parameters of Case 002/01.
- 10 [09.46.52]
- 11 And to make this even clearer, I would like to hand over to Judge
- 12 Silvia Cartwright to add.
- 13 Your Honour, you may proceed.
- 14 JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:
- 15 Thank you, President. The President has outlined the general
- 16 approach that the Court will take in relation to the current
- 17 trial, specifically in relation to this objection.
- 18 The Court considers that the questions put to this witness
- 19 concerning issues which are not strictly within the historical
- 20 segment of the trial can be put so long as they relate strictly
- 21 to issues of the structure communications, but do not go into the
- 22 substance of those issues which will be explored in later trials.
- 23 Now, having said that, it's necessary to remind counsel that it
- 24 is vital that they not put questions to this witness which allow
- 25 her to go into the substance or encourage her to go into the

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- 1 substance. And certainly the Chamber agrees that leading
- 2 questions, which would-- Leading questions of any variety should
- 3 not be put to this witness.
- 4 [09.48.33]
- 5 It's perhaps unfortunate that this witness' knowledge spans such
- 6 a wide timeframe, but it is important that we take advantage of
- 7 her presence to cover all topics of which she has knowledge which
- 8 are directly relevant to this trial.
- 9 So, Mr. Karnavas, I hope that clarifies matters for you.
- 10 The Chamber will endeavour to control the questions as much as it
- 11 can to avoid objections from counsel, which tend to take longer
- 12 to resolve. So, prosecutors, please bear in mind these comments
- 13 and that the Chamber will endeavour strictly to control this.
- 14 [09.49.26]
- 15 As to the Co-Lead Lawyers' submission that the rules apply to
- 16 everyone, that is of course correct. However, questions put by
- 17 Defence do tend to-- More latitude is normally allowed to
- 18 questions put by the Defence because they are trying usually to
- 19 undermine what the prosecutors and the Lead Co-Lawyers are
- 20 attempting to achieve through a witness.
- 21 However, that is not to say that those questions can stray beyond
- 22 the parameters of this trial. Thank you. Thank you, President.
- 23 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 24 Thank you, Your Honour.
- 25 Now, the court officer is instructed to bring the witness before

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- 1 the Chamber.
- 2 (The witness, Ms. Prak Yut, is taken to the dock)
- 3 [09.51.50]
- 4 Good morning, Ms. Prak Yut.
- 5 Today, the Chamber will continue the hearing of your testimony.
- 6 And before we hand over to the Prosecution, we wishes to -- we
- 7 wish to advise the parties that, when you ask questions, you have
- 8 to make sure that your mic is being activated. And please make
- 9 sure that you pause a bit before you start the next question so
- 10 that the translation gets through properly, so that parties
- 11 involved in the proceeding understand the content of the question
- 12 and answers.
- 13 [09.52.44]
- 14 Now, I hand over to the Prosecution to put questions to the
- 15 witness. You may now proceed.
- 16 OUESTIONING BY MR. SENG BUNKHEANG RESUMES:
- 17 Good morning, Mrs. Witness. I would like to continue my line of
- 18 questioning.
- 19 Q. Before the 17 of 1975 (sic), where did you live? And what did
- 20 you do?
- 21 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 22 A. Before 17 of April 1975? I cannot remember. Well, I did not
- 23 know where I was residing at that time. I forget. I don't know.
- 24 It has been such a long time so I could not remember it.
- 25 Q. Did you live in Takeo or Kampot province at that time? Do you

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- 1 recall that?
- 2 [09.54.27]
- 3 A. Before 17 of April, I cannot remember. I don't know whether I
- 4 was residing in Takeo or Kampot province.
- 5 Q. So after the 17 of April 1975, did you notice that the place
- 6 where you were living had more new people coming in?
- 7 A. Before the 17 of April 1975, the population in my area where I
- 8 lived did not rise.
- 9 Q. So I first ask you where you lived before the 17th of April
- 10 1975. Then after 1975 -- after the 17 of April 1975, I would like
- 11 to know whether or not you noticed the increase of the number of
- 12 people in your area.
- 13 A. After 17 of April 1975, I did not notice whether there was an
- 14 influx of new people to my area. I did not take any notice of
- 15 that.
- 16 [09.56.15]
- 17 Q. So did you notice new faces -- I mean the new people who had
- 18 never lived in your area? Did you notice any newcomers to your
- 19 area?
- 20 A. Well, at that time, I lived in that village and I did not see
- 21 any new faces. I only noticed that people in my neighbourhood
- 22 lived as normal.
- 23 Q. Can you tell us whether or not there were group of people who
- 24 are called the 17 April People?
- 25 [09.57.14]

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- 1 A. Back then, I did not hear about the 17 people -- 17 April
- 2 People. I did not know. I did not see those people who are called
- 3 the 17 April People. I did not pay attention. I am not making an
- 4 excuse; that was the truth. That's what I knew. I-- At the place
- 5 where I was living at that time, there were no people known as
- 6 the 17 people -- 17 April People. Back then, I did not even pay
- 7 attention to it.
- 8 Q. You said you did not pay attention to the influx of new
- 9 people, but I would like to know now if you have heard of the 17
- 10 April People?
- 11 A. No. [Correction, interpreter:] Yes, I have. I have heard of
- 12 the 17 April People.
- 13 Q. When did you first hear the 17 April People?
- 14 A. Some time in 1976.
- 15 Q. In the mobile unit which you informed the Chamber yesterday,
- 16 you said you managed a mobile unit of around 200 to 300 members.
- 17 So can you tell us whether or not there were new people or 17
- 18 April People in that unit?
- 19 A. In the mobile unit I supervised, later on there were new
- 20 members -- new people coming in this mobile unit.
- 21 [09.59.22]
- 22 Q. Did you know where those new people come from?
- 23 A. When they came to stay with the mobile unit I supervised, they
- 24 came from the village -- actually, there are a few villages. They
- 25 send those people to work in the mobile unit. But I do not know

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- 1 as to what villages sent those people to work in my mobile unit.
- 2 Q. Did you know that people were evacuated from cities, from
- 3 Phnom Penh?
- 4 A. Yes, I do. I heard that people were evacuated from cities.
- 5 However, I felt that it was none of my business. I only heard of
- 6 it and I was not interested in the news, although I heard of such
- 7 evacuation. And we observed that there were evacuees, but at my
- 8 location I was not interested in these evacuations.
- 9 [10.01.18]
- 10 Q. Can you tell us what the upper echelon did with this
- 11 evacuation?
- 12 A. I have no idea.
- 13 MR. KARNAVAS:
- 14 Your Honour, if I may be heard? Before the gentleman begins
- 15 asking questions about the upper echelon, he needs to lay a
- 16 foundation that she actually had access to the upper echelon,
- 17 wherever the upper echelon may be, as opposed to assuming a fact
- 18 that has not been established.
- 19 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 20 Co-Prosecutor, you may now proceed.
- 21 MR. SENG BUNKHEANG:
- 22 Upper echelon here is referring to the quote from the statement
- 23 from the witness, who indicated that upper echelon asked her to
- 24 do some things. And we have not put question to that particular
- 25 portion. We just asked her to see what was it like.

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- 1 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 2 Counsel for Ieng Sary, you may proceed.
- 3 [10.02.42]
- 4 MR. KARNAVAS:
- 5 As I noted yesterday, simply because it's in a statement, it
- 6 doesn't mean that the gentleman gets to use what's in the
- 7 statement as a basis for his question in formulating the
- 8 question. He needs to elicit the testimony from the witness.
- 9 So, if I may assist the gentleman, he should ask with whom she
- 10 was communicating above, at what level, up to which point, and
- 11 then he can proceed.
- 12 But to give this term, "upper echelon", because she uses it or it
- 13 may have been fed to her, may have been fed to her by one of the
- 14 investigators, that is not sufficient.
- 15 So he needs to establish a foundation as to how far she went up
- 16 and at what level she was communicating with.
- 17 And if she wants to call those people "upper echelon", then at
- 18 least, now, we have a ceiling and we have a proper definition of
- 19 what she means by "upper echelon", because later on, Your
- 20 Honours, you will be asked to draw some conclusions. The
- 21 Prosecution will have you believe the upper echelon may be at the
- 22 very, very top.
- 23 I don't know, but I think, in order to have a proper record, we
- 24 need to make sure that the testimony comes from the witness, not
- 25 from some statement given -- and she gave four statements,

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- 1 incidentally, all of which are not necessarily identical. And we
- 2 don't know whether she was actually fed that term or that was a
- 3 term that she came up with.
- 4 [10.04.05]
- 5 So I would appreciate if the testimony came from the witness'
- 6 mouth through proper questioning, open-ended: who, what, where,
- 7 why, how, explain, describe. Thank you.
- 8 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 9 The objection is not sustained.
- 10 Co-Prosecutor may proceed.
- 11 BY MR. SENG BUNKHEANG:
- 12 Thank you, Mr. President.
- 13 [10.04.38]
- 14 Q. Witness, do you still remember the question I just put to you?
- 15 What were you asked to do by the upper echelon?
- 16 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 17 A. I don't quite remember the question, but to me, I worked at a
- 18 lower level and people were evacuated from other cities. In fact,
- 19 I do not -- I did not know much about this evacuation and I did
- 20 not know whether these matters were discussed at the upper
- 21 echelon or not. And I am talking the truth -- telling the truth,
- 22 and I am not here to give my version of excuses. That's all I can
- 23 tell.
- 24 [10.05.37]
- 25 Q. To the best of your knowledge, do you know how evacuations

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- 1 took place?
- 2 A. I learned -- I saw people were walking on the streets.
- 3 However, I did not know how they were evacuated from the first
- 4 place, from the cities, although I noted -- I saw them walking,
- 5 filling the roads.
- 6 Again, I'm not making any excuses; I'm telling the truth. And as
- 7 -- in my capacity as a member of the lower level echelon, I did
- 8 not know what happened at the upper echelon level.
- 9 Q. Thank you. You said you saw people walking on some roads. Did
- 10 you notice the condition of those people?
- 11 A. I think there were some difficulties or hardship those people
- 12 endured because in -- it is a common sense that people could have
- 13 been experiencing some hardship.
- 14 [10.07.42]
- 15 Q. Can you please elaborate further on this, about the hardship?
- 16 How was it like?
- 17 A. People who were walking with children in the sun, I think it
- 18 was difficult. That's all I can tell.
- 19 Q. How did people go about on those roads? I mean, how did they
- 20 get from one place to another?
- 21 [10.08.27]
- 22 A. Some took their bicycles or motorbikes; some were on foot.
- 23 Q. Thank you. Did you see any people be at the place to guard the
- 24 evacuees?
- 25 A. I did not observe this carefully. I did not know whether there

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- 1 were any security guards or armed people to guard them because I
- 2 was not very interested in this. I had another fish to fry, for
- 3 example, doing farming, so I not -- I was not interested in the
- 4 evacuees.
- 5 I was committed to assisting my own people in my location doing
- 6 farming and going about my other businesses.
- 7 [10.10.02]
- 8 Q. Do you think those people were willing to be evacuated?
- 9 A. I have no idea.
- 10 MR. KARNAVAS:
- 11 Mr. President, if I may be heard very briefly? I was cautioned
- 12 not to ask the witness -- I believe it was yesterday -- to
- 13 speculate.
- 14 This was a question calling for speculation. What the people
- 15 thought, what she thinks the people thought is calling for a
- 16 speculation.
- 17 I would expect counsel not to ask those sorts of questions. Thank
- 18 you.
- 19 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 20 Objection is sustained.
- 21 Prosecutor is now advised to put question that is not calling for
- 22 speculation.
- 23 BY MR. SENG BUNKHEANG:
- 24 Thank you, Mr. President.
- 25 Q. During the period when you were working in Kampot province,

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- 1 did you know that people were evacuated from one location to
- 2 another?
- 3 [10.11.29]
- 4 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 5 A. I did work in Kampot province, but I had no knowledge of
- 6 people being evacuated. It was the business of my boss, my
- 7 superior, because I was just an assistant who assisted my
- 8 superior with his work. When it comes to evacuation of people
- 9 from Kampot to other locations, it was none of -- beyond my
- 10 knowledge.
- 11 It is the truth. No lies. I worked there. There was a district
- 12 secretary and I was helping him with his daily work and he made
- 13 the decision, which was beyond my knowledge.
- 14 [10.12.34]
- 15 Q. You said you had no idea of when evacuation took place, but do
- 16 you agree that there was such evacuation?
- 17 A. Yes, I do.
- 18 Q. Thank you. Was there any cooperative being established in
- 19 Kampot province?
- 20 A. Yes, it was.
- 21 [10.13.26]
- ${\tt Q.}$ Thank you. When was the cooperative established in the first
- 23 place?
- 24 A. I cannot recall. It was a long time ago. I don't remember the
- 25 month or the year in which such cooperative was established. I

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- 1 did not take note of this date and time passed by. It was so long
- 2 ago and I'm afraid my memory is very poor now when I am aging.
- 3 Q. Thank you. You said you don't remember the dates; it's fine.
- 4 But was it happening when you were still in Kampot that the
- 5 cooperatives were established?
- 6 A. Yes, it was during the time when I was in Kampot district, not
- 7 -- yeah, in Kampot district.
- 8 Q. Do you know who ordered the establishment of such
- 9 cooperatives?
- 10 A. I don't know who created the cooperatives, but we and other
- 11 chiefs of the districts would be called to execute the
- 12 cooperatives' establishment plan. And I did not know how the
- 13 decision was made and how it was created. I was only informed
- 14 that cooperatives would be created in our district and we had to
- 15 follow.
- 16 [10.15.47]
- 17 MR. SENG BUNKHEANG:
- 18 Thank you.
- 19 Mr. President, I have no further questions to put, but I would
- 20 like my colleague to proceed with further questions, with your
- 21 leave.
- 22 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 23 International Co-Prosecutor, you may now proceed.
- 24 QUESTIONING BY MR. LYSAK:
- 25 Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning.

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- 1 [10.16.15]
- 2 Q. Before I get to any questions of substance, I want to ask you
- 3 whether you remember giving a number of interviews to
- 4 representatives of the Court back in 2009.
- 5 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 6 A. Are you talking about the interview they conducted with me?
- 7 Q. Yes. Do you remember giving interviews to investigators from
- 8 the Office of Co-Investigating Judges back in 2009, two years -
- 9 two or more years ago?
- 10 A. Yes, I do.
- 11 Q. Did you tell the truth during those interviews?
- 12 A. Yes, I did.
- 13 [10.17.37]
- 14 Q. And you were interviewed four times; is that correct?
- 15 A. Yes, it is.
- 16 Q. Each time you were interviewed, were you given an opportunity
- 17 to review a written record of your interview?
- 18 A. Yes, I was. I was read out loud. Well, actually, I did not
- 19 read the interviews because I could not read and write, but I was
- 20 read out.
- 21 Q. So the interviews were read to you by the investigators; is
- 22 that correct?
- 23 A. Yes, it is. After each interview, the content of the interview
- 24 would be read out to me.
- 25 [10.18.53]

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- 1 Q. And did you put your thumbprint on the pages of those
- 2 interviews to confirm their accuracy?
- 3 A. Yes, I did.
- 4 Q. Did you recently have an opportunity to have those statements
- 5 read to you when you came to the Court to testify?
- 6 A. Yes, I did. Some questions were read out to me again, but I
- 7 don't remember the details. But I remember that the questions
- 8 were read out to me recently.
- 9 Q. Was it this week that your prior statements were read to you
- 10 or was it when you first came to the Court last month in
- 11 December?
- 12 A. Last week.
- 13 Q. And when those statements were read to you, did you notice any
- 14 information that was incorrect?
- 15 A. No I didn't. I was read out all the questions and I could
- 16 confirm that they are correct.
- 17 [10.21.01]
- 18 Q. I want to start by just going back to clarify where it was you
- 19 lived and the positions you held from the time you joined the
- 20 revolution in 1970 through the Democratic Kampuchea regime.
- 21 You testified yesterday that you joined the revolution in 1970.
- 22 Where were you living in 1970, when you joined the revolution?
- 23 A. Please be informed that I joined the revolution in 1970, when
- 24 I was living in Kampot and then Takeo province. I only lived in
- 25 those two provinces when I joined the revolution.

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- 1 Later on, in 1977, I moved to the Central Zone, at Sector 42,
- 2 where I stayed for two months. When my husband was arrested, I
- 3 returned. In 1970, when I was resided in Takeo, I did not do
- 4 anything, although I joined the revolution. But when I was in
- 5 Kampot, I later on was promoted to be the sixth member of the
- 6 sector. And that position was promoted to me in Kampot and I was
- 7 in the position in charge of women's affairs in 1975, indeed.
- 8 [10.23.18]
- 9 Later on, I left Kampot for Kampong Cham after being in Kampot
- 10 for three years, and I spent two months in Kampong Cham. After
- 11 that situation, I returned.
- 12 Q. Thank you for that. I'd like to go through each place step by
- 13 step if I can. When you joined the revolution in 1970, did I
- 14 understand you to say that you were still living in Takeo at that
- 15 time? Is that correct?
- 16 A. Yes, it is.
- 17 Q. And were you still living in Tram Kak district, the place you
- 18 were born?
- 19 A. Yes, I was.
- 20 Q. Did you know who Ta Mok was?
- 21 A. I did not know him; I knew of him. I don't know where he was
- 22 born.
- 23 Q. Did you understand what his position was when you joined the
- 24 revolution in Tram Kak district in 1970?
- 25 [10.25.03]

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- 1 A. No I didn't. When I joined the revolution I did not work with
- 2 Ta Mok. I worked with other people and I did not know where he
- 3 was, what he did.
- 4 Q. Did you know he was from the same district as you?
- 5 A. No I didn't. I didn't know that Ta Mok was from the same
- 6 district because he could have been living in a different
- 7 commune, although within the same Tram Kak district.
- 8 Q. Who was it that assigned you you testified yesterday that
- 9 you moved to Kampot and became a member of the Sector 35
- 10 Committee in either 1973 or '74. Who was it that assigned you to
- 11 move from Tram Kak district to Sector 35?
- 12 [10.26.22]
- 13 A. It was not Ta Mok who assigned me; it was another person who
- 14 already passed away now, but he assigned me to work at the sector
- 15 in Kampot. I don't recollect his name. He's a man; he passed
- 16 away. Perhaps Ta Phan, but again, he deceased and he asked me to
- 17 work in Kampot. I think Ta Phan. Yes, I think I can remember his
- 18 name now. He must be Ta Phan, but he's deceased.
- 19 Q. Now you've testified that you joined the revolution in 1970.
- 20 Does that mean that you also became a member of the Communist
- 21 Party of Kampuchea in 1970, or did that happen later?
- 22 A.I was a member of the party in 1970s I don't know before 1970
- 23 or after 1970. I cannot recollect, but I was member. I don't know
- 24 just before or after 1970.
- 25 Q. Now you told my colleague yesterday that you do not remember

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- 1 who introduced you to the revolution or the party, but in your
- 2 first interview with the investigators from the Office of
- 3 Co-Investigating Judges, you testified that you were introduced
- 4 to the revolution by your cousin, a Mr. Um Hem. Was that
- 5 testimony truthful? Were you introduced to the revolution by your
- 6 cousin?
- 7 A. I am sorry. I think my apologies; my cousin was actually the
- 8 person who introduced me into the revolution, the person named
- 9 Hem. He was deceased, although his wife is still alive. He died
- 10 of sickness.
- 11 Q. What was his position or role in the party at the time he
- 12 introduced you?
- 13 A. He held no particular roles. At the village, he was leading a
- 14 small group of people and was a village chief. And when I was --
- 15 he -- under -- I lived with his family. I was about 14 -- 13 or
- 16 14 years old, and I was introduced by him to join the revolution,
- 17 although I was too young to know what the revolution or the party
- 18 was back then.
- 19 [10.30.52]
- 20 Q. Okay, I'm glad you mentioned that because I was a little
- 21 confused by when you said yesterday that you were very, very
- 22 young when you joined the revolution. You told us that you're 67
- 23 years old now which, by my calculations, means you would have
- 24 been around 25 years old in 1970, when you joined the revolution.
- 25 Were you 13 or 14 when you joined the revolution, or were you

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- 1 closer to 25 years old?
- 2 A. I'm afraid I don't remember the details because it was very
- 3 long, long time ago, and I don't remember how old I was when I
- 4 joined the revolution, and I, myself, am not clear due to the
- 5 fact that this event was happening long, long time ago, and I was
- 6 not really interested in this or, I was not interested to keep
- 7 any record of the date when I joined the revolution or the year
- 8 of my age back then.
- 9 Q. You told the investigators of the -- from the Court that you
- 10 were born in 1947. Is that the year you were born in?
- 11 A. Yes, it is. If I said 1947 in that paper, I must be -- it must
- 12 be correct. Although I don't remember all, I think it is true
- 13 that I was born in 1947.
- 14 Q. You also told my colleague, yesterday, that you were never
- 15 given any documents to study regarding the policies of the party,
- 16 but in the statement that -- your first statement that you gave
- 17 to the Co-Investigating Judges, you testified as follows:
- 18 "Q. Were there pagodas, monks, and religious practices?
- 19 "A. At that time, there was a disseminated booklet and there were
- 20 no monks and pagodas."
- 21 And I'm reading from D34/4, English ERN 00364084, Khmer ERN
- 22 00357514, French ERN 00403127.
- 23 [10.34.10]
- 24 As you previously testified, did you receive a booklet regarding
- 25 party policy on pagodas and monks?

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- 1 [10.34.33]
- 2 A. Yes. At that time, I received a booklet about the pagoda and I
- 3 read that booklet. But I do not remember the details, but I do
- 4 not actually remember whether or not the book mentioned that
- 5 there was a policy of eliminating pagodas or so. And I, at that
- 6 time, thought to myself that, well, if there was that policy,
- 7 that's fine. If it was actually enshrined in the policy, I have
- 8 nothing to say, I would simply follow. But if the upper echelons
- 9 says there won't be any pagoda allowed, then I have nothing to
- 10 say, I simply follow.
- 11 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 12 Mr. Karnavas, you may proceed.
- 13 MR. KARNAVAS:
- 14 Thank you, Mr. President. And I understand it's time for the
- 15 break, but I wish to just make one point of clarification. Twice,
- 16 now, the gentleman on the Prosecution side has referred to the
- 17 statement and has indicated to the witness that she testified.
- 18 It is my understanding that a statement that might have been
- 19 given to an investigator is not testimony; it's a statement.
- 20 So I would prefer if we have some guidance. Are we to refer to a
- 21 statement as testimony when we are confronting a witness with
- 22 such a statement?
- 23 It does tend to cause confusion. It also may tend to elevate the
- 24 nature of the statement itself. My understanding is testimony is
- 25 what comes from the Court itself. I could be wrong, but I don't

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- 1 believe that testimony comes from a statement, especially when
- 2 the witness, in giving the statement, was not under oath.
- 3 MR. LYSAK:
- 4 If I may respond just briefly, Mr. President. The witnesses were
- 5 under oath, as indicated in the statement, and I think any
- 6 statement given under oath qualifies as testimony. But this is a
- 7 matter of semantics. But it certainly is incorrect that
- 8 witnesses— The assertion that witnesses were not under oath is
- 9 incorrect. She was under oath when she gave this statement.
- 10 [10.37.01]
- 11 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 12 Élisabeth Simonneau-Fort is now on her feet. You may proceed if
- 13 you have any issue to raise.
- 14 MS. SIMONNEAU-FORT:
- 15 Thank you very much, Mr. President. If I may, a point of a
- 16 clarification.
- 17 This is a written record of witness interview that is part of the
- 18 proceedings that was undertaken during the judicial investigation
- 19 and part of the Closing Order. This obviously was a statement
- 20 made by the witness prior to these hearings and is entirely
- 21 valid. Thank you, Your Honour.
- 22 [10.37.59]
- 23 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 24 Is there any reply you want to make, Mr. Karnavas?
- 25 MR. KARNAVAS:

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- 1 Thank you, Mr. President. I do stand corrected. I do notice that
- 2 the statement was given under oath, but I still maintain that
- 3 it's not it's not testimony; it is a statement, so I stand by
- 4 my objection.
- 5 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 It is now appropriate to take a short adjournment. The Chamber
- 8 will adjourn for 20 minutes, and we will resume at 11.
- 9 Court officer is instructed to bring the witness to the waiting
- 10 room and bring her back before the Chamber before 11.
- 11 The counsel for Nuon Chea is on his feet. Do you have any other
- 12 matters to raise?
- 13 MR. PESTMAN:
- 14 Yes. Thank you. Mr. President, my client is tired and requests to
- 15 be transferred to the holding cell so that he can follow the
- 16 proceedings from downstairs. I will hand over the request of --
- 17 the waiver as soon as he signs it.
- 18 [10.39.39]
- 19 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 20 The Counsel for Ieng Sary, is there any issue you want to raise?
- 21 You may proceed.
- 22 MR. ANG UDOM:
- 23 Mr. President and Your Honours, since my client has severe back
- 24 pain, I would like, on his behalf, to ask for your leave to let
- 25 him follow the proceedings from the holding cell, downstairs. He

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- 1 has expressly waived his right to participate directly for -- in
- 2 this proceeding for the whole day.
- 3 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 4 Upon receiving the oral request by the defence for Nuon Chea and
- 5 Ieng Sary, who waive their rights to participate directly in this
- 6 hearing but instead follow the proceeding in the holding cell,
- 7 due to the ailing health of the Accused, the Chamber grants the
- 8 requests made by the counsels for Nuon Chea and Ieng Sary, who
- 9 submitted to the Chamber that they have expressly waive their
- 10 right to participate directly but instead follow the proceedings
- 11 from the holding cell, downstairs, where the audiovisual
- 12 equipment is linked for the two Accused to follow the proceeding.
- 13 [10.41.20]
- 14 The Chamber advises the two counsels that you should hand over
- 15 the written waiver of rights with the fingerprint from the two
- 16 Accused and hand over them to the Chamber urgently.
- 17 And the technician is also instructed to make sure that the audio
- 18 equipment is linked so that the two Accused can follow from the
- 19 holding cell, downstairs.
- 20 The court officer the security guards are now instructed to
- 21 bring the two Accused to the holding cell and make sure that the
- 22 equipment is linked for the two Accused.
- 23 The Court is now adjourned.
- 24 (Court recesses from 1042H to 1107H)
- 25 MR. PRESIDENT:

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- 1 Please be seated. The Court is now back in session.
- 2 [11.08.24]
- 3 Before we proceed to the Co-Prosecutor to continue putting
- 4 questions to the witness, we would like to ask that counsel
- 5 Karnavas be on his feet when the Chamber is ruling on his request
- 6 before the break.
- 7 The Chamber notes that the objections by counsel for Ieng Sary
- 8 before the break was not sustained. The statement made in this
- 9 Court is also part of the statement made under oath, and it can
- 10 be regarded as testimonies.
- 11 And to be more precise and to make sure that this will not happen
- 12 again in the future, I would like to hand over to Judge Silvia
- 13 Cartwright to clarify further on this. The floor is now for Judge
- 14 Silvia Cartwright. You may proceed.
- 15 JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:
- 16 Thank you, President. Mr. Karnavas, I think the President has
- 17 been clear enough and that you understood that the legal system
- 18 in which we are engaged has certain fundamental differences,
- 19 procedurally. And you have now understood, of course, that the
- 20 statements made during the investigation phase are under oath
- 21 and, technically, can be called testimony. That is why your
- 22 objection has not been sustained. Thank you.
- 23 [11.10.17]
- 24 MR. KARNAVAS.
- 25 Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Your Honours.

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- 1 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 2 International Co-Prosecutor, you may now proceed with the
- 3 questions to the witness.
- 4 BY MR. LYSAK:
- 5 Thank you, Mr. President.
- 6 [11.10.34]
- 7 Q. Before our break, you had just described for us a booklet that
- 8 you received. And please understand that at this -- at this part
- 9 -- in this part of the trial I don't want to ask you questions,
- 10 get into the details of the substance of the policy.
- 11 What I simply want to ask you at this time is: When was it that
- 12 you received this booklet regarding pagodas and monks? Was it--
- 13 Do you remember the year or do you remember -- If not the year, do
- 14 you remember whether it was during the time you were on the
- 15 Sector 35 Committee or after that?
- 16 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 17 A. We received the booklet after or maybe before, when I was on
- 18 the Sector 35 Committee. I don't remember very well. But there
- 19 was no actual records. For that reason, I don't remember it very
- 20 well. Again, I did not know when -- whether when I was in Kampot
- 21 or Takeo province when the booklet was being distributed. I take
- 22 no notice of this situation and, for that reason, I don't
- 23 remember the dates.
- 24 I may wish to inform Mr. President that I do not want to
- 25 speculate the dates when I feel that it is not quite sure. And

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- 1 I'm afraid that it is better to -- for me to say that I don't
- 2 remember rather than giving you any misleading dates.
- 3 [11.13.27]
- 4 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 5 Mrs. Prak Yut, in the future, if you are not sure whether you
- 6 remember the dates or not, you just simply say you don't
- 7 remember, because it would saves the Court a great deal of time
- 8 and it also good for recording. Thank you.
- 9 International Co-Prosecutor, you may now proceed.
- 10 BY MR. LYSAK:
- 11 Thank you for clarifying that.
- 12 [11.14.09]
- 13 Q. Do you remember who it was that provided you with that
- 14 booklet?
- 15 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 16 A. No, I don't remember. I don't remember his name.
- 17 Q. Was it someone from the Party?
- 18 A. Yes, it is.
- 19 A. During the time you were a member of the Communist Party of
- 20 Kampuchea, did you receive a publication called "Revolutionary
- 21 Flag"?
- 22 A. As a member of the CPK, I rarely provided -- or delivered
- 23 these magazines, because I could not read or write very well, and
- 24 for that reason I did not keep good records of any publications
- 25 by the regime.

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- 1 [11.15.55]
- 2 Q. I understand your testimony regarding your reading. Do you
- 3 remember, though, a booklet called "Revolutionary Flag" that had
- 4 pictures of red flags on the cover being delivered to the sector
- 5 or district offices at which you worked?
- 6 A. I don't know which document you're referring to. I did not
- 7 take "Revolutionary Flags" document seriously, and I can't
- 8 recollect this event.
- 9 Q. What I'm trying to find out is, even though you didn't read
- 10 the books, did you see booklets called "Revolutionary Flag"
- 11 during the time you were a member of the Party?
- 12 [11.17.16]
- 13 A. Yes, I did. I used to see these books because I was a member
- of the Party, although I did not read them, but I saw them.
- 15 Again, I was not good at reading those -- the materials, but I
- 16 saw them.
- 17 Q. And where was it that you would see these "Revolutionary Flag"
- 18 books?
- 19 A. When I was in Kampot province. Yes, I saw them in Kampot
- 20 province.
- 21 Q. Were they at a particular place in Kampot? Were they at one of
- 22 the Party's offices that you can identify for us?
- 23 A. These documents, the "Revolutionary Flags" magazines was --
- 24 were found at Kang Chap's location. After scanning a few pages,
- 25 and I found it difficult to continue reading, I left them there.

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- 1 And I did not know where the books could have been brought to,
- 2 since Kang Chap already deceased.
- 3 Q. Where was Kang Chap's location in Kampot?
- 4 [11.19.38]
- 5 A. He was at the former provincial hall in Kampot, the former
- 6 Kampot province.
- 7 Q. And was that location the Sector 35 Office?
- 8 A. Yes, it was.
- 9 Q. So I want to go back now, just to briefly go back to
- 10 clarifying the sequence of positions and locations that you had.
- 11 You testified that after you became a member of the Sector 35
- 12 Committee, in 1973 or 1974, that you were there for three or four
- 13 years before you transferred to Kampong Cham.
- 14 Do you recall the month and year it was that you moved to Kampong
- 15 Cham and became the secretary of Kampong Siem district?
- 16 A. I was in Kampot in 1973, '74, and '75, '76 -- four years --
- 17 and in 1977, I was transferred to Kampong Cham. So, from '73
- 18 through '76, I was in Kampot.
- 19 [11.21.45]
- 20 Q. Do you remember which month or what part of the year it was
- 21 that you transferred to Kampong Cham, in 1977?
- 22 A. No, I don't.
- 23 Q. Let me see if I can refresh your recollection. In your first
- 24 interview with the investigators from OCIJ, you said that you
- 25 were transferred from Sector 35 to Kampong Siem district in March

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- or April 1977. That's document D234/4. And in a later interview
- 2 -- D234/15, answers A2 through A4 -- you stated that your
- 3 transfer was ordered by Kang Chap in February of 1977.
- 4 Does that refresh your recollection as to when it was, in 1977,
- 5 that you were transferred from Kampot to Kampong Siem district?
- 6 A. Yes, it is correct. I don't I said I didn't remember, but
- 7 with that statement, I can refresh my memory, and it is correct.
- 8 [11.23.38]
- 9 Q. So it was sometime between February and April 1977 that you
- 10 transferred to Kampong Siem district; is that correct?
- 11 A. Yes, it is.
- 12 Q. And how long did you work as the secretary of Kampong Siem
- 13 district?
- 14 A. I had worked there for two months. When my husband was
- 15 arrested, I returned.
- 16 Q. Where did you go after Kampong Siem district?
- 17 A. I moved from Kampong Siem to the Southwest in 1978 --
- 18 correction, to the Northwest.
- 19 Q. Where, in the Northwest, were you transferred to in 1978?
- 20 A. I was transferred to Battambang provincial hall, and it was
- 21 the location where I was asked to stay. And later on I was asked
- 22 to go to a cotton plantation after I spent three nights at the
- 23 city hall.
- 24 [11.25.55]
- 25 Q. Where was this cotton plantation? Do you remember what

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- 1 district it was in, where it was in relation to Battambang city?
- 2 A. It was in Samlout district or Rotonak Mondol. I never lived in
- 3 that location before so I am not quite sure whether this account
- 4 is correct. I perhaps was in Samlout.
- 5 Q. Was it the State cotton plantation at Chi Pan?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. What was your position at that plantation?
- 8 A. After I was transferred from Kampong Cham to the northwest, Ta
- 9 Mok said that I had no further role and responsibilities, and was
- 10 transferred to the cotton plantation. I was asked to do nothing
- 11 but to gather the plantation, since my husband had already been
- 12 arrested. I was finally asked to do the plantation work because,
- 13 after my husband was arrested, I was no longer trusted.
- 14 [11.27.56]
- 15 Q. And do you recall the month, in 1978, that you arrived in
- 16 Battambang?
- 17 A. I'm afraid not. I don't remember the exact month.
- 18 Q. Let me try to refresh your recollection again. In your first
- 19 interview with the investigators from the Court, you stated -
- 20 quote: "I arrived in Battambang around 9 a.m., in October 1978."
- 21 Does that refresh your recollection? Was it correct that the
- 22 month that you arrived in Battambang was October of 1978?
- 23 A. Yes, it is correct, although I said earlier on I didn't
- 24 remember.
- 25 Q. And how long were you -- how long did you work at the cotton

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- 1 plantation in Battambang?
- 2 A. I worked there for two months or so, then the bombardments --
- 3 there were aerial bombardments all over Battambang, and we could
- 4 not continue working at the plantation. We had just started the
- 5 work on the plantation briefly, then this event happened, and we
- 6 left.
- 7 [11.30.07]
- 8 Q. Thank you for clearing up the time periods of your various
- 9 positions.
- 10 Before I move to the next subject, you -- yesterday, you
- 11 testified that, when you were transferred from Kampot to Kampong
- 12 Cham-- I'm sorry. Yesterday, you testified that you were
- 13 transferred from Kampot to Kampong Cham after re-education by
- 14 Kang Chap.
- 15 Could you describe for the Court what you were referring to when
- 16 you -- by the re-education that you received from Kang Chap
- 17 before your transfer?
- 18 A. Before I was transferred to Kampong Cham, I was called by Kang
- 19 Chap to his office, where I was educated and informed that I
- 20 would be transferred to Kampong Cham. I was meeting him at his
- 21 office.
- 22 Q. How long was this meeting?
- 23 A. I was called by Kang Chap at 4 p.m. The meeting took place
- 24 until 6 p.m., so it was for two hours, and I was -- in which I
- 25 was asked to go to Kampong Cham. And as this was the order from

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- 1 my superior, I had nothing but obey such a decision. And I then
- 2 was asked to stay in Kampong Siem, where he would be transferred
- 3 as well to Siem Reap.
- 4 Q. When you said he would be transferred to Siem Reap, you're
- 5 referring to -- you're referring to Kang Chap; is that right?
- 6 [11.32.45]
- 7 A. Yes, it is.
- 8 Q. In this two-hour meeting that you had with Kang Chap, did he
- 9 explain to you why you were being sent to Kampong Siem district?
- 10 A. He did not explain anything further. He just said that he,
- 11 himself, would be moving to Siem Reap and that I would be
- 12 transferred to Kampong Siem, in Kampong Cham. And, upon having
- 13 heard this, I did not contest such a decision because I -- it was
- 14 up to him. Wherever he would like me to go, I would go there.
- 15 Q. I'm going to turn to my-- My next area of questions are going
- 16 to relate to your period on the Sector 35 Committee, and
- 17 specifically, to the authority structure that existed there,
- 18 meaning the authority and responsibilities that zones, sectors,
- 19 and districts had, as well as the communication system, how --
- 20 how instructions or policies were communicated down and the
- 21 information that was reported up by the districts and communes to
- 22 the higher levels.
- 23 [11.34.17]
- 24 The first thing I want just to clear up is: While you were on the
- 25 Sector 35 Committee, where -- where was -- where was your office?

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- 1 Where did you work?
- 2 A. In Sector 35 Committee, we had different task to supervise.
- 3 For example, I was in Kampot district, and Phan in Tuk Meas, the
- 4 other in Kampong Trach, and the other one was responsible in
- 5 Chhuk, and Mr. Chhun was responsible for the district committee
- 6 in Kaoh Sla. So the task was clearly designated.
- 7 And once every two or three months, we met in order to set out
- 8 the work plan. For example, the building of a dyke or dams. Then,
- 9 we met every three months.
- 10 And, again, every three months, we also look at the working in
- 11 progress as well, we jointly look at that.
- 12 And in this committee, Mr. Kang Chap was actually in charge of
- 13 the sector, but at the district level, the tasks were clearly
- 14 divided among ourselves.
- 15 [11.36.00]
- 16 Q. Okay. I'll get back to my question.
- 17 But just to clarify, if I understand you correctly, you're saying
- 18 that the members of the sector committee each had responsibility
- 19 for a particular district and that you're -- you were responsible
- 20 for Kampot district; did I understand you correctly?
- 21 A. Yes, I am responsible for Kampot district.
- 22 Q. Did you have an office in Kampot district?
- 23 A. Yes, I do.
- 24 Q. And was that the same office as the district secretary's, or
- 25 did you have a different office in Kampot district?

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- 1 A. There is a separate -- there is a separate office for the
- 2 district and a separate office for the sector, so they are
- 3 completely separate.
- 4 Q. How many people worked at your office, your sector office, in
- 5 Kampot district?
- 6 A. As I informed you earlier, there were four or five members:
- 7 Phan, Sean, Ti, and Kat, and myself, and Chap, but they are all
- 8 dead; five of us are deceased.
- 9 [11.38.07]
- 10 Q. The people you just identified were the people who were the
- 11 members of the sector committee. I was asking you about people
- 12 who worked at the office that you had in Kampot district, not the
- 13 people who were members of the sector committee. Do you
- 14 understand my question?
- 15 A. Yes. At the district office, the members of district committee
- 16 comprised of four members, and the structure is arranged as in
- 17 the sector as well. But once again, members in the district
- 18 committee are all dead.
- 19 We work as a team of five and we run the day-to-day management of
- 20 the office. And among five members, and I am the assistant. In
- 21 that committee, actually, there are four members, and I was the
- 22 assistant in the district committee.
- 23 [11.39.17]
- 24 Q. In terms of the reporting structure, is it correct -- did the
- 25 district secretary report to you and you reported to the sector

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- 1 secretary, Kang Chap? Was that the reporting structure?
- 2 A. As for the structure of report, Ta Noy and myself reported to
- 3 the -- Kang Chap, and we were the assistants so we reported to
- 4 Kang Chap. We actually the assistants in the district so we
- 5 discuss -- I discuss with Ta Noy, and then, once we agree on the
- 6 substance of the report, then we would forward it to Kang Chap.
- 7 Q. The person you referred to as Ta Noy, was he the secretary of
- 8 Kampot district?
- 9 A. He is the secretary of Kampot district, and I am his
- 10 assistant, because he is not well literate, so I assisted him
- 11 with the work of the district committee. So, at that time, Ta Nov
- 12 was not well literate, so we discussed with each other before we
- 13 prepare report to submit to the sector committee. So I normally
- 14 discussed with him before the report is produced and sent to the
- 15 sector committee.
- 16 [11.41.01]
- 17 Q. The reason I've asked you this a couple of times is because,
- 18 in your first interview with the Co-Investigating Judges, which
- 19 is document D234/4, you made the following statement -- quote:
- 20 "Ta Noy, the district secretary, reported to me and I reported to
- 21 Kang Chap, the sector secretary." End of quote.
- 22 This is from English ERN 00364079, Khmer 00357508, and French ERN
- 23 00403123.
- 24 So I'd like you to clarify whether -- You testified here that you
- 25 were his assistant; you told the investigators that he reported

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- 1 to you and you reported to Kang Chap; which is correct?
- 2 A. That's correct, what you described, but, again, I do not
- 3 remember clearly because it has been such a long time.
- 4 Q. Just so we're clear, the statement that is correct is the one
- 5 you gave to the investigators from the Court, which is that Ta
- 6 Noy reported to you and you reported to Kang Chap; is that right?
- 7 [11.42.48]
- 8 A. That is correct.
- 9 Q. And another thing I wanted to clear up: you said a number of
- 10 times that -- in Court, here, that the Sector 35 Committee only
- 11 met every three months. However, in your statement to the
- 12 investigators, you indicated that the meetings of the Sector 35
- 13 Committee were monthly.
- 14 Were the meetings monthly or were they only every three months?
- 15 A. If If I said, in my interview with the investigator of the
- 16 Office of Co-Investigating Judge, as three months -- or once
- 17 every three months or monthly, then I do not object against my
- 18 earlier statement. So, if it said in that statement that the
- 19 meeting was held once every month, then I would stand by my
- 20 earlier statement.
- 21 [11.44.17]
- 22 Q. Let me just read to you, then, the statement from your first
- 23 interview with the investigators, which is D234/4, reading from
- 24 English ERN 00364080, Khmer ERN 00357509, and French ERN 403124
- 25 (sic) -- quote:

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- 1 "Q: How was the meeting held in the sector committee?
- 2 "A: The meeting was held regularly, once a month, similar to
- 3 those of the district level."
- 4 Is it correct, as you told the investigators, that the sector
- 5 committee, in fact, meant -- met on a regular basis, every month?
- 6 A. That is correct.
- 7 Q. One of the subjects that, you indicated yesterday, were
- 8 discussed at sector meetings were moral offences.
- 9 My question for you is whether district committees had authority
- 10 to decide what to do with persons who made mistakes or committed
- 11 moral offences, or was that something that needed to be brought
- 12 to the sector committee. Who who was it that had authority to
- 13 decide what to do with people who had made mistakes?
- 14 [11.46.29]
- 15 A. For those who committed moral offences, the member of the
- 16 district committee does not have any authority to decide. We had
- 17 to ask for opinions from the sector committee. We simply met, but
- 18 we dare not make any decision. If the sector said that the person
- 19 committed any moral offences, then we had to refer to them if
- 20 that offence was serious. So we did not have any authority; we
- 21 merely referred to them. So we did not have decision-making
- 22 power. We referred to Kang Chap, and then it's up to him to
- 23 decide whether or not he wanted the person to be re-educated or
- 24 so.
- 25 Q. And, in terms of the procedure for how you would refer such

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- 1 matters to Kang Chap, was that done only at meetings or was it
- 2 also done through letters or written communications?
- 3 A. When we reported to Kang Chap, we did not make such report in
- 4 writing; we reported orally to the members of the committee, and
- 5 before we forwarded the report, we had to study thoroughly. We
- 6 dare not make a quick report or conclusion of anything. We had to
- 7 study it thoroughly before we sent the report to him.
- 8 [11.48.26]
- 9 Q. The translation indicated -- was that you sent reports to Kang
- 10 Chap. Were there actual written reports that you sent to Kang
- 11 Chap, or was it always done orally at meetings?
- 12 A. Yes, there was -- it was in writing. Again, I have to make it
- 13 clear that the report was in writing; it was not an oral report.
- 14 Q. And who had responsibility for making such reports for the
- 15 sector secretary?
- 16 A. Nobody had exclusive right. We had to be consensus on the
- 17 teams, and upon agreement by the district committee, then we
- 18 would report it to the upper authority. Nobody had an exclusive
- 19 power or decision-making authority to report individually.
- 20 Q. Were these written reports sent by telegram or were they -- or
- 21 were messengers used to deliver these reports? How were the
- 22 written reports sent to the sector secretary?
- 23 A. We sent the reports through a messenger. Never had we send it
- 24 through a telegram.
- 25 [11.50.16]

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- 1 Q. Did Sector 35 have a telegram office?
- 2 A. I don't know. It was the issue of the sector. I do not have
- 3 any knowledge of it.
- 4 Q. Who was it -- whose authority needed to be obtained in order
- 5 for persons to be executed? Was that authority also provided by
- 6 sector committees?
- 7 A. I am a member of the sector committee, but as for the decision
- 8 to execute anyone, I was not aware of because I was the sixth
- 9 member of the committee and I did not know who was involved in
- 10 the decision to execute anyone. And I was not involved in the
- 11 decision-making process in terms of the execution of anyone. I
- 12 did not know how they came about deciding to execute anyone. Even
- 13 though I am a member of the sector committee, but I did not
- 14 involve in the decision of the execution of anyone. I am being
- 15 honest about that.
- 16 Q. Were minutes kept of the meetings of the Sector 35 Committee?
- 17 A. Actually, the secretary himself kept the minutes for himself.
- 18 He prepared the minutes himself. Whenever there was a meeting, he
- 19 recorded the minutes himself, and I simply took note and
- 20 listened-- I did not take notes, actually, but the secretary
- 21 himself had a note or minutes by himself because he was the one
- 22 who chaired the meeting, so he kept the record to himself.
- 23 [11.52.44]
- 24 Q. Do you know what was done with the minutes of Sector 35
- 25 Committees? Were they distributed to anyone?

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- 1 A. No. Actually, he had his own notebook and he wrote it on his
- 2 own notebook, and we did not know whether he kept a record of it.
- 3 We did not know. But we merely listened to him, and he -- we did
- 4 not even take note of what was discussed in the meeting.
- 5 Q. During the time that you were a member of the Sector 35
- 6 Committee, did you attend meetings of the Kampot District
- 7 Committee?
- 8 A. I am a member of Sector 35 Committee, but I am an assistant of
- 9 the District Committee of Kampot, so I attended meeting. I
- 10 attended meeting with the secretary of Kampot district. And
- 11 whenever a meeting to set out the plan of the committee, I would
- 12 attend regularly.
- 13 Whenever the district secretary met, I would attend the meeting.
- 14 But there was no any special or extraordinary plan. Actually, the
- 15 plan itself was to set out the direction of work, for example,
- 16 building dam or dyke. That was all. We only talk about the
- 17 irrigation, water supplies or so. That's what the substance of
- 18 the meeting was all about.
- 19 [11.54.46]
- 20 And of course I attended every meeting. If I did not attend the
- 21 meeting, how could I be the assistant? When I was an assistant, I
- 22 had to attend all of those meeting.
- 23 Q. How often were the district committee meetings held?
- 24 A. It depends. Sometimes if there are urgent matters to discuss,
- 25 then we meet. We call upon members to convene the extraordinary

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- 1 meeting. Otherwise, we met once every three months. But on a
- 2 monthly basis, we would meet, sometime. We met once every three
- 3 months. So it depends on whether or not there are urgent matters
- 4 to discuss.
- 5 [11.55.52]
- 6 Q. Did the district committee receive written reports from each
- 7 of the communes in the district?
- 8 A. The district committee receives report from the commune, of
- 9 course. Every month they have to send report from the commune
- 10 level.
- 11 Q. What were the subjects, general subjects that the communes
- 12 would report to the district committee every month?
- 13 A. Generally, they report about the cultivation of crops, for
- 14 example which commune has already cultivated rice paddies or
- 15 which commune has not. And we also set out the plan, for example
- 16 to construct the dam, or then we monitor the progress of the
- 17 work, whether or not they had accomplished the target set out in
- 18 the plan.
- 19 [11.57.21]
- 20 Q. Did the reports also address persons who had committed false
- 21 -- mistakes or moral offences or enemies of the party? Was that a
- 22 regular subject on which reports were submitted to the district?
- 23 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 24 There is no translation in Khmer.
- 25 MR. LYSAK:

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- 1 Should I repeat the question, Mr. President? Yes.
- 2 BY MR. LYSAK:
- 3 Q. The question was whether one of the subject matters on which
- 4 the communes regularly reported to the district was on the issue
- 5 of persons who had committed moral offences or false or enemies
- 6 of the Party that had been identified. Was that a regular subject
- 7 matter reported on?
- 8 [11.58.34]
- 9 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 10 The defence counsel for Nuon Chea is on his feet. Do you have any
- 11 matters to raise?
- 12 MR. PESTMAN:
- 13 Yes, thank you. I think we need some guidance from the Bench.
- 14 This morning, we were told that guestions with regard to
- 15 structure and communication were allowed, and witnesses were
- 16 supposed to answer those questions, but that questions into the
- 17 substance of the structure and the communications were not going
- 18 to be allowed.
- 19 So I would say that this is not inside the scope of the first
- 20 mini trial, but maybe you can give us some clearer instructions.
- 21 MR. LYSAK:
- 22 If I may briefly respond, Mr. President, the sections of the
- 23 Closing Order that are part of this case, including paragraph 76
- 24 itself, as an example, discusses how zones and sectors reported
- 25 to the Standing Committee on agricultural situation, rice

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- 1 harvest, irrigation systems, the livelihood of the people and the
- 2 enemy and military situation.
- 3 So it's not our intention to get into specifics or details, but
- 4 without information as to the general subjects that were
- 5 reported, this information is not going to be useful to the
- 6 Court.
- 7 [12.00.08]
- 8 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 9 The objection by the defence counsel for Nuon Chea is not
- 10 sustained.
- 11 The witness is directed to answer question put by the
- 12 Prosecution.
- 13 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 14 Could you please ask the question again?
- 15 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 16 Co-Prosecutor, please repeat the question because the witness
- 17 seems to have forgotten your question. So, please, repeat your
- 18 question so that the witness can answer your question.
- 19 [12.00.58]
- 20 BY MR. LYSAK:
- 21 Yes, thank you, Mr. President.
- 22 Q. My question was whether one of the subjects that was reported
- 23 by communes to the district committee was on the existence of
- 24 persons who had committed moral offences, made mistakes or
- 25 enemies that had been identified. Was that one of the regular

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- 1 subjects that was included in reports?
- 2 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 3 A. This question relevant to the report from the commune level to
- 4 the district level, the report would include the results of our
- 5 work, and of course it also included some wrongdoings of some
- 6 people. And I agreed with the report, it doesn't mean that I
- 7 agreed that there could have been enemies, but we, at the
- 8 district level, would like to understand the situation and we did
- 9 not really want people to be executed.
- 10 [12.02.25]
- 11 Frankly, we helped some people, although who those who
- 12 committed some wrongdoings, we helped educate them as much as we
- 13 can to make sure that they correct themselves.
- 14 And I think that's all for me, And if you are not clear, you may
- 15 put further questions on this.
- 16 Q. Thank you for that. Was another subject that was reported on
- 17 by communes to districts and from the districts to the sectors
- 18 the conditions of the people who were working at work sites such
- 19 as dam sites? Was that a regular subject of reports?
- 20 [12.03.23]
- 21 A. Reports had to be made through this chain of line -- command,
- 22 for example from commune to district, from district to sector,
- 23 and the report must be made in writing. And we had to include in
- 24 the reports, as indicated, what we had achieved and what we have
- 25 not yet achieved.

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- 1 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 2 Thank you, Mr. Co-Prosecutor. And thank you, Witness.
- 3 Since it is now appropriate time for lunch adjournment, the
- 4 session is adjourned.
- 5 Afternoon session will resume at 1.30 p.m.
- 6 Court officer is now instructed to assist the witness so that she
- 7 can be returned to the courtroom as scheduled.
- 8 Security personnels are now instructed to take Khieu Samphan to
- 9 the holding cell and have him returned to the courtroom before
- 10 1.30.
- 11 The Court is adjourned for lunch.
- 12 (Court recesses from 1204H to 1335H)
- 13 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 14 Please be seated. The Court is now back in session.
- 15 We would like to hand over to the Co-Prosecutor to proceed with
- 16 the remaining of the questions to this witness.
- 17 Co-Prosecutor is now reminded that you still have one hour left
- 18 for this questioning.
- 19 BY MR. LYSAK:
- 20 Thank you, Mr. President.
- 21 [13.36.59]
- 22 Q. When we broke, we were talking about subject matters that were
- 23 reported from the communes and districts to the sector level. And
- 24 I wanted to ask you whether one of the subjects that was reported
- 25 by the communes to the districts and by the districts to the

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- 1 sectors was the hardships faced by workers in the district.
- 2 Was that a subject -- regular subject of reports, hardships such
- 3 as starvation and food shortages?
- 4 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 5 A. This report included, indeed, the hardship of the people and
- 6 just -- other things, not just the hardship. The district was
- 7 supposed to report to the sector on this condition. Thank you.
- 8 Q. And did the district inform the sector when there was
- 9 insufficient food and people were starving?
- 10 [13.38.40]
- 11 A. The reports also included some of these, for example when
- 12 people at the work site lacked sufficient food, and we asked
- 13 sector to do something about this.
- 14 Q. Thank you for that response. Did the reports sent to the
- 15 sector inform them regarding the number of sick people and number
- 16 of people who had died in the district?
- 17 A. The report would include the numbers of sick people, indeed,
- 18 and -- but not dead people because there were more people -- sick
- 19 people than people who died.
- 20 Q. Well, when you were interviewed by the investigators from the
- 21 Court on the -- in the -- on the 18th of November 2009 -- this is
- 22 document D234/15, answer 28 -- you gave the following testimony
- 23 -- quote:
- 24 "Q: Did you report the number of the sick and dead to the upper
- 25 echelon?

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- 1 "A: Yes, I reported to the upper echelon about the number of the
- 2 sick people and food shortage, and also requested the assistance
- 3 from the upper echelon. I also reported the number of the dead to
- 4 the upper echelon." End of quote.
- 5 Was your statement to the investigators truthful, Mrs. Prak Yut?
- 6 Did you, in fact, report to the sector the number of dead people
- 7 in your district?
- 8 [13.41.51]
- 9 A. Yes, the statement was truthful. I did report on that.
- 10 Q. And in further regard to communications between the zones,
- 11 sectors, and districts, were zones, sector, and district leaders
- 12 informed in advance regarding planned arrests of cadres in their
- 13 organizations? Was that a matter that was reported to zone,
- 14 sector, and district leaders?
- 15 A. The leaders did not tell me anything about the arrest. I was
- 16 not informed.
- 17 Q. Were you told in advance about the arrest of your husband?
- 18 A. Before my husband was arrested, I was told by Ta Mok that my
- 19 husband had been arrested, and I met him. I couldn't remember the
- 20 date when my husband was arrested, but that's what I was told.
- 21 Q. There may have been a problem in the translation, so let me
- 22 clarify: Were you told in advance that your husband was going to
- 23 be arrested -- in other words, told before he was actually
- 24 arrested?
- 25 [13.44.01]

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- 1 A. Yes, indeed, I was informed before my husband had been
- 2 arrested. I would like to correct my previous statement. I did
- 3 make a mistake.
- 4 Q. How far in advance of your husband's arrest were you given
- 5 notice by Ta Mok that he was going to be arrested?
- 6 A. Three days.
- 7 Q. Were you also warned -- told about the arrest in advance by
- 8 your sector secretary?
- 9 A. I was not informed by the sector committee. I was only
- 10 informed by Ta Mok concerning this arrest.
- 11 Q. Let me see if I can refresh your recollection.
- 12 In the statement you gave again to the investigators from the
- 13 Court in November 2009 -- D234/15, and this is in answer 34 --
- 14 you made the following statement -- quote:
- 15 "It was not only the sector secretary who called to tell me about
- 16 my husband arrest; even Ta Mok, who was the zone secretary, also
- 17 called to tell me that my husband would be arrested."
- 18 [13.45.54]
- 19 Is it correct, as you told the investigators, that you were
- 20 informed in advance by both the sector and zone secretary of his
- 21 arrest?
- 22 A. I think perhaps I made wrong. I think Ta Noy, and the sector
- 23 committee, and Ta Mok did inform me on this. This is the truth.
- 24 Q. And do you know -- are you able to tell the Chamber how the
- 25 zone, sector, and district secretaries were all aware in advance

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- 1 of the plan to arrest your husband? Do you know how it is that
- 2 they were all aware of that?
- 3 A. I had no knowledge of how the decision made concerning the
- 4 arrest of my husband. I did never know what happened and I only
- 5 heard that my husband was arrested when I was told by the people
- 6 concerned, as I indicated. And when I was informed that my
- 7 husband was arrested -- or would be arrested and then arrested, I
- 8 had no idea. I had -- I could not do anything.
- 9 [13.47.50]
- 10 Q. What what was your husband's position? Where was he working
- 11 at this time?
- 12 A. Before his arrest, he did not do anything. He was the head of
- 13 the office for Kang Chap. He was not a district chief. He was a
- 14 clerk, nothing else.
- 15 Q. Did you warn your husband that he was going to be arrested?
- 16 A. I did not dare to inform him because Ta Mok warned me already
- 17 that the information he told me must be kept between me and him.
- 18 Otherwise, I, too, would be in trouble.
- 19 Q. Thank you for answering those questions.
- 20 You indicated a number of times -- made statements a number of
- 21 times that you were required to follow instructions that were
- 22 provided to you, such as the one you've just described from Ta
- 23 Mok.
- 24 Could you tell the Chamber what happened to those who did not
- 25 follow instructions from the upper echelon?

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- 1 [13.49.42]
- 2 A. Those people would be educated. And when it comes to the
- 3 arrest of my husband, although I knew that, I just kept mum. I
- 4 could not protest and I had to follow the instruction provided to
- 5 me. I did not even dare to talk to my husband about this. And
- 6 this is really the truth. At that time, I did not breach what I
- 7 was told not to do, and for example, if I told my husband about
- 8 this and he escaped, and I would be in big trouble.
- 9 Q. Thank you. You were asked yesterday about the re-education
- 10 office in Kampot district. And in response to the question, you
- 11 -- at least the English translation indicated that the chief was
- 12 responsible for the re-education office.
- 13 I'm not sure whether the translation came through okay, but who
- 14 was the chief who you referred to, who was responsible -- had
- 15 authority and was responsible for the Kampot district
- 16 re-education office?
- 17 [13.51.38]
- 18 A. The chief, here, was referred to a person whose name I don't
- 19 remember, who was deceased. He worked at the Education
- 20 Department, and there was a head for Education Department. He was
- 21 the successor of Ta Noy, and he was deceased. I'm sorry that I
- 22 can't recollect his name.
- 23 Q. Okay. So, just to clarify, you were referring to a person
- 24 whose name you can't remember, who was the chief of the
- 25 re-education office; is that right?

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- 1 A. Yes, it is.
- 2 Q. I want to ask you a few questions, now, about the period in
- 3 which you were -- served as the Kampong Siem district secretary.
- 4 And again, just to clarify something, you had, I think, earlier,
- 5 before my questions, indicated that you were only the -- located
- 6 in Kampong Siem district for three months, two or three months.
- 7 But based on the testimony we went through at the start, am I
- 8 correct that you were actually in Kampong Siem district serving
- 9 as district secretary for over a year, from the time you arrived,
- 10 in between February and April 1977, until the time you were sent
- 11 to Battambang, in October 1978? Is it correct that you were
- 12 located in Kampong Siem during that entire time?
- 13 [13.53.46]
- 14 A. I think I had been working there for a few months, not up to
- 15 one year, because I was there until August, not not a year. And
- 16 in the statement I made before the Co-Investigating Judges, I
- 17 think that I stand by that statement.
- 18 Q. Yes, but even if it was August when you left for Battambang,
- 19 you arrived in Kampong Siem district in the early part of 1977
- 20 and were there until August of 1978, the next year.
- 21 So is it not correct that the period you were in Kampong Siem
- 22 district was much more than a couple of months? You were there
- 23 for over a year; correct?
- 24 A. Yes, it is.
- 25 Q. Where was your district office located?

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- 1 A. Are you referring to the Kampong Siem district office?
- 2 Q. Yes.
- 3 A. It was located to the west of Phnom Pros Mountain near
- 4 Angkuonh Dei Pagoda.
- 5 Q. How far away from Phnom Pros were you? How many kilometres?
- 6 A. I'm afraid I cannot say exactly how far it was from Phnom
- 7 Pros. I just can't say so.
- 8 [13.56.20]
- 9 Q. When you were asked yesterday, you testified that there --
- 10 Kampong Siem district did not have a re-education office or
- 11 security office. But when you were asked by the investigators in
- 12 your initial interview -- in document D234/4, at page English
- 13 00364083, Khmer 00357513, and 00403127 -- you gave the following
- 14 answer:
- 15 "Q: Was there a security centre in Kampong Siem district?
- 16 "A: In Kampong Siem district, during the time, I controlled the
- 17 district, there was a security centre, but I did not allow
- 18 sending people to that centre."
- 19 My question is, as testified -- you testified to the
- 20 investigators initially; was it true that there was in fact a
- 21 security centre in Kampong Siem district?
- 22 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 23 The counsel for Nuon Chea, you may proceed.
- 24 MR. PESTMAN:
- 25 I understand it's an interesting topic to the prosecutor, but I

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- 1 really don't understand how this could fall within the scope of
- 2 the first trial. Whether there was a security centre in Kampong
- 3 Siem or not is completely irrelevant. It doesn't say anything
- 4 about the command structure or about communications after 1975,
- 5 so I object to this question.
- 6 [13.58.12]
- 7 MR. LYSAK:
- 8 Mr. President, if I may respond, I intend to ask general
- 9 questions regarding the structures of districts: Did they have a
- 10 re-education office? How were they responsible? How was food
- 11 allocated within the district? Did they have their own medical
- 12 services?
- 13 I'm not going to get into details on this, but I think it's
- 14 important for us, if we are -- if we, as the Co-Prosecutors, have
- 15 the burden of proof to prove the structures of Democratic
- 16 Kampuchea, including zones, sectors, and districts, I think we
- 17 need we need to go into a little bit of information. I'm not
- 18 going to get into details about what went on at the security
- 19 centre; I'm just trying to establish whether one existed and
- 20 whose -- under whose authority it was.
- 21 [13.59.28]
- 22 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 23 The objection by Nuon Chea counsel is not sustained.
- 24 The Chamber would like to hear the response from the witness to
- 25 the question by the prosecutor.

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- 1 If witness still remembers the question, she is now instructed to
- 2 respond. If not, she may ask Co-Prosecutor to repeat the
- 3 question. Madam Prak Yut, do you still remember the question
- 4 asked by the Co-Prosecutor? Or Mr. Co-Prosecutor may put the
- 5 question again to make sure that the witness understands the
- 6 question and can respond to it.
- 7 [14.00.32]
- 8 BY MR. LYSAK:
- 9 Q. The question was whether, as you testified to the
- 10 investigators from the Court -- Was there a security office in
- 11 Kampong Siem district?
- 12 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 13 A. There was security office in Kampong Siem district, and I
- 14 would like to submit that it is true.
- 15 O. Where was it located?
- 16 A. Back then, it was right next to the district office, somewhere
- 17 between the district office and Phnom Pros Mountain.
- 18 Q. The security office that was next to Phnom Pros, was that a
- 19 district security office under your authority, or was it a
- 20 security office that was under someone else's authority, whether
- 21 a sector, zone or military?
- 22 A. It does not -- it did not belong to the sector or the zone, it
- 23 was for the district. And that centre was for re-educating any
- 24 people who were bad, who were found in the district. It does not
- 25 -- it did not concern the sector. It was I who was re-educating

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- 1 those people at that place.
- 2 [14.02.41]
- 3 Q. Well, I will move on now because we can't -- we're not to
- 4 discuss the subject of that, but I hope someday we get to hear
- 5 from you about that further.
- 6 My next questions relate to reports during the period that you
- 7 were the Kampong Siem district secretary.
- 8 Did you prepare written reports on the situation in your district
- 9 during the time you were Kampong Siem district secretary?
- 10 A. I was the secretary of Kampong Siem district. I reported to
- 11 the sector, and my report was in writing. I did that once a
- 12 month. It was about the plan implementation within the district.
- 13 I also reported on the situations.
- 14 Q. And this was a written report. How was it sent to the sector
- 15 secretary? Was it sent by telegram or was it sent by messengers?
- 16 A. The report was sent through messengers, messengers who lived
- 17 with me. They were not made informed of telegram.
- 18 [14.04.14]
- 19 Q. Where was the sector secretary located, to whom you reported
- 20 while you were Kampong Siem district secretary?
- 21 A. I do not remember where it was. I was a newcomer, and I did
- 22 not ask for the location of the place. I do not collect in which
- 23 district it was. I don't even remember clearly the place where I
- 24 lived.
- 25 Q. You testified yesterday that you participated in meetings with

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- 1 the zone secretary, Ke Pauk. Who else attended the meetings with
- 2 Ke Pauk that you were present at?
- 3 A. They were secretary committees, for example Sector 41, Sector
- 4 42, and he was the chief because he was the zone committee. In
- 5 the meeting, there were some peoples, but I do not remember their
- 6 names. I don't remember the names of those who attended the
- 7 meeting.
- 8 Q. Where were those meetings held?
- 9 A. It was in Kampong Cham town.
- 10 [14.06.08]
- 11 Q. Was it at the location of the zone office?
- 12 A. Yes, it was the location of the zone office.
- 13 Q. And, in general, what were the subject matters that were
- 14 discussed at the meetings with the zone secretary that you
- 15 attended?
- 16 A. Most of the times, we discussed the work that the people
- 17 needed to do, for example to build dams or to dig up canals. We
- 18 discussed the matters concerning whether our people were in good
- 19 living conditions, and so the zone committees could devise
- 20 solutions for the problems, for all types of problems.
- 21 Q. Was there any discussion, in those meetings, regarding
- 22 policies or instructions that had been received from the Party
- 23 leaders in Phnom Penh?
- 24 A. I do not know about that because, during the zone committee
- 25 meetings, we only discussed what I have told you, and I don't

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- 1 know what were discussed between the zone committees and people
- 2 from Phnom Penh. I do not know about that. I only come to know
- 3 when there were announcements on -- at the lower level.
- 4 [14.08.04]
- 5 Q. How were announcements made at the local level, on those
- 6 matters?
- 7 You've just indicated that you learned of policies and
- 8 instructions when announcements were made at the local level. How
- 9 were those announcements made?
- 10 A. He instructed us. He instructed the people to build dams and
- 11 things like that, and nothing else. And he urged that the people
- 12 tried to build dams and to dig up canals. That is to meet the
- 13 plan. This is what he said.
- 14 Q. Who is the "he" you're referring to? Who is it that provided
- 15 those instructions?
- 16 A. He was Ta Pauk.
- 17 Q. You're referring to the zone secretary, Ke Pauk; is that
- 18 correct?
- 19 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 20 [14.09.40]
- 21 Q. (Microphone not activated)
- 22 I want to turn to a different subject, now, and ask you a few
- 23 questions regarding an entity called the People's Representative
- 24 Assembly.
- 25 In 1976, did you become aware of the entity the People's

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- 1 Representative Assembly?
- 2 A. Let me tell you this. During that time, I was not aware of
- 3 what the People's Representatives were, but I have heard from Ta
- 4 Noy, who told me that I was about to become a people
- 5 representative, but I did not, at that time, even know what it
- 6 meant. But it was what Ta Noy told me. And when I went to the
- 7 zone, Ta Chap also told me that I would be a representative for
- 8 the people. But this is what I was told, I never worked as a
- 9 representative of the people. The point is I did not understand
- 10 the matter. It's like that I was in the position, but I never
- 11 attended any meetings. And, like I said, I, myself, did not even
- 12 know what it means by the word "people's representative".
- 13 [14.11.35]
- 14 Indeed, I was a candidate at that time. However, I was not aware
- 15 of the roles that I were to do, and it was not even clear when
- 16 the zone people told me that I was to be people's representative.
- 17 And at that time we were not knowledgeable about anything. This
- 18 is what I'm -- would like -- I'm telling you, which is the truth.
- 19 Q. Okay. Let me ask you a few specific questions.
- 20 To your knowledge, was there ever actually an election where
- 21 people voted and elected you as a representative of the People's
- 22 Assembly?
- 23 A. I do not know about election.
- 24 Q. Did you ever observe any people voting in Kampot district, in
- 25 March 1976 or any time in 1976?

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- 1 A. No, I do not know about that.
- 2 [14.13.06]
- 3 Q. I gather, then, that you, yourselves, didn't vote in any
- 4 election, on the 20th of March 1976, for the People's
- 5 Representative Assembly.
- 6 A. No, I did not vote.
- 7 Q. And, if I understood your statement a few minutes ago-- Well,
- 8 why don't you tell me? Let me just ask you this way: Tell us how
- 9 it is that you first learned that you had been selected as a
- 10 representative of the People's Assembly. How is it that you
- 11 learned that you had been named to that position?
- 12 A. I do not remember when. I do not recall the year. No, I don't
- 13 remember.
- 14 [14.14.15]
- 15 Q. I was actually asking how, and I think you had previously
- 16 testified that several individuals, your district secretary, Ta
- 17 Noy, and sector secretary, Kang Chap, had informed you of your
- 18 appointment to the People's Representative Assembly.
- 19 Let me ask: Was that the first time-- Was that how you learned
- 20 that you had been named as a representative of the People's
- 21 Assembly, through those conversations that you that you've
- 22 described, with Ta Noy and Kang Chap?
- 23 A. The first time he told me, but there was no formal meeting in
- 24 the sector. I was only informed that I was selected as the
- 25 representative of the people.

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- 1 Q. The issue of meetings was actually my next question. So let me
- 2 ask you this: Were you ever, at any time, invited to attend a
- 3 meeting of the People's Representative Assembly?
- 4 A. No, I was not.
- 5 [14.15.51]
- 6 Q. Were you ever notified of any legislation that was proposed or
- 7 passed by the People's Representative Assembly?
- 8 A. No, I was not.
- 9 Q. I gather that you never voted on any legislation as a member
- 10 of the People's Representative Assembly?
- 11 A. You are right, I never voted.
- 12 Q. Was your husband also named as a representative of the
- 13 People's Assembly?
- 14 A. Yes, my husband was also a representative.
- 15 Q. And could you tell the Chamber what your husband's name was?
- 16 A. My husband's name was Am.
- 17 [14.17.09]
- 18 Q. That was- Excuse me. That was his alias, Am; is that right?
- 19 A. It was the name that I used to address him the first times --
- 20 in the first times we met. I addressed him "Am".
- 21 Q. Was his full name Sam Dam? Is that right?
- 22 A. His original name was Sam Dam, but his alias was Am.
- 23 Q. What part of the country was your husband from?
- 24 A. He was in Prey Veng, Prey Veng province.
- 25 [14.18.16]

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- 1 Q. Do you know how how he learned, how your husband learned
- 2 that he had been named as a representative of the People's
- 3 Assembly?
- 4 A. We learned about that relatively at the same time.
- ${\tt 5}\,{\tt Q}.$ The accused Nuon Chea, in this case, has claimed that he was
- 6 busy working on legislative matters during the Democratic
- 7 Kampuchea period, in his capacity as chairman of the People's
- 8 Representative Assembly.
- 9 So I'd like to ask you, as one of the named representatives of
- 10 the Assembly: Did you ever work with Nuon Chea on any legislative
- 11 matters between April 1975 and January 1979?
- 12 A. No, I never.
- 13 Q. Were you ever present for any speeches given by Nuon Chea in
- 14 his capacity as chairman of the People's Representative Assembly?
- 15 A. No, I never was.
- 16 [14.19.57]
- 17 Q. Did you ever meet Nuon Chea during the Democratic Kampuchea
- 18 regime?
- 19 A. No, I never met him.
- 20 MR. LYSAK:
- 21 Mr. President, at this time, I'd like to show a document -- have
- 22 a document handed to this witness, which is document IS 13.13.
- 23 And for the record this is a document titled "Document on
- 24 Conference of Legislature of the People's Representative Assembly
- of Kampuchea" from the 11th to 13th of April 1976". If I may pass

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- 1 -- have a copy of this document shown -- given to the witness?
- 2 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 3 Can the Co-Prosecutor identify the document again? Because I
- 4 heard from the translation it's 1,000 and something; I don't
- 5 think this can be in transcript properly. Can the Co-Prosecutor
- 6 identify the document -- that is, the document number and the
- 7 document title, the document that you are requesting to be shown
- 8 on the screen?
- 9 [14.21.57]
- 10 MR. LYSAK:
- 11 Yes, Mr. President. I actually just want to show the document to
- 12 the witness, but it's document IS 13.13, and it is a document
- 13 that is titled -- quote -- "Document on Conference of Legislature
- of the People's Representative Assembly of Kampuchea" from the
- 15 11th to the 13th of April 1976.
- 16 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 17 You are permitted to do so.
- 18 And court officer is instructed to bring the document from the
- 19 Co-Prosecutor to the witness.
- 20 (Short pause)
- 21 [14.23.02]
- 22 BY MR. LYSAK:
- 23 Q. I'm not going to ask you to read this document, Ms. Prak Yut.
- 24 There's a few photos in it that I'm going to show to you.
- 25 But my first question is simply whether you attended a meeting of

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- 1 the People's Representative Assembly in Phnom Penh, on the dates
- 2 of 11 to 13 April 1976.
- 3 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 4 A. I do not remember everything about the meeting of the
- 5 Assembly. I'm not sure I remember whether I attended any meeting
- 6 of the Assembly. It was a long time ago. I find that you ask the
- 7 question again and again.
- 8 I forget about the dates of the meeting. And, what I can see on
- 9 this document, it refers to the General Assembly, the first
- 10 General Assembly meeting, and I don't remember about it. This is
- 11 my answer to you. I will answer more if you ask me more
- 12 questions.
- 13 [14.24.42]
- 14 Q. Yes. I'd like you to look at what is page 4 of the Khmer
- 15 version of the document. It is ERN -- Khmer ERN 00053607. And,
- 16 Mr. President, we'll also show -- show this photograph on the
- 17 screen. It's not a very good copy, but there is a photograph,
- 18 next to page 4 of the document, which purports to be a photograph
- 19 of the members of the People's Representative Assembly gathered
- 20 in front of the Assembly building on the 11th of April 1976.
- 21 And I simply want you to look at that photograph and see if that
- 22 refreshes your recollection as to whether or not you were present
- 23 at this meeting.
- 24 A. You asked me whether I was present during this Assembly
- 25 meeting. Well, let me express my view.

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- 1 If you strongly insist that I was present there, I could not deny
- 2 it, but I just don't remember whether I was present. And I don't
- 3 remember the date of the meeting because I did not note -- I did
- 4 not take any note.
- 5 [14.26.40]
- 6 I'm not speaking -- I cannot just answer without knowing for sure
- 7 that I remember that, because, as I remember, I only heard
- 8 something about a meeting -- the meeting. I was not paying very
- 9 close attention to that. This is my answer to you.
- 10 Q. Please understand, I'm not suggesting anything by my question.
- 11 I'm trying to find out whether or not, to the best of your
- 12 recollection, you were present at this Assembly meeting.
- 13 Let me ask you the question in a slightly different way: The
- 14 building that's shown in this photograph appears to be a fairly
- 15 famous building, here in Phnom Penh, called the Chaktomuk
- 16 Conference Hall and Theatre that's on the riverfront.
- 17 Do you ever recall attending any meetings at that building, in
- 18 Phnom Penh, during the period of Democratic Kampuchea?
- 19 [14.28.05]
- 20 A. I don't think I attended a meeting. I want to be this brief
- 21 because at that time--
- 22 Q. One final thing I want to ask, just, again, to try to refresh
- 23 your recollection as best we can as to whether or not you
- 24 attended this meeting.
- 25 On pages 35 to 36 of the Khmer version of the document, which is

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- 1 Khmer ERN 00053628 through 53629, English ERN 00184063 through
- 2 184064 and French ERN 00301350, if you-- On those pages, you will
- 3 find a list of the nine agenda items that were debated and
- 4 decided by the Assembly representatives at this meeting.
- 5 And, as you've indicated, you have trouble reading; let me just
- 6 read to you a number of the agenda items that were discussed at
- 7 this meeting to see if that refreshes your recollection: number
- 8 1, "examination of the results of the universal elections 20th
- 9 March 1976"; number 2 on the agenda item is "preparation of work
- 10 systems of the People's Representative Assembly of Kampuchea",
- 11 including a number of commissions; item number 3 on the agenda
- 12 item is as follows:
- 13 "Examine, consider, and decide upon the request--" Excuse me.
- 14 "Examine, consider, and decide upon the request for retirement of
- 15 Prince Norodom Sihanouk in accordance with the prince's personal
- 16 announcement made on 2nd April 1976 and the government
- 17 announcements of 4th April 1976 concerning Prince Norodom
- 18 Sihanouk's personal request to retire, which the government has
- 19 sent to the Assembly."
- 20 [14.30.55]
- 21 Let me stop and ask you about that agenda item specifically: Do
- 22 you remember being present for any meeting that considered
- 23 whether to accept the retirement request of then Prince Sihanouk?
- 24 A. I have never been involved with the former King. I never knew
- 25 where he went. I never keep any memory of this event because I

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- 1 have never known anything about it.
- 2 Q. My question was simply whether you recall being present at a
- 3 meeting that discussed the resignation of Sihanouk. Were you ever
- 4 present at any such meeting?
- 5 A. (No interpretation)
- 6 [14.32.10]
- 7 MR. LYSAK:
- 8 I'm sorry, I didn't hear a translation of an answer.
- 9 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 10 Could you please respond?
- 11 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 12 A. No, I never attended a meeting. I never knew anything about
- 13 that meeting. It is really the truth. I never attended such
- 14 meeting. How could I answer if I don't know?
- 15 BY MR. LYSAK:
- 16 Q. Thank you.
- 17 I have a few questions for you related to the forced movements,
- 18 and then I will turn over the questioning to someone else.
- 19 [14.33.14]
- 20 My colleague has asked you some questions about the evacuation of
- 21 Phnom Penh.
- 22 First of all, am I correct, based on the testimony you've given
- 23 us today, that, at the time of 17th of April 1975, you were a
- 24 member of the Sector 35 Committee in Kampot? Is that correct?
- 25 MS. PRAK YUT:

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- 1 A. Yes, it is.
- 2 Q. Can you tell the Chamber whether-- Prior to the 17th of April
- 3 1975, were there food shortages in Kampot?
- 4 A. When I was in Kampot, it was rare that there was any food
- 5 shortages because people had enough food to eat. And this is what
- 6 I witnessed working there. So I can say that people had food to
- 7 eat, although, in some places, people may lack some food, but
- 8 it's not really big shortages. And people can share the food.
- 9 [14.35.05]
- 10 Q. As a member of the Sector 35 Committee, are you able to tell
- 11 the Chamber why it is that the city or town of Kampot was
- 12 evacuated in April 1975?
- 13 A. I think I made it clear already that I did not remember how
- 14 people were evacuated, because the committee of the sector did
- 15 not tell me anything about this, and this is all the truth I can
- 16 tell. And I saw people being evacuated, but I had nothing to do
- 17 with it.
- 18 So, again, I am telling the truth. I am before this Court to tell
- 19 the truth. I'm not making up any excuses. And I did not know how
- 20 the decision to evacuate the people from the cities was made.
- 21 [14.36.35]
- 22 Q. When you say you saw people being evacuated, were these people
- 23 being evacuated from Kampot city?
- 24 A. Yes, I saw them being evacuated from Kampot city, but I just
- 25 did not know who made the decision for such evacuation.

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- 1 Q. And as a member of the Sector 35 Committee, are you aware of
- 2 any involvement of the sector committee in the evacuation of
- 3 Kampot city?
- 4 A. No, I am not, because I was not engaged in this process; I
- 5 worked at the paddy fields all the time. Even during the 7 of
- 6 January, I was not in the city, I was at the fields, so what
- 7 being decided or executed in the cities was outside my knowledge.
- 8 [14.38.01]
- 9 Q. Did-- Excuse me. Did the Sector 35 Committee receive any
- 10 instructions on what to do with evacuees from the cities -- that
- 11 you're aware of?
- 12 A. No, I don't know. I don't know anything about this. And I,
- 13 perhaps, repeat time again that they were responsible for the
- 14 plans they implemented, and I had nothing to do with this, and I
- 15 don't know.
- 16 Q. Mr. President, I have one more question, if I can proceed to
- 17 finish at this time.
- 18 The last question I wanted to ask you, Ms. Prak Yut, is whether
- 19 the sector committee received any instructions on what to do with
- 20 former soldiers or officials from the Lon Nol government.
- 21 A. Could you please repeat this question?
- 22 Q. Yes. My question is whether the sector committee received any
- 23 instructions or whether you received any instructions on what to
- 24 do with former officials or soldiers from the Lon Nol government.
- 25 A. I don't understand. I don't understand the question, not the

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- 1 answer.
- 2 [14.39.57]
- 3 Q. Let me read to you a statement you provided to the
- 4 investigators in your initial interview, which is document
- 5 D234/4, which is at English ERN 00364084, Khmer ERN 00357514, and
- 6 French ERN 00403127. And your testimony was as follows:
- 7 "Q: Was there a plan for officials, police officers, soldiers and
- 8 intellectuals in Lon Nol regime?
- 9 "A: I received an order to help re-educate them, but I did not
- 10 know where they were arrested and sent to." End of quote.
- 11 As you testified to the investigators, did you receive an order
- 12 to re-educate Lon Nol's soldiers and officials?
- 13 A. No, I did not receive any orders on this. If-- Whatever said
- 14 in the statement before the Co-Investigating Judges, I still
- 15 stand by that decision.
- 16 [14.41.52]
- 17 Q. Well, I'm a little confused. You told you told the
- 18 investigators that you did receive an order to re-educate former
- 19 Lon Nol officers and soldiers; is that correct?
- 20 A. Yes, it is.
- 21 Q. Who did you receive that order from?
- 22 A. I received these orders from Ta Chap. I was told to help
- 23 re-educate former officials at communes and district -- and
- 24 villages, rather.
- 25 Q. And by "Ta Chap", you're referring to the sector secretary

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- 1 Kang Chap; is that correct?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 [14.43.03]
- 4 MR. LYSAK:
- 5 Thank you, Mrs. Prak Yut. Mr. President, that's all the questions
- 6 I have.
- 7 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 8 Thank you. Since it is now appropriate time for an adjournment,
- 9 we shall--
- 10 (Judges deliberate)
- 11 [14.44.03]
- 12 Since it is now appropriate time for adjournment, we will take a
- 13 20-minute break. The session will be resumed at 3.05.
- 14 (Court recesses from 1444H to 1505H)
- 15 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 16 Please be seated. The Court is back in session.
- 17 Next, we will be -- proceed with the Lead Co-Lawyers.
- 18 However, before we do so, the Chamber would like to render its
- 19 oral decision concerning the documents, as follows.
- 20 During last week's hearing, the parties raised questions as to
- 21 the proper application of Internal Rule 87.
- 22 The Trial Chamber provides the following guidelines regarding the
- 23 applicability of Internal Rule 87 insofar as it concerns
- 24 relevance and reliability, including authenticity, of documents
- intended to be put before the Chamber.

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- 1 [15.07.43]
- 2 Internal Rule 87.3(a) requires that a document be relevant. A
- 3 document that clearly lacks reliability, including authenticity,
- 4 may be considered by the Chamber to be unsuitable to prove the
- 5 facts it purports to prove.
- 6 Internal Rule 87.3(c). Internal Rule 87.3, therefore, requires
- 7 documents intended to be put before the Chamber to satisfy prima
- 8 facie standards of relevance, reliability, and authenticity.
- 9 Where, for example, a document does not appear to be a forgery or
- 10 unrepresentative of the original, the Chamber shall consider the
- 11 document to have been put before it.
- 12 Objections of this type must be raised at the time it is proposed
- 13 to put a document or other evidence before the Chamber. Any
- 14 further submissions as to the document's reliability shall go,
- 15 instead, to the weight to be accorded to it by the Chamber.
- 16 [15.09.30]
- 17 Internal Rule 67.3 requires the Co-Investigating Judges to review
- 18 and evaluate documents to determine whether, as a whole, there is
- 19 sufficient evidence to support the charges against the Accused.
- 20 It follows that, during the judicial investigation, the
- 21 Co-Investigating Judges assessed all documents placed on the case
- 22 file for relevance and accorded some probative value to the
- 23 evidence cited in the Closing Order.
- 24 [15.10.19]
- 25 The Closing Order was subject to appeal to the Pre-Trial Chamber.

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1 For these reasons, the Trial Chamber has accorded the documents

- 2 cited in the Closing Order a presumption of relevance and
- 3 reliability, including authenticity, and has given them an E3
- 4 number. Documents that are on the case file, but are not found in
- 5 the Closing Order have not been accorded this presumption.
- 6 Original documents are a preferred method of proof and will be
- 7 accorded more weight than photocopies of documents. The fact that
- 8 certain words within a document are illegible does not preclude
- 9 putting it before the Chamber. Such issues are a matter of weight
- 10 and shall not be considered when evaluating the requirements of
- 11 Internal Rule 87.3.
- 12 Material such as analytical reports, books, documentary films,
- 13 and media articles may be relevant and will not be excluded as a
- 14 category. Its probative value, however, shall be determined by
- 15 the Chamber in due course.
- 16 The ICTY and other international tribunals have adopted a
- 17 practice that permits judges to exclude evidence if its probative
- 18 value is substantially outweighed by the need to ensure a fair
- 19 trial. This is not reflected in the ECCC legal framework and is
- 20 in any event unnecessary because professional judges have the
- 21 ability to disregard unduly prejudicial evidence.
- 22 [15.13.10]
- 23 There is no procedure requirement, before the ECCC, to call
- 24 witnesses with personal knowledge to authenticate documents on
- 25 the case file. Nonetheless, testimony as to chain of custody and

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1 provenance will assist the Chamber in assessing the weight to be

- 2 attributed to particular documents.
- 3 The Trial Chamber has previously indicated that parties seeking
- 4 the introduction of documents at trial bear the burden of
- 5 ensuring their timely availability in all three official
- 6 languages. Please see document E131/1. Some latitude will be
- 7 granted by the Chamber where parties are precluded from doing so
- 8 due to overload -- workload constraints of the ITU and when the
- 9 relevant portions of the documents the parties intend to put
- 10 before the Chamber and to use as the basis to question a witness
- 11 or an accused are available in at least one language that the
- 12 accused or the witness can understand. Alternatively, and where
- 13 the relevant portion of a document in question is brief and can
- 14 be easily translated in Court, the Chamber may allow that portion
- 15 of the document in question to be put to an accused or witness.
- 16 [15.15.10]
- 17 Now, if this issue continues to be raised by the parties, the
- 18 Trial Chamber reiterates that evidence obtained through torture
- 19 has limited uses. The Chamber reminds the parties of its
- 20 memorandum E74 in Case 002 and its oral decisions in Case 001 of
- 21 the 20th and the 28th of May 2009.
- 22 This concludes the Trial Chamber's oral decision on the general
- 23 application of Internal Rule 87. Objections to specific documents
- 24 will be addressed in due course.
- 25 [15.16.00]

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- 1 The second issue. Because the Trial Chamber intends to conduct
- 2 its hearings, next week and the subsequent week, by hearing
- 3 testimony of Mr. Chhang Youk, the Director of the Documentation
- 4 Center of Cambodia, and to hear testimony of expert TCE-80, the
- 5 Trial Chamber wishes to seek information from all parties
- 6 concerning the amount of time that the parties intends to use to
- 7 put questions to the witness and the experts, as indicated
- 8 earlier.
- 9 The Chamber is of the view that it may not receive immediate
- 10 response from the parties, so the parties may have some time to
- 11 think about the time allocation and provide their answers through
- 12 email to the Senior Legal Officer by tomorrow tomorrow, lunch
- 13 time. Upon the receipts of the information, the Chamber will
- 14 inform the parties accordingly in terms of the time allocation.
- 15 [15.17.42]
- 16 Next, I now hand over to the Lead Co-Lawyers to -- or the lawyers
- 17 who received delegation from the Lead Co-Lawyers to put questions
- 18 to this witness.
- 19 I now note the counsel for Nuon Chea is on his feet. You may
- 20 proceed, Counsel.
- 21 MR. PESTMAN:
- 22 Thank you, Mr. President.
- 23 Just -- I couldn't understand clearly which expert witness the
- 24 Trial Chamber intends to call next week or the week after that.
- 25 And, in addition to that, is it the Chamber's intention not to

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- 1 hear my client on the historical background of the conflict until
- 2 after those two people have been heard?
- 3 (Judges deliberate)
- 4 [15.19.37]
- 5 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 6 Let me clarify the issue. Parties have been informed of the
- 7 procedure as to put questions to the Accused and to hear
- 8 testimonies of witnesses or experts. As you may be aware, that --
- 9 the Accused will be continued to be questioned next week and the
- 10 following week, and as Mr. Nuon Chea has indicated that he
- 11 exercises his right to respond to only questions during the
- 12 morning sessions.
- 13 [15.20.41]
- 14 So, in general, we will devote the morning sessions to put
- 15 questions to the accused Nuon Chea, and the rest of the time will
- 16 be allocated to hearing testimonies of witness and expert, as
- 17 indicated earlier upon our receipts of the information from the
- 18 parties. Especially next week, on Monday and Tuesday, in the
- 19 morning sessions, we will be hearing testimony of the accused
- 20 Nuon Chea, and in -- the afternoon sessions will be devoted to
- 21 hearing testimony of witness Prak Yut. And for the rest of the
- 22 time, as I indicated, we will hear a witness and expert, as I
- 23 informed the parties, and the expert is TCE-80.
- 24 The Chamber now awaits now awaits the information from the
- 25 parties. Do you understand this clearly, Counsel?

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- 1 MR. PESTMAN:
- 2 Yes. Thank you very much.
- 3 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 4 Next, the Chamber would like to hand over to civil party lawyers
- 5 who receive delegation to put question to the witness.
- 6 [15.22.34]
- 7 QUESTIONING BY MR. SAM SOKONG:
- 8 First of all, my respects to Mr. President and Your Honours. And
- 9 good afternoon, Mrs. Prak Yut. I have a number of questions for
- 10 you.
- 11 Q. This morning, as well as in the preceding sessions, you said
- 12 that you joined the revolution, and you joined the revolution
- 13 with the introduction by Um Hem. I want to know, did you do
- 14 anything or any work for the revolution after you joined the
- 15 revolution?
- 16 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 17 A. At the time, I was 13 years old and I joined the revolution
- 18 with my uncle, Um Hem, in Kampong Chhnang -- rather, Kampong
- 19 Speu, but I did not do any work because I was not yet introduced
- 20 to anything. I did not do anything when I when I joined the
- 21 revolution.
- 22 Q. When you joined the revolution, did you ever work as a a
- 23 worker at a factory?
- 24 A. It was not when I joined the revolution the first time, it was
- 25 when I moved to Kampot and I was with soldiers. There were about

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- 1 150 people who sewed clothes clothes for soldiers.
- 2 [15.24.25]
- 3 Q. Concerning the clothes the garment factory, who was the
- 4 chief?
- 5 A. There was no chief. The machines were installed in a house -
- 6 rather, under the house of someone, and we were sewing clothes
- 7 for soldiers. The size is about 150 -- the size of the people was
- 8 150.
- 9 Q. Was it before 1975 or after 1975?
- 10 A. It was prior to 1975.
- 11 [15.25.20]
- 12 Q. Concerning your work as making clothes for the soldiers, I
- 13 want to know who gave order to you to make clothes for the
- 14 soldiers, and what for?
- 15 A. It was Ta Chap who told me to do that work, that the clothes
- 16 were for soldiers. Without clothes, how could we cover our body?
- 17 Q. Where did you send to after you finish your making clothes?
- 18 A. We sent to Ta Chap.
- 19 Q. Another question concerns the evacuation. This morning you
- 20 said you heard of the evacuation in Kampot and you were, at that
- 21 time -- was a member of the of Sector 35 and also the assistant
- 22 to Kampot District Committee.
- 23 Just want to know whether the district was located near Kampot
- 24 province.
- 25 A. The places were located near one another. It was in the Kbal

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- 1 Romeas, Kampot town -- Kampot is a -- it was a town of Kampot
- 2 province.
- 3 [15.26.55]
- 4 Q. When there was evacuation out of Kampot town, did you ever
- 5 hear any radio broadcast that people were to be evacuated out of
- 6 Kampot?
- 7 A. I was in Kampot at that time but I lived far away from Kampot
- 8 province, then I lived there-- I was not living near the place,
- 9 so I did not know about the evacuation of people there. The
- 10 commune in which I lived was far away from the city from the
- 11 town, so, again, I was not aware of the evacuation. I don't know
- 12 whether or what time the evacuation took place, even though I
- 13 was living on the outskirts of the town, but it was not near
- 14 enough for me to know.
- 15 Q. Concerning the evacuation, this morning you said that you
- 16 witnessed people walking out of the provincial town to various
- 17 places. When you saw those people, did you see any soldiers
- 18 escorting those people?
- 19 A. I did not examine closely whether there were soldiers, because
- 20 I was not walking close to them. I was far away from them, so I
- 21 did not know whether there was soldiers or not. I do not know
- 22 whether there were quards walking after those people. Like I
- 23 said, I did not examine it closely when it comes to evacuation,
- 24 so I do not know. That's why I said I do not know about the
- 25 evacuation of the people. I do not know whether there were

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- 1 escorting soldiers.
- 2 [15.29.22]
- 3 Q. I now move to the next question, concerning to the zone
- 4 committee. Can you tell the Court, how many provinces were there
- 5 within the Southwest Zone?
- 6 A. There were Kampot, Takeo, Kampong Speu. Yes, and these three,
- 7 only these three. Let me count again: Takeo, Kampot, Kampong
- 8 Speu. I'm not sure whether there were four or five four or
- 9 three provinces.
- 10 Q. Within the zone, can you describe the administrative structure
- 11 within the zone?
- 12 A. I did not take part of the administration.
- 13 Q. You said you were the sixth member of Sector 35. Can you tell
- 14 us whether Kampot whether Sector 35 was located in Kampot?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Were there any offices in Sector 35? Or what was the structure
- 17 like?
- 18 A. There was office in sector.
- 19 Q. How many offices were there in Sector 35?
- 20 A. I do not know about that because it was under the control of
- 21 sector committee. I was not taking charge over that because it
- 22 was the chief of the sector who was responsible for that.
- 23 [15.31.33]
- 24 Q. This morning, I heard your testifying that you were the
- 25 chairperson of a mobile unit. Could you tell the Court who was

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- 1 supervising the mobile unit?
- 2 A. I said I was leading a mobile unit for the commune and
- 3 district, not under the sector. And I was a chairperson, and
- 4 there were also other members who jointly work with me.
- 5 Q. When, for example, you had any problems to report, so where
- 6 did you report to?
- 7 A. I had to report to the district because I was under the
- 8 supervision of the district.
- 9 Q. Do you know where the district would report further to?
- 10 A. They would report to the sector. I reported to him, who
- 11 reported to the sector.
- 12 Q. In Sector 35 -- and you were the sixth member and part of the
- 13 working group in Kampot province -- did you notice that there
- 14 were cooperatives?
- 15 A. Yes, I did.
- 16 [15.33.17]
- 17 Q. Were cooperatives under supervision of the district or other
- 18 levels?
- 19 A. The cooperatives were under the supervision of communes and
- 20 villages.
- 21 Q. This morning, you indicated that, at district level, there
- 22 would be meetings, and report would be written to the upper
- 23 echelon, including the sector committee.
- 24 My question is: Who prepared this written reports? Did people
- 25 also sign on those reports before they are they were submitted

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- 1 to the upper echelon?
- 2 A. When the reports were sent from the district, people who were
- 3 in charge of the district would give their thumbprints or,
- 4 rather, signatures on the reports. That's all I can say.
- 5 Q. In each report, did you notice whether the report copied to
- 6 anyone?
- 7 A. If the report was meant to be sent to Kang Chap, then it would
- 8 be addressed to Kang Chap.
- 9 [15.34.55]
- 10 Q. Apart from Kang Chap, do you have you noted that the report
- 11 would be copied to someone else?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. This morning, I heard you saying that you were sixth member of
- 14 Sector 35 and a person who was tasked with assisting Ta Noy, the
- 15 district committee, and you were tasked with educating youth.
- 16 Could you tell the Court what subject were part of the education
- 17 program you implemented?
- 18 A. We were educating people on the practical things. There were
- 19 no other subjects. We had the we had to educate people to be
- 20 very careful in implementing their work plan, including building
- 21 the dams or digging canals.
- 22 Q. This morning, you were testifying that there were meetings in
- 23 which plans to dig canals, build dams were discussed. Were you
- 24 engaged in rendering putting this plans to be discharged or
- 25 not?

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- 1 [15.36.54]
- 2 A. Normally, the meetings would be conducted at the district
- 3 levels, and the plans from the meetings would be endorsed by
- 4 members of the sector, and that how the plans could be executed
- 5 would be shared among other members and approved, because no plan
- 6 could be executed without very careful consideration and
- 7 discussion. And I was part in inputting ideas in how the plans
- 8 could be executed.
- 9 Q. During the course of your work at the site, have you noted any
- 10 senior leaders coming by?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. This morning, you testified that, in Kampong Cham, there was a
- 13 security office. My question about security office: Was there any
- 14 security offices in Kampot?
- 15 A. I don't know. I think people who was in charge of the sector
- 16 committee would be able to tell you about this, because it was
- 17 none of my business.
- 18 [15.38.35]
- 19 Q. In your capacity as the sixth member of Sector 35, did you
- 20 ever attend meetings when zone secretaries were attending?
- 21 A. I used to attend meetings with Ta Mok.
- 22 Q. With Ta Mok? What kind of topics being discussed in that
- 23 meeting in those meetings?
- 24 A. Nothing other than discussion on how to build good dams,
- 25 irrigation system, dykes, canals -- nothing else. And I did

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- 1 attend such meetings with him.
- 2 Q. I would like to ask you another question: When you were
- 3 transferred from the Southwest to the Central Zone, from Kampot
- 4 to Kampong Cham, were there any other people transferred along
- 5 with you, or were you the only person to be transferred?
- 6 A. At that time, my whole family was transferred, no outsiders.
- 7 And I don't think other people would like to go with me because
- 8 they would be lonely. That's why I only took my whole family with
- 9 me to Kampong Cham.
- 10 Q. I'm not asking about your family, I'm asking whether other
- 11 members were transferred as well.
- 12 [15.40.34]
- 13 A. At the beginning, my family went with me to Kampong Cham.
- 14 Later on, there were a few other people who were also
- 15 transferred. I don't remember their names. Some people were
- 16 transferred to Chamkar Leu district, and some to other locations
- 17 which I don't know.
- 18 Q. So this means that other people were also transferred; is that
- 19 correct?
- 20 A. Yes, it is. I know that other people were also transferred; I
- 21 just don't remember their names.
- 22 Q. When you were in Kampong Cham, Kampong Siem district, were you
- 23 the secretary of Kampong Siem?
- 24 A. I was the first member of the committee.
- 25 Q. When you were there, you were replacing the predecessor. Do

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- 1 you know where your predecessor could have gone?
- 2 A. I don't know because, when I was there, no one was seen in
- 3 that location.
- 4 [15.42.13]
- 5 Q. When you approached Kampong Siem district, did you ever meet a
- 6 person called Chan Chakrey?
- 7 A. My district was close to the base where Chan Chakrey worked.
- 8 His soldiers were there. I had never known him before, but his
- 9 soldiers would mistreat people in the local area. I heard of him,
- 10 I never met him in person. I heard his name, Chan Chakrey, but I
- 11 had never been close to him. I met him once.
- 12 Q. When you worked in Kampong Siem district, Kampong Cham
- 13 province, could you tell the Court, to the best of your
- 14 knowledge, the structure of -- organizational structure of the
- 15 district?
- 16 A. I don't know. I never attended meetings at the zone level,
- 17 where such an organizational structure could have been decided -
- 18 or made. I just don't know.
- 19 Q. When you were in Kampong Cham, did you have any meetings with
- 20 the district committee there?
- 21 [15.44.07]
- 22 A. At the beginning, I was called to a meeting chaired by the
- 23 zone committee. Later on, he also called another meeting in
- 24 Kampong Siem, and I was asked to execute his plans and
- 25 instructions.

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- 1 Q. When you were in Kampong Siem, attending meetings with
- 2 district committees or zone secretaries, did you learn anything
- 3 about the plan to remove the current commune chiefs or village
- 4 chiefs?
- 5 A. I don't know.
- 6 MR. SAM SOKONG:
- 7 Thank you, Mr. President and Your Honours. I have no further
- 8 questions to put to the witness. I would like to share the floor
- 9 with my colleague.
- 10 [15.45.15]
- 11 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 12 Thank you, Counsel.
- 13 The next counsel, you may proceed.
- 14 QUESTIONING BY MS. SUTZ:
- 15 Thank you very much, Mr. President. Good afternoon, everyone.
- 16 Good afternoon, Mrs. Prak Yut. I will endeavour to be very brief
- 17 because I do see that I have very little time remaining. I am a
- 18 lawyer for the civil parties. I also have a few questions to put
- 19 to you.
- 20 [15.45.45]
- 21 Q. Can we just return to the chronology that you laid out for us?
- 22 Yesterday, you stated that you joined the revolution in 1970. You
- 23 also stated -- in fact, you confirmed that you were born in 1947.
- 24 So, if my calculations are correct, you were 23 years of age in
- 25 1970, and yet you've just confirmed to my esteemed colleague that

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- 1 you were 23 years old when you joined the revolution and you were
- 2 actually in Kampong Speu, when you told the Co-Prosecutor this
- 3 morning that you were living in Takeo.
- 4 Therefore, can you just please clarify or elaborate and perhaps
- 5 restate for us the timeline, so that it is perfectly clear?
- 6 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 7 A. I was born in Takeo, not Kampong Speu.
- 8 Q. Yes. Very well, I understand that, but this morning, you
- 9 stated that you joined the revolution in 1970, from Takeo. That
- 10 would mean that you were 23 years of age at the time. And you've
- 11 just told my colleague that you were 13 years of age when you
- 12 joined the revolution. So which statement am I to rely upon? Did
- 13 you join the revolution prior to 1970?
- 14 [15.47.18]
- 15 A. I think I was not good at remembering the exact date when I
- 16 was joining the revolution. I may say now that I don't remember
- 17 when I joined the revolution, because I know that you made some
- 18 calculation and you may say that I could have joined the
- 19 revolution in when I was 23. So I frankly cannot elaborate on
- 20 this because I am not sure whether I was joining the revolution
- 21 on that date.
- 22 Q. Thank you.
- 23 I'll move on to my next question. During the DK regime, did you
- 24 have an alias or a pseudonym?
- 25 A. Prak Yut is the only name I have used ever since.

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- 1 Q. Were you ever called Yeay Yut or Yeay Mlou, which means Yeay
- 2 "Betel Leaf"?
- 3 A. I think people could call me that, you know, like they
- 4 identified me as Yeay Mlou or Yeay Yut, but frankly my name
- 5 remains Prak Yut all along. To me, it doesn't matter I was called
- 6 Yeay Mlou or Yeay Yut; it's still Prak Yut. I'm telling the
- 7 truth.
- 8 I'm not really angry with you putting this question to me. Again,
- 9 people could have called me Yeay Mlou because I eating I was
- 10 eating "mlou".
- 11 Q. I thank you very much, Madam.
- 12 [15.49.40]
- 13 Allow me to put a few questions with respect to the historical
- 14 context of the time, focusing on the period before 1975.
- 15 You stated this morning that you joined a party. Can you please
- 16 tell us the name of the Party that you joined?
- 17 A. I don't remember.
- 18 Q. Was it the Communist Party of Democratic Kampuchea?
- 19 A. I'm not quite sure on this. That's pretty simple and short.
- 20 Q. Did you know the name of the leader of the Party during the
- 21 time that you became a member of that Party?
- 22 [15.50.53]
- 23 A. No, I don't.
- 24 Q. Have you ever heard of the term "Standing Committee"?
- 25 A. Yes, I have. However, I never understood what "Standing

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- 1 Committee" could have meant.
- 2 Q. You had no knowledge of the role of the Standing Committee?
- 3 A. No, I don't.
- 4 Q. Were you aware the names of certain members of that committee?
- 5 A. Could you please repeat the question?
- 6 Q. Were you aware of the names of certain members of that
- 7 Standing Committee?
- 8 [15.52.05]
- 9 A. I don't think I know this.
- 10 Q. Have you ever heard of the term "Central Committee"?
- 11 A. No, never.
- 12 Q. When you joined the revolution, had you heard of the names
- 13 Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary?
- 14 A. (No interpretation)
- 15 MS. SUTZ:
- 16 I am sorry, I am afraid I did not hear the answer through the
- 17 interpretation.
- 18 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 19 Counsel, you may repeat the current question.
- 20 [15.53.26]
- 21 BY MS. SUTZ:
- 22 Q. Had you heard of the names Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary or Khieu
- 23 Samphan, at the time that you joined the revolution, of course?
- 24 (Short pause)
- 25 [15.54.13]

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- 1 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 2 Mrs. Prak, can you answer this question?
- 3 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 4 A. I have heard of these names, although I never met them in
- 5 person.
- 6 BY MS. SUTZ:
- 7 Q. Can you please tell us what you knew about those people at the
- 8 time?
- 9 [15.54.46]
- 10 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 11 A. I don't know what they did, back then.
- 12 Q. I wish now to focus a few questions pertaining to the period
- 13 you were stationed in Kampot and as a member of District (sic)
- 14 35.
- 15 You were in Kampot as a district secretary as of 1973, that is to
- 16 say, two years prior to the occupation of Phnom Penh by the Khmer
- 17 Rouge.
- 18 Now, at the time, in 1973, is it true that the region was already
- 19 under the control of the Khmer Rouge?
- 20 A. Yes, it was during the Khmer Rouge time.
- 21 Q. Could you please describe to us how the zone was organized in
- 22 1973, that is, prior to 1975, prior to the occupation of Phnom
- 23 Penh by Khmer Rouge? Was it similar to what you described this
- 24 morning?
- 25 A. I could not tell anything about the zone organization because

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- 1 it was beyond my understanding.
- 2 [15.56.41]
- 3 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 4 Counsel Karnavas, you may now proceed.
- 5 MR. KARNAVAS:
- 6 Thank you, Mr. President. And I apologize for the interruption,
- 7 but clearly, this morning, she never indicated that she had any
- 8 knowledge about the zone. And going into this area after she
- 9 particularly told us the extent of her knowledge, going up the
- 10 food chain as it were, it's pretty clear that she is incapable of
- 11 providing the sort of answers that perhaps the civil parties wish
- 12 to illicit from this witness.
- 13 I would certainly also echo the fact that the civil parties
- 14 should be should not be going over territory that has already
- 15 been covered quite nicely by the Prosecution. There's no need for
- 16 repetition.
- 17 [15.57.45]
- 18 MS. SUTZ:
- 19 If I may have leave to reply, Mr. President, my question centres
- 20 on the pre-1975 period. I want to develop information on the
- 21 historical context. I am seeking information on the organization
- of Sector 35, if it resembled its structure after 1975.
- 23 (Judges deliberate)
- 24 [15.58.50]
- 25 MR. PRESIDENT:

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- 1 The objection by counsel for Nuon Chea is not sustained.
- 2 Witness is now instructed to respond to the question put by
- 3 counsel for the civil parties. If you understand the question and
- 4 can respond to it now, you can do so. If you are not clear you
- 5 remember it, counsel is advised to repeat it.
- 6 (Short pause)
- 7 [15.59.35]
- 8 I take it that the witness has forgotten the question you asked.
- 9 So could you please repeat it?
- 10 BY MS. SUTZ:
- 11 Yes, of course, Mr. President. And I will be very brief because I
- 12 know that time is elapsing.
- 13 Q. Now, in 1973, what was the structure of the Kampot District?
- 14 Was it similar or identical to what you stated to us this
- 15 morning? Because we are talking about a sector, a district, and a
- 16 zone.
- 17 MS. PRAK YUT:
- 18 A. I don't think I quite understand the question. Are you talking
- 19 about the structure of each level, whether the structure is
- 20 identical at all levels? Could you please be more precise on
- 21 this? This morning, I think I already responded, and now it is
- 22 raised again.
- 23 [16.00.49]
- 24 Q. If I may, I will end on a totally different question: In 1973,
- 25 within Sector 35, were there already cooperatives established?

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- 1 A. I did already respond. Yes, there were cooperatives already in
- 2 1973, but the cooperatives were not yet well organized. It was
- 3 organized in small cooperatives.
- 4 Q. Thank you very much.
- 5 I wish now to move on to the next topic, if we could just return
- 6 to the period when you were working in Kampong Siem.
- 7 You told us this morning that you were the secretary of the
- 8 Kampong Siem district. What was your position, exactly?
- 9 [16.02.13]
- 10 A. As the secretary of the Kampong Siem district, I was the
- 11 chairperson of the district. That was my position.
- 12 Q. And back then, did you also have other positions within the
- 13 sector and within the zone?
- 14 A. I was in Sector 41, but I was in charge of Kampong Siem. I was
- 15 not regularly positioned at the zone.
- 16 Q. But you told us that you were part of the sector committee of
- 17 Sector 41.
- 18 A. I do not recall what rank I was as a member at that sector.
- 19 Q. Please allow me to refresh your memory a little bit about
- 20 this. I believe you told the investigators from the OCIJ, in the
- 21 written records of interviews, in- The number is D234/4
- 22 precisely, and I will give you the English ERN: 00751716. And I
- 23 will quote in English: "I was Kampong Siem District Secretary in
- 24 the Central Zone and the fourth member of the Sector 41."
- 25 So can you confirm this?

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- 1 [16.04.28]
- 2 A. No, I can't, because I forget about it. I just recall that I
- 3 was a fourth member of Sector 41. Besides that, I don't think I
- 4 can elaborate more, because I forget. And, as I said, I am
- 5 forgetful and I don't remember everything.
- 6 MS. SUTZ:
- 7 Mr. President, if you please allow me, I would like to share a
- 8 document that's on the case file. This is an interview with a
- 9 witness, and the witness number is TCW-695. Would you please give
- 10 me leave to read an excerpt from this interview?
- 11 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 12 Can you identify the document and indicate whether the document
- 13 is in the case file, and what are the ERN numbers in the three
- 14 languages, so that other parties are informed of the document?
- 15 [16.05.50]
- 16 MS. SUTZ:
- 17 Okay, fine. The document number is D232/9; English ERN 00390077;
- 18 French, 00424036; and Khmer, 00373510.
- 19 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 20 I note Mr. lawyer for Nuon Chea is on his feet. You may
- 21 proceed.
- 22 MR. PESTMAN:
- 23 Yes, thank you. I'm a bit confused. I remember that when my
- 24 colleague, Jasper Pauw, wanted to confront Deputy Director of
- 25 DC-Cam with a statement given by another witness, that was not

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- 1 allowed, as that witness was going to be heard in court, and we
- 2 had to wait for that witness to confirm that particular witness
- 3 with his own statements.
- 4 I don't know who this witness is, but I understand it has a TC
- 5 number, so I suppose it's on one of the lists, and there is at
- 6 least a risk or a serious possibility that this witness will be
- 7 heard.
- 8 If I understand the ruling correctly, you gave earlier this week,
- 9 then it is not possible to confront this particular witness with
- 10 that statement.
- 11 [16.07.24]
- 12 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 13 Could counsel be advised to speak closely to the mic?
- 14 And could counsel for civil party indicate again the document ID,
- 15 because, as you indicate, the code TC, this raises the issue. So
- 16 can you provide the D number of the document? Because this will
- 17 indicate that the document is in the case file.
- 18 MS. SUTZ:
- 19 Yes, of course. Let me give you the index again: D232/9. And I
- 20 also already gave you the ERNs, but I could give them to you
- 21 again if necessary.
- 22 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 23 Court officer is instructed to display the document on the screen
- 24 for parties and the witness.
- 25 Yes, Counsel.

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- 1 [16.08.58]
- 2 MR. PESTMAN:
- 3 I was instructed to speak closer to the microphone. Do I have to
- 4 repeat my question? I'm not sure whether it was understood.
- 5 (Judges deliberate)
- 6 [16.12.35]
- 7 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 8 Counsel for civil party, the documents that you intend to display
- 9 -- that is, D232/9 -- is it a statement of the witness before the
- 10 Co-Investigating Judges or before the investigators or it is the
- 11 statement of another witness?
- 12 If this document is the statement of another witness or not, the
- 13 Chamber would like to hear clearly from you before the Chamber
- 14 can rule on this.
- 15 [16.13.33]
- 16 MS. SUTZ:
- 17 This document is indeed a written record of interview of another
- 18 witness by the investigators of the OCIJ.
- 19 I was only suggesting to read a few passages, that's all, and not
- 20 necessary to display it on the screen.
- 21 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 22 Document which is the interview of another witness is not allowed
- 23 to be used for the questioning of another witness. This matter
- 24 has been ruled by the Chamber during the hearing of testimony of
- 25 witness 766.

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1 And this concludes your time of the - of the time to put 2 questions before this witness. 3 And it is also the appropriate time for the Chambers to adjourn for this week's proceedings, and the hearing will continue on 4 5 Monday the 30th of January, beginning from 9 o'clock in the 6 morning. 7 [16.14.57] Mrs. Prak Yut, the Chamber would like to invite you to come again 8 9 next week. And probably your testimony will be concluded on 10 Monday, next week. 11 Court officer is instructed to coordinate with WESU in order to facilitate for Mrs. Prak Yut to travel back to her residence. 12 13 Security guards are instructed to bring the Accused back to the detention facilities and return them to the courtroom on Monday 14 the 30th 2012 (sic). 15 16 The Court is now adjourned. 17 (Court adjourns at 1615H) 18 19

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