

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

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

អតិទូមុំស្មតិរមាលក្នុង

Trial Chamber Chambre de première instance

ឯកសារដើម

ORIGINAL/ORIGINAL

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TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL PROCEEDINGS CONFIDENTIAL

Case File Nº 002/19-09-2007-ECCC/TC

6 May 2013 Trial Day 176

Before the Judges: NIL Nonn, Presiding

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List of Speakers:

Language used unless specified otherwise in the transcript

| Speaker | Language |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| JUDGE CARTWRIGHT | English |
| MR. KOPPE | English |
| JUDGE LAVERGNE | French |
| THE PRESIDENT (NIL NONN, Presiding) | Khmer |
| MR. SHORT (TCE-65) | English |

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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 (Court opens at 0903H)
- 3 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 4 Please be seated. The Court is now in session.
- 5 As scheduled for this week's proceedings, the Trial Chamber will
- 6 hear the testimony of the expert-witness that is, Mr. Philip
- 7 Short. It's going to be for the four days of these proceedings -
- 8 that is, from the 6th to the 9th of May 2013.
- 9 The Trial Chamber will have one day for questioning the witness.
- 10 The Prosecution and the Lead Co-Lawyers is allocated for one and
- 11 half days. And for the two defence teams, one and a half day
- 12 allocated is given.
- 13 The Trial Chamber would also like to remind all the parties
- 14 including (sic) the previous memorandum that is, document
- 15 E236/4 regarding the expert witness Philip Short, that he could
- 16 be questioned on all the areas that is able to be responded by
- 17 him according to his knowledge.
- 18 The Trial Chamber in fact encourages all the parties to question
- 19 the expert based on the severance of Case 002 after the decision
- 20 by the Supreme Court Chamber that is, document E284. So the
- 21 scope for questioning of this witness is rather extensive within
- 22 Case 002. However all the parties should focus their questioning
- 23 on the relevant part of the severed cases, in particular 002/01.
- 24 Greffier Mr. Ansan, could you report the attendance of the
- 25 parties and individuals to today's proceeding?

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- 1 [09.06.02]
- 2 THE GREFFIER:
- 3 Mr. President, for today's proceedings all parties are present.
- 4 As for Nuon Chea he is present in the holding cell downstairs.
- 5 That is according to the decision by the Trial Chamber due to his
- 6 health reason.
- 7 The expert who is going to be testifying today that is TCE-65 Mr.
- 8 Philip Short. To his best knowledge he has no relationship by
- 9 blood or by law to any of the two accused that is, Nuon Chea
- 10 and Khieu Samphan or any of the civil parties recognized in
- 11 this case. The expert witness will be testifying before the Trial
- 12 Chamber and is ready to be called by the Chamber.
- 13 Thank you, Mr. President.
- 14 [09.06.55]
- 15 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 16 Thank you, Greffier.
- 17 Court officer could you invite Mr. Philip Short into the
- 18 courtroom?
- 19 (Mr. Short enters the courtroom)
- 20 QUESTIONING BY THE PRESIDENT:
- 21 Good morning, Mr. Philip Short.
- 22 Q. Is your name Philip Short?
- 23 MR. SHORT:
- 24 A. My name is Philip Short.
- 25 Q. Thank you. How old are you Mr. Philip Short?

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- 1 A. You ask my age, I'm 68.
- 2 Q. Thank you. What is your nationality?
- 3 A. I am British.
- 4 Q. Thank you. Where is your current residence?
- 5 [09.08.51]
- 6 A. I live in France in a small commune La Garde-Freinet.
- 7 Q. Thank you. What is your current occupation?
- 8 A. I am a writer of history and biography.
- 9 Q. Thank you.
- 10 According to the report by the greffier, to your best knowledge,
- 11 you have no relationship by blood or by law to any of the parties
- 12 in this case. That is the civil parties and the two accused Nuon
- 13 Chea, and Khieu Samphan. Is this report correct?
- 14 A. It is indeed correct. I have no blood relationship to Mr.
- 15 Khieu Samphan or Mr. Nuon Chea, or to any of the civil parties.
- 16 Q. Thank you. According to Rule 31.2 of the Internal Rules of the
- 17 ECCC, as an expert to be testified before this Court you are
- 18 required to make an oath before proceeding with the testimony. Do
- 19 you consent to that?
- 20 [09.10.44]
- 21 A. I do.
- 22 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 23 The International Greffier, could you proceed with an oath for
- 24 this expert, Philip Short?
- 25 THE GREFFIER:

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- 1 Mr. Short, please repeat after me. I solely swear that I will
- 2 assist the Trial Chamber honestly, confidentially, and to the
- 3 best of my ability.
- 4 MR. SHORT:
- 5 I solemnly swear that I will assist the Trial Chamber honestly,
- 6 confidentially, and to the best of my ability.
- 7 BY MR. PRESIDENT:
- 8 Q. Thank you, Mr. Philip Short. You have already taken an oath
- 9 before this chamber. The Bench will have some questions for you.
- 10 Could you, please, briefly tell us about your education?
- 11 MR. SHORT:
- 12 A. I was educated at a public school in Britain and then at
- 13 Cambridge University, where I studied sciences, natural sciences
- 14 and English literature.
- 15 [09.12.12]
- 16 Q. Thank you. We noticed that you also worked as an independent
- 17 journalist for the BBC and also a correspondent for certain
- 18 cities including Moscow, Beijing, Paris, Tokyo, and Washington.
- 19 Is this information accurate?
- 20 A. That is correct. I worked much of my life for the BBC as a
- 21 foreign correspondent. At the same time I wrote books about
- 22 individual leaders, about countries, China, the Soviet Union. And
- 23 I had been writing biography and history since the late 1960s -
- 24 in other words for the last 45 years. The two careers, if you
- 25 like, have gone in parallel. On the one hand a journalistic

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- 1 career, on the other a career as a historian and biographer.
- 2 [09.13.43]
- 3 Q. After your retirement you also taught the comparative politics
- 4 in Iowa. Is that correct?
- 5 A. That is correct. I spent a year as a visiting professor at the
- 6 University of Iowa from 1997 to 1998.
- 7 Q. Thank you. And later on you focused solely on writing books.
- 8 How long have you been working as a writer?
- 9 A. I started my first biography in 1968, as I said late sixties,
- 10 and it was published in 1974. So I have been writing books for 40
- 11 years, 40 45 years.
- 12 Q. Thank you. You have written and published certain books of
- 13 important figures, including the former leader of the Democratic
- 14 Kampuchea. Could you tell us how come you became interested in
- 15 the biography or the leader of Democratic Kampuchea?
- 16 [09.15.42]
- 17 A. I worked as a journalist, as a foreign correspondent, in Being
- 18 in the 1970s. And while I was in Beijing I got to know the
- 19 Democratic Kampuchea Ambassador, Mr. Pech Chheang. I became
- 20 interested in what was happening in Democratic Kampuchea, in
- 21 Cambodia. And in September 1977, Pol Pot and Ieng Sary and Vorn
- 22 Vet and Thiounn Thioeunn, visited Beijing. It was their first and
- 23 only official visit abroad, and I followed Pol Pot from the time
- 24 he arrived until the time he left. And at that moment I became
- 25 particularly interested in what was happening in Cambodia. But

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- 1 all my efforts to obtain a visa from Mr. Pech Chheang were
- 2 unsuccessful so I could not come.
- 3 Q. Thank you. Have you studied the history of Cambodia, in
- 4 particular the history of Democratic Kampuchea?
- 5 A. I have, but I started studying seriously the history of
- 6 Democratic Kampuchea when I decided to write a biography of Pol
- 7 Pot. And that followed a biography I wrote of chairmen Moa,
- 8 former Chinese leader. After Moa I was faced with a question -
- 9 "who do I write about next?" and it seemed to me a good time to
- 10 write about Pol Pot. I would simply add, when I write a
- 11 biography, each book takes 5 or 6 years to research and write. So
- 12 it's a long term project.
- 13 [09.18.29]
- 14 Q. Thank you. What books have you been written about the regime
- 15 of Democratic Kampuchea?
- 16 A. I wrote which books have I written? I have written one book,
- 17 a biography of Pol Pot, called the History of a Nightmare, which
- 18 was published in 2004 in Britain and the United States and has
- 19 been published since in other languages.
- 20 Q. In your study and research about democratic Kampuchea did you
- 21 have any opportunity to interview in person of with Pol Pot?
- 22 A. I did not interview Pol Pot. Because by the time he by the
- 23 time I began my book I started working at the end of 1999 no
- 24 beginning of 1999, and by then he was no longer of this world.
- 25 Q. Thank you. Did you ever travel to Cambodia during the regime

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- 1 of Democratic Kampuchea?
- 2 A. I did not because, as I said, I was not able to obtain a visa
- 3 to visit while the regime of Democratic Kampuchea was in power.
- 4 [09.20.30]
- 5 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 I would like to inquire with Judges of the Bench if you have any
- 8 question to be put to this expert witness.
- 9 Judge Cartwright, please proceed.
- 10 QUESTIONING BY JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:
- 11 Yes, thank you, President.
- 12 Well, thank you, Mr. Short, for coming to the tribunal to discuss
- 13 your book, "Pol Pot: The History of a Nightmare", which has been
- 14 assigned the document number E3/9. For your information, this
- 15 book is available on the Court's case file in English and French
- 16 only. Consequently and there is very little translated into
- 17 Khmer so, when I discuss it with you, I will be referring to
- 18 page numbers from the English version. And occasionally I will
- 19 have to read out a long string of numbers which are associated
- 20 with our electronic system here.
- 21 Q. Now, just returning very briefly to your qualifications and
- 22 experience, as amply covered by the President, I just want to
- 23 make sure that during the time that you followed Pol Pot on his
- 24 diplomatic mission to Beijing in 1977 can I infer that you
- 25 never had the opportunity to talk to him or interview him

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- 1 directly? Is that correct?
- 2 MR. SHORT:
- 3 A. That is correct.
- 4 [09.22.34]
- 5 Q. Thank you. Now, in your book you confirm that you interviewed
- 6 Khieu Samphan and Ieng Sary. Did you ever interview Nuon Chea?
- 7 A. I did not interview Nuon Chea.
- 8 Q. Thank you. Now, the interview with Khieu Samphan, was that one
- 9 single interview or did it take place over a period of weeks or
- 10 months as you gathered information? Can you just describe the
- 11 process to us, please?
- 12 A. I visited Pailin, I think five or six times, over a period of
- 13 about 18 months. And each time I went I sent word to Mr. Khieu
- 14 Samphan that I would like to see him. And I think the sixth time
- 15 I had a word back to say he would agree. I explained that I
- 16 wished to interview him for a book about Democratic Kampuchea, a
- 17 biography, and we spent I suppose I mean, I can check, it will
- 18 give the dates in the notes. But roughly I must have seen him
- 19 five or six times; probably five times on successive days and
- 20 then once on a subsequent visit to Pailin.
- 21 [09.24.24]
- 22 Q. So, you had a very broad opportunity to discuss the
- 23 preparations for your biography of Pol Pot during that those
- 24 interviews? And can I also assume that you learned about Khieu
- 25 Samphan's role in the Democratic Kampuchean government during

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- 1 those same interviews?
- 2 A. We talked a lot about the early period and when I say "the
- 3 early period", that is his time in Paris as a student Mr. Khieu
- 4 Samphan's experiences in the 1960s after he returned to Cambodia,
- 5 the journal that he put out, the "Observateur" "L'Observateur".
- 6 We talked about his school days, when he was at school with Pol
- 7 Pot in I think Kampong Cham. We talked a certain amount about the
- 8 period of Democratic Kampuchea. But I think, this is a general
- 9 remark about the former leaders, Mr. Khieu Samphan, it was also
- 10 true of Mr. Ieng Sary, they were happy to talk at length about
- 11 their younger years, but more reticent about the Democratic
- 12 Kampuchea period. Now, for me, as a historian, the younger the
- 13 earlier years were extremely interesting as well. So, I think in
- 14 that kind of interview where you are trying to learn about why a
- 15 person develops as he does, you simply try to draw them out, to
- 16 talk about themselves and you glean what there is to be gleaned.
- 17 [09.26.54]
- 18 Q. After your book on Pol Pot was published, Khieu Samphan
- 19 published what I will call a monograph, "Cambodia's Recent
- 20 History and the Reasons behind the Decisions I Made" that is
- 21 document E3/18 that appears to have been published in late
- 22 2003. Have you read that monograph?
- 23 A. I have, yes.
- 24 Q. And did you learn in general more as the result of reading
- 25 that monograph, than you learned in your face to face interviews

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- 1 with him?
- 2 A. I must say we are talking about a book I last read 10 years
- 3 ago. I think not, I think what I learned from that monograph, and
- 4 indeed from some of the sections of my interview with Mr. Khieu
- 5 Samphan, was more the way he wished to treat that period, than
- 6 necessarily factual information about the period itself. And of
- 7 course that also is interesting, the way someone wishes to treat
- 8 a particular period.
- 9 Q. So would it be fair to summarize that, as the monograph was
- 10 his way of putting his record, according to his views, out into
- 11 the public, but did not necessarily touch on a lot of the details
- 12 that for example an examination in Court might obtain?
- 13 [09.29.12]
- 14 A. I think that's absolutely true. He was giving his perspective,
- 15 the perspective he wished others to retain.
- 16 Q. Khieu Samphan also wrote a book I'm not clear when it was
- 17 published but it's called "Considerations on the History of
- 18 Cambodia from the Early Stage to the Period of Democratic
- 19 Kampuchea". And we have the fifth chapter, "Democratic
- 20 Kampuchea", under document E3/16 on the case file. Have you read
- 21 that chapter in particular or the book generally?
- 22 A. I am reluctant to answer one way or the other because honestly
- 23 it doesn't ring a bell. Maybe if it were published in the early
- 24 2000s when I was working on my book I no doubt did come across
- 25 it. But whether under that title, whether in that form, I don't

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- 1 know.
- 2 [09.30.32]
- 3 Q. Now, just to be completely clear, you have never had the
- 4 opportunity of meeting or discussing events around the Democratic
- 5 Kampuchea Regime with Nuon Chea, is that correct?
- 6 A. That is correct.
- 7 Q. Thank you. Now, I'm going to turn to parts of your book. I
- 8 need to explain to you, Mr. Short, that although your book
- 9 carries a wealth of material, first we can't cover it all in
- 10 detail, and secondly we have certain limitations of time and so
- on, in relation to the period that we are considering in the
- 12 context of this trial.
- 13 So, I am going to focus on a particular part and I'm sure the
- 14 parties, the prosecutors, the lawyers for the civil parties, and
- 15 the Defence will touch on other parts as well.
- 16 I want to start first with the impressions or the what you
- 17 wrote concerning the last 18 months to two years before the
- 18 evacuation of Phnom Penh. And I want to start in 1973, when you
- 19 said, its English page 218, English ERN 00396418, and French,
- 20 00639736 to 737, and you note at that part of your book, that Pol
- 21 Pot ordered an all out assault on Phnom Penh. Now, can you tell
- 22 me a little about that assault, what time of year was it?
- 23 A. You forgive me; you said page 218?
- 24 Q. Yes.
- 25 A. That is not what I have in my copy at 218.

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- 1 Q. Oh, dear. Oh, dear. Well, let me just see if I can find the
- 2 reference, then.
- 3 (Short pause)
- 4 [09.34.24]
- 5 A. I'm finding something around page 249?
- 6 Q. So, I do apologize. Very bad to be caught out with a wrong
- 7 reference first up, isn't it? But, yes, you're right, it's 249,
- 8 page 249.
- 9 So, I would like to know when the what time of year it was that
- 10 this assault took place?
- 11 A. It was during the summer, during the rainy season, and that
- 12 was I mean made militarily, not a lot of sense. But the
- 13 rationale for it was that the Khmer Rouge, and Pol Pot in
- 14 particular, wished to show that they could obtain victory, before
- 15 the U.S. bombing runs ended. Because if they could take Phnom
- 16 Penh while the United States was still bombing Cambodia, it would
- 17 be a way of showing that they could defeat all that the Americans
- 18 could throw against them.
- 19 Q. And just to record, when the U.S. bombings stopped, it was
- 20 during that year, was it not, and can you confirm the month?
- 21 A. It was in August 1973.
- 22 Q. Now, from what you've said already about this rainy season
- 23 attack on Phnom Penh, I infer that it failed, it was not
- 24 successful?
- 25 [09.36.24]

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- 1 A. It was not successful.
- 2 Q. Now in subsequent pages, that is, subsequent to page 249, at
- 3 page 251 for example, you discussed some of the consequences of
- 4 that first assault on Phnom Penh.
- 5 First of all, I'm interested in the supply of arms to the Khmer
- 6 Rouge forces. Can you discuss that briefly?
- 7 A. The Cambodians were getting the "Cambodians" the Khmer
- 8 Rouge were getting supplies from the Vietnamese and also from
- 9 China. But a lot of the arms they procured were bought from the
- 10 Lon Nol forces or from corrupt officers in the Lon Nol
- 11 government.
- 12 Q. In fact, the Vietnamese had, before this time, interrupted
- 13 their supply of munitions to the Khmer Rouge, and this was in
- 14 fact a reinstatement of arms supply. Is that correct?
- 15 A. That is correct. Yes.
- 16 Q. Why then, did they decide in late 1973, to begin supplying
- 17 arms again?
- 18 [09.38.10]
- 19 A. Because the I mean they were faced with a "fait accompli".
- 20 The Vietnamese would have liked the Khmer Rouge to remain a
- 21 subsidiary ally. And by 1973, late 1972, early 1973, they found -
- 22 the Vietnamese found that the Khmer Rouge were becoming
- 23 sufficiently powerful and occupying sufficiently large areas of
- 24 Cambodian territory, that they had to make a choice. Either, they
- 25 continue to try to force the Khmer Rouge to heed Hanoi's will, or

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- 1 they had to start treating them as allies, who would eventually
- 2 win victory in Cambodia, more or less, no matter what the
- 3 Vietnamese did. And in 1973, middle of 1973, they realized that
- 4 they were going to have to treat them more as allies. The word
- 5 "equals", I think, is putting it too strongly, but therefore, the
- 6 arms supplies quietly resumed.
- 7 [09.39.35]
- 8 Q. And you mentioned that one of their reasons for the resumption
- 9 of the supply of arms was that the Khmer Rouge controlled more
- 10 and more territory.
- 11 At that same page 251, you say that by late 1973, the Khmer Rouge
- 12 controlled more than two thirds of Cambodia's territory and
- 13 almost half its population. Can you tell me, how you would find
- 14 such information? Was this from your study generally, for the
- 15 purpose of the book, or was it did it come from someone like
- 16 Khieu Samphan or your other interviewees?
- 17 A. No, this did not come from Khieu Samphan or from interviews,
- 18 it came from the material the archival material of the
- 19 Americans who knew, pretty clearly, what was happening in
- 20 Cambodia, and it was their estimate that two thirds of the
- 21 country and a half of the population was in Khmer Rouge hands.
- 22 [09.40.56]
- 23 Q. Now, you mention another consequence of this attack, this
- 24 unsuccessful attack, on Phnom Penh, in late 1973, and that is
- 25 that Pol Pot, who according to your book, had been moving closer

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- 1 and closer and closer to the capital over the years, since 1970,
- 2 in fact moved very close to Phnom Penh. You say "about 30
- 3 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh, on the Udong-Pursat road".
- 4 Can sorry can you give me the source? Is it the same general
- 5 source from the Americans or was it some other source?
- 6 A. My recollection is that some of that information came from Ny
- 7 Kan, who was Son Sen's brother. And a lot of it came from my own
- 8 travels in that area, talking to villagers, who had been there at
- 9 that time and remembered where Pol Pot and other leaders were.
- 10 Who remembered where Thiounn Thioeunn set up a hospital, where
- 11 the military forward military command headquarters at Ra Smach
- 12 was, and so on.
- 13 [09.42.34]
- 14 So, yes, initially interviews, but afterwards, going on to the
- 15 terrain and talking to the villagers about what they remembered.
- 16 Q. And, during the time that he was stationed in that area, just
- 17 northwest of Phnom Penh, you mention a number of decisions that
- 18 Pol Pot made, starting at page bottom of page 252 and going
- 19 into page 253, the ERNs for which are English, 00396453; and the
- 20 French, 00639781 to 782.
- 21 The first of those decisions you mention, was to effectively
- 22 impose a siege of Phnom Penh.
- 23 The second was that security was tightened around Phnom Penh.
- 24 The third was that more methods of controlling enemies were
- 25 established, such as the building of prisons and re-education and

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- 1 killings.
- 2 Now, dealing with those three decisions, can you tell me where
- 3 you learned that information from?
- 4 [09.44.26]
- 5 A. Well, the to take the middle question first. The tightening
- of security from Kong Duong, who was a I tell the story of Kong
- 7 Duong, he became a Khmer Rouge Cadre, I met him in Pailin. And he
- 8 described his experiences when he went from Phnom Penh into the
- 9 Special Zone and was lucky to get away with his life, because
- 10 somebody recognized him and could vouch for him, and of the
- 11 quide, who had taken him across from the government controlled
- 12 area, to the Khmer Rouge area, was not so lucky; he was not
- 13 recognized and he was killed. Because there was immense suspicion
- of anybody coming from Phnom Penh.
- 15 And I mention, it's a curious anecdote, but a French journalist,
- 16 who was at that time in Phnom Penh, and had relations with -
- 17 had known some of the Khmer Rouge when they were students in
- 18 Paris, a man called Serge Thion, went into that area, and in the
- 19 in the DC-Cam files, there is a copy of a police report, a very
- 20 accurate police report, describing how he reached the area.
- 21 [09.46.11]
- 22 Now, Serge Thion's visit was before the strengthening of
- 23 security, and the significance of it was that if the Lon Nol
- 24 police had an accurate account of how he went there, what he did,
- 25 it meant that there were Long Nol's spies operating in the Khmer

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- 1 Rouge area, in the Special Zone. So that was the source for that.
- 2 The other material, some of it, certainly is from confessions,
- 3 from Tuol Sleng, which if read carefully, can be a very
- 4 interesting source of information. The decision to tighten the
- 5 noose around Phnom Penh, gosh, where did that come from? I can't
- 6 actually I must be honest I can't remember the sources for
- 7 that.
- 8 But the point of about a book like this is that it is really a
- 9 mosaic of tiny grains of information that you try to put
- 10 together. And, if you ask me now, I'm not always able to tell you
- 11 exactly where it came from.
- 12 [09.47.43]
- 13 Q. Another consequence of this attack on Phnom Penh, and the
- 14 tightening of control around it by the Khmer Rouge, was what you
- 15 have described as other movements of population. And you speak,
- 16 for example, of Kratie being evacuated in the second half of
- 17 1973, and the Khmer Rouge attacking Kampong Cham, driving 15,000
- 18 town dwellers from their homes and forcing them to accompany them
- 19 to liberated zones. That's mentioned two pages further on at 257.
- 20 And, at page 255, you talk about the attack on Udong. The ERNs
- 21 for that are: 00396455; French, 00639784 to 785. And you speak at
- that page of 20,000 people from Udong being resettled in
- 23 cooperatives, and further, that 40,000 from the Northern Zone
- 24 fled from there to Kampong Thom.
- 25 Now, these numbers are of course, an estimate, because it would

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1 never be precisely 20,000 or 40,000, but I'm interested, also, in

- 2 your how you reached these conclusions and included this
- 3 information in the book, about Kratie, Kampong Cham and Udong?
- 4 [09.49.52]
- 5 A. Well, Udong was relatively simple. There is documentary
- 6 material, but that came from an interview with Phy Phuon in
- 7 Malai, and he described I remember him saying, that the
- 8 evacuation of Udong was particularly important because it was a
- 9 kind of trial run. It proved that the population of an urban
- 10 centre could be evacuated and put into cooperatives, without, as
- 11 he put it, any great problems arising. And, so that was
- 12 important.
- 13 Let me just look at the for the other ones. Give me a second.
- 14 Kampong Thom, I have a feeling, I'm pretty sure, was an American
- 15 estimate was from American intelligence, the 40,000 people who
- 16 came out of the Northern Zone and went to Kampong Thom. There was
- 17 quite a lot of American intelligence material. It was not always
- 18 accurate, but, they did have informants, who told them what was
- 19 happening in the Khmer Rouge zones, particularly after 1973. They
- 20 made over-flights of the areas along the border with Vietnam,
- 21 which enabled them to draw certain conclusions about what was
- 22 happening in Khmer Rouge areas. And the fact that conditions were
- 23 difficult and that people tried to flee, in some cases, that is
- 24 all in American documents. Which, because they were not designed
- 25 for public consumption, have a certain credibility.

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- 1 [09.52.13]
- 2 Q. Now, you speak of a meeting of the Central Committee, convened
- 3 by Pol Pot, in this same period, September 1973. The Trial
- 4 Chamber has no record of this meeting. Are you and you note
- 5 some very important decisions that arose from that meeting of the
- 6 Central Committee. Can you give us any help on the source or
- 7 availability of that (microphone not activated).
- 8 A. Yes, there are references in confessions, at which are in
- 9 the DC Cam archives. I mean they're very scattered, but there
- 10 are, I think, if my memory serves me, three or four references to
- 11 the 1973 Central Committee meeting. And, I also again, was given
- 12 information in interviews, notably by Phy Phuon, who was present
- 13 at most of these meetings, in the period of 1973, '74, '75.
- 14 Q. Well, you record that Central Committee meeting as making some
- 15 decisions: first, that traders were to be sent to work in the
- 16 fields so that the Communist Party of Kampuchea could control
- 17 distribution of goods and to prevent capitalism; secondly, that -
- 18 and this is noted at page 257, the ERNs for which are English,
- 19 00396457; and French, 00639737, and that was that there was a
- 20 unanimous decision to evacuate Phnom Penh and other Cambodian
- 21 towns, as soon as they were liberated; and the third of those
- 22 decisions in that Central Committee meeting marked the first time
- 23 that the Central Committee authorized the killing of one of its
- own members, Prasith. That's at page 260; English, 00396468; and
- 25 French, 00639790 to 91.

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1 Now, those three decisions are of interest, because they lead to

- 2 other policies that were said to have been developed by the
- 3 leaders of Democratic Kampuchea, and applied during the regime.
- 4 Is there any comment you would like to make on any of those three
- 5 decisions?
- 6 [09.55.54]
- 7 A. I think the decision to execute Prasith, the Central Committee
- 8 member from the southwest, was a kind of tipping point. And if
- 9 you look back at Chinese communist history, there is an exactly
- 10 similar tipping point in 1930, when, for the first time, there
- 11 was a question of four provincial leaders, again, who were
- 12 following policies different from those which the Chinese Party's
- 13 leadership, at that time, wished to follow.
- 14 And, the judgement that the Chinese Party made, was that these
- 15 four leaders were, by their behaviour, objectively
- 16 counter-revolutionary and therefore, they should be removed, they
- 17 should be eliminated.
- 18 And in China, and there are many similarities between the Chinese
- 19 Communist Movement in the 1930s, and what happened in Democratic
- 20 Kampuchea in the 1970s. They are the two closest parallels, far
- 21 closer than anything to do with the cultural-revolution, which
- 22 was completely different. But, in both cases, a Communist Party,
- 23 which was under great pressure, which had very few experienced
- 24 cadres, reacted by starting to kill its own, when placed in a
- 25 situation of pressure.

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- 1 [09.57.41]
- 2 So for me, the killing of Prasith, in '73, was really the
- 3 beginning of the internal purges, which went on to devour the
- 4 Kampuchean Communist Party.
- 5 Q. I want to turn now to a general topic, which are which is
- 6 the variety of reasons given for the evacuation of Phnom Penh on
- 7 the 17th of April 1975.
- 8 First, arising from those population movements, as various parts
- 9 of the country were liberated, we have been told repeatedly that
- 10 the population of Phnom Penh was increased enormously over the
- 11 year or so before April 1975. Would it be correct to say that a
- 12 large number of those people would be peasants as well as town
- 13 dwellers from say, Udong and other towns and cities that had been
- 14 evacuated?
- 15 [09.58.57]
- 16 A. The overwhelming majority of those living in Phnom Penh, in
- 17 early 1975, were peasants who had fled from the countryside. Had
- 18 fled first of all, the American bombing, in some cases, had then
- 19 fled from the war, and had, in a way, voted with their feet, and
- 20 this led was one of the factors which influenced what happened
- 21 to them later. Because to the Khmer Rouge, and indeed, I think it
- 22 was who was it? Hou Youn said in a broadcast, early in 1975,
- 23 you know, you have to make a choice. If you choose to join Lon
- 24 Nol's people in Phnom Penh, then we, the Khmer Rouge, will regard
- 25 you as having made that choice. If you choose to come to the

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- 1 revolution, then you will be welcomed.
- 2 I mean, it's a very oversimplified distinction, but, it did lead
- 3 to the categorization of New People who were treated less well,
- 4 later, because they had taken refuge with Lon Nol, as against the
- 5 Old People who had stayed with the Khmer Rouge and supported the
- 6 revolution.
- 7 [10.00.25]
- 8 If one estimates roughly, if there were 3 million people in Phnom
- 9 Penh, in the spring of '75, something like 600,000 were real city
- 10 dwellers. The remainder had come in from the countryside.
- 11 And it is true that once peace had been restored, a lot of those
- 12 people in from the countryside, even if they had discredited
- 13 themselves with the Khmer Rouge by choosing to be in Phnom Penh,
- 14 they were not unhappy to go back to their villages.
- 15 So the evacuation affected the two different groups very
- 16 differently. For the city people, it was incomprehensible, the
- 17 beginning of everything in their world crashing down around their
- 18 feet. For the peasants, the great majority, it was going home.
- 19 Q. So, it's better to classify the people from Phnom Penh as New
- 20 People than as city dwellers, given this uneven distribution of
- 21 the population. And they all shared a similar fate, whether they
- 22 were true urban urbanites, or peasants?
- 23 [10.01.56]
- 24 A. They initially shared a similar fate, in to the extent that
- 25 they were all sent out of the city with very few belongings,

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- 1 which again affected the city dwellers, who had a lot of
- 2 belongings, much more than the poor, who had none.
- 3 But, the true city dwellers were more likely to be educated,
- 4 therefore to be suspect. And, I would like to say that the
- 5 business of suspecting educated people, in the image of
- 6 suspecting people who had glasses, was not unique to the Khmer
- 7 Rouge. It happened in the 1940s with the Issarak, when there are
- 8 perfectly verifiable accounts of intellectuals, or people with
- 9 glasses, being taken off buses and killed or beaten up because
- 10 they were intellectuals.
- 11 And, I think one has to remember that, to the many poor villagers
- 12 in Cambodia, there wasn't much difference between the rich and
- 13 the educated, because both of them looked down on the poor.
- 14 So, those who were seen as rich and educated always had a much
- 15 harder time than the New People who were poor. And when I say a
- 16 harder time, in many cases, they were simply killed.
- 17 [10.03.32]
- 18 Q. Now, as I have indicated, there have been quite a number of
- 19 reasons recorded for the evacuation of Phnom Penh. You mention at
- 20 page 271 English ERN, 00396479; and French, 00639804 to 05 -
- 21 that soldiers went from house to house, telling the inhabitants
- 22 that they must leave, just for two or three days, on the pretext
- 23 that the Americans planned to bomb the city.
- 24 Now, we've heard a great deal of information already from a
- 25 variety of witnesses, about the evacuation of Phnom Penh. So,

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- 1 what I want to focus on is the credibility of that reason given,
- 2 that is, that bombing might be about to occur, and you do discuss
- 3 this to some extent in your book. Could you give us your comments
- 4 on that?
- 5 A. The explanation was knowingly false. There was never any
- 6 possibility of bombing. But not only that, the Khmer Rouge knew
- 7 there was no possibility of bombing. The reason for telling
- 8 people, you are just going for two or three days, was to make it
- 9 easier to persuade them to go. Was also to persuade them not to
- 10 take lots of belongings with them, because if you're going only
- 11 for a few days, you don't need to, you think you're going to be
- 12 coming back.
- 13 [10.05.30]
- 14 There is a parallel in Vietnam, where similar reasoning was used
- 15 earlier on to move people out of I think it was the old
- 16 imperial capital, Hué. It's whether the Cambodians were aware
- 17 of that, whether the Khmer Rouge were aware of that and used that
- 18 precedent, I don't know; very probably not. They may well not
- 19 have known about it. But it did happen elsewhere, on a very small
- 20 scale before.
- 21 In Cambodia, in Phnom Penh, they had taken a decision to send all
- 22 the city dwellers into the countryside, and whatever was going to
- 23 make it easier to persuade them to go, they would say.
- 24 Q. Now, I'm not sure yes, in fact, you are familiar with this
- 25 document which you refer to in your book. It's a document,

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- 1 E3/196; "Statement of the Communist Party of Kampuchea to the
- 2 Communist Workers Party of Denmark", delivered in July 1978 by
- 3 Nuon Chea, described as Deputy Secretary of the Communist Party
- 4 of Kampuchea. At page 30 of that, I'll quote you something that
- 5 Nuon Chea says. He said:
- 6 [10.07.07]
- 7 "It is more widely known that the USA planned to cease power from
- 8 us six months after the liberation. The plan involved joint
- 9 action on the part of the USA, the KGB and Vietnam. There was to
- 10 be a combined struggle from inside and outside. But we smashed
- 11 the plan. Immediately after liberation, we evacuated the cities."
- 12 Now, I don't need your comment on the unusual suggestion that the
- 13 USA, KGB and Vietnam all cooperated, at that period, but what do
- 14 you have to say about his comments there?
- 15 Are they in keeping his reasons given are they in keeping
- 16 with the earlier decision, that we have no formal record of,
- 17 concerning evacuation of Phnom Penh and other Cambodian towns, or
- 18 is there some other something else you would like to comment
- 19 on?
- 20 A. Well, the third and fourth sentences in that paragraph, where
- 21 he says: "There was to be combined struggle from inside and
- 22 outside, but we smashed the plan. Immediately, after liberation,
- 23 we evacuated the cities." I think that can be read literally.
- 24 [10.08.39]
- 25 One of the effects of the evacuation of Phnom Penh, and other

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1 cities, but particularly Phnom Penh, was to destroy completely

- 2 the networks that were reporting to western intelligence
- 3 agencies. There was there are American, there are CIA officials
- 4 who have gone on the record as saying: "Every bit of information
- 5 we were getting from Phnom Penh, just ended overnight." So, to
- 6 that extent, it's true.
- 7 This idea of a combined struggle, that plays into the
- 8 explanation, the narrative, that the Khmer Rouge leadership built
- 9 for itself, to explain or to justify the purges carried on within
- 10 the Party. But those purges started later. They weren't six
- 11 months after liberation, they really developed later on.
- 12 Q. Khieu Samphan himself, in his monograph, "Cambodia's Recent
- 13 History", gives some explanations about the fall of Phnom Penh
- 14 and other urban areas. He describes at page 55 of that monograph
- 15 ERN English, 00103750; and French, 00595427 to 28 he says
- 16 that he was unaware of the decision to evacuate Phnom Penh. Now,
- 17 during your discussions with him, did you talk about his
- 18 knowledge in advance of the decision to evacuate Phnom Penh?
- 19 [10.10.47]
- 20 A. I think Mr. Khieu Samphan has been very consistent in his -
- 21 the version of events that he has given, in what he said to me,
- 22 and in what he's written there, which was that he was not
- 23 involved in the evacuation of Phnom Penh. He told me that he
- 24 actually came to Phnom Penh very much later, after the evacuation
- 25 had taken place, which is broadly consistent with what you just

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- 1 told me.
- 2 Whether one should take that as the version which Mr. Khieu
- 3 Samphan wishes to have remembered, or whether one should take it
- 4 as strict historical fact, is a different issue.
- 5 Q. In that monograph, he describes this is at the same page -
- 6 that "by the end of March 1975, I was invited to the general
- 7 headquarters of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, to the west of
- 8 Udong, to follow the last offensive against the capital more
- 9 closely". And he goes on to say that every day, he followed the
- 10 battle's progression on the radio and I quote: "On April 17, at
- 11 around 9 o'clock, our hearts were filled with joy. We had heard
- 12 the voices of commanders of various units speak from several
- 13 points inside the capital."
- 14 He then describes how, because it was so hot that day, he hid
- 15 from the sun in his hut, but that he listened to soldiers who
- 16 returned from Phnom Penh describing huge numbers of people
- 17 leaving the city, bank notes being thrown out of windows like
- 18 confetti. And he speaks of his complete astonishment at the
- 19 reports.
- 20 Do you have any further comment in addition to what you have just
- 21 said about his surprise at these reports?
- 22 [10.13.14]
- 23 A. I can only confirm that he, Mr. Khieu Samphan, did also tell
- 24 me that he was at the Pol Pot's headquarters west of Phnom
- 25 Penh. That he was with Pol Pot on April the 17th. I think it is -

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- 1 there's no doubt that he did not go into Phnom on the 17th, he
- 2 went later, the following day, or a day later. As to his
- 3 surprise, well, I would be surprised that he was surprised.
- 4 Q. Two pages further on he says: "I was greatly surprised to
- 5 learn during my talks with CPK executives, after April 1975, that
- 6 the superior level cooperatives had been used in the liberated
- 7 regions since 1973."
- 8 And he comments that it was a necessary policy. Again, are you or
- 9 are you not surprised at his surprise?
- 10 A. I have to say I'm surprised at his surprise. Mr. Khieu Samphan
- 11 was with the upper leadership. He, I think, was it's very
- 12 difficult to imagine that he could not have been aware of what
- 13 was happening in the Khmer Rouge areas. He did travel. He spent a
- 14 lot of time with the leadership.
- 15 [10.14.59]
- 16 I think it's true; he was not a member of the Standing Committee.
- 17 He was not at that time in the very top level of the leadership.
- 18 But I think he must have been aware of what was transpiring.
- 19 Though, I would say, that is it is supposition. I cannot hold
- 20 up my hand and say I know that he knew, and I think that's
- 21 important to say. I'm supposing that that would be logical.
- 22 That's all I can say.
- 23 Q. He mentions in the same paragraph that, at page 57, speaking
- 24 to Pol Pot privately and conveying his misgivings to him about
- 25 the evacuation of Phnom Penh. And to be fair to Khieu Samphan, he

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1 had spoken of his misery at hearing what the vast hordes who were

- 2 being evacuated from Phnom Penh, on the very hot day, were going
- 3 through. So this is him speaking to Pol Pot a little later of his
- 4 regrets and despair. He said that Pol Pot told me the underlying
- 5 reason for emptying the cities. It was part of a collectivization
- 6 policy that had already reached a certain level in the
- 7 countryside before the end of the war. This collectivization
- 8 policy had enabled the CPK to maintain control over the rice
- 9 supply and thus, had provided it with an important weapon to
- 10 confront the Vietnamese military, and to force the Vietnamese to
- 11 respect Cambodia's sovereignty, while Vietnamese troops operated
- 12 in our country.
- 13 [10.16.59]
- 14 Is that a policy does that describe the collectivization policy
- in a way that you are familiar with?
- 16 A. I think one spinoff from the collectivization policy was
- 17 indeed that the CPK had control of rice supplies and therefore,
- 18 the Vietnamese could only get rice for their troops in Cambodia
- 19 through the CPK. It was a spinoff; it wasn't the fundamental
- 20 reason for collectivization, which was ideological. It was
- 21 communal ownership as against individual ownership. It was
- 22 communism as against capitalism. It was equality for all citizens
- 23 and one may put that in inverted commerce, but as against
- 24 differences in living standards, in levels of wealth. That the
- 25 evacuation of Phnom Penh was part of the was justified because

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- 1 it was part of the collectivization policy, I think that is
- 2 stretching it. The reasons for the evacuation of the cities were
- 3 fundamentally different.
- 4 [10.18.25]
- 5 Q. At page 287 of the English copy of your book, you describe two
- 6 contradictory sets of reasons offered by Pol Pot. He told
- 7 westerners that the action was not pre-planned. It was the
- 8 realization that a food shortage was eminent and that there was a
- 9 plan by U.S. lackeys to attack us that prompted it. You go on to
- 10 say that none of that was true.
- 11 But first, the source of those comments by Pol Pot, giving
- 12 reasons for the evacuation.
- 13 A. I'm sorry to hesitate. This copy of the book that I'm looking
- 14 at does not have the absolutely complete notes, which are only
- 15 available electronically. I'm sure that quote it is obviously
- 16 from a document. He was talking to a western delegation. Which
- 17 western delegation I cannot tell you now. But if the Court is
- 18 interested I can certainly find the relevant source.
- 19 Q. Well, first of all, Mr. Short, I recognize that this book was
- 20 published some time ago and you can't be familiar with every
- 21 single detail. So I certainly accept that you won't have the
- 22 source for every detail. But if and when you do, it's very
- 23 interesting for me to learn that.
- 24 You go on to talk about the reason given, that the city was
- 25 evacuated because a food shortage was eminent and you say, none

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1 of that was true. Not only were food supplies adequate, but it

- 2 was far more difficult logistically for the Khmer Rouge to
- 3 provide grain to moving columns of deportees than it would have
- 4 been if they had stayed put. Can you just discuss that statement
- 5 where you quite categorically say, this is completely inaccurate?
- 6 [10.21.22]
- 7 A. Food was not available in enormous quantities in Phnom Penh.
- 8 There was an airlift which had come to an end. Nonetheless, there
- 9 were sufficient reserves to feed the city population, at least
- 10 for a matter of days. Leave aside the possibility that they could
- 11 have asked for food to be sent in, for rice to be sent in from
- 12 elsewhere. But a static population is, by definition, much easier
- 13 to feed than some millions of people who are streaming out of the
- 14 city in all directions; when no medical facilities have been
- 15 provided for that exodus; when no food reserves along the route
- 16 have been provided; when there is they are going to areas where
- 17 there is no there are no warehouses with food to feed them. All
- 18 of that is going to make it much more difficult. Basically, the
- 19 reason for, I say categorically it was harder, is I think, fairly
- 20 self-evident.
- 21 [10.22.54]
- 22 Q. Khieu Samphan comments on this very issue, namely the reason
- 23 given for the evacuation of Phnom Penh, being lack of food, in
- 24 his Chapter 5 of "Considerations on the History of Cambodia",
- 25 E3/16, at page 64, which is English ERN 00498283, and French,

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- 1 00643890, and he says:
- 2 "For a long time already, in the countryside a large part of the
- 3 land had been abandoned and no rice could be grown. Three million
- 4 people, in general, did not have enough to eat. In the city 3
- 5 million other people were gradually starving. This is why Pol Pot
- 6 said," and he gives this as a quote, "Continuing to stay in the
- 7 city will lead to danger of famine. So then, evacuating the city
- 8 is better, in order to avoid the danger of famine and the danger
- 9 of rebellion."
- 10 Khieu Samphan goes on to say: "If there was a rebellion, then
- 11 Vietnam clearly would have come to intervene."
- 12 So, there's a gloss on that reason. So, is there any further
- 13 comment you would like to make on that quote?
- 14 [10.24.35]
- 15 A. I think the last part is extremely significant. The danger of
- 16 rebellion is a way of putting it. The fact was that if the city
- 17 people were scattered in the countryside and the networks among
- 18 them were all broken, they were very much easier to control and
- 19 any possibility of resistance to Khmer Rouge policies was greatly
- 20 diminished. So if you read rebellion in that sense, it's
- 21 absolutely true. That was a key reason. Perhaps not the
- 22 absolutely dominant reason, but it was a key reason for the
- 23 evacuation of the cities. Famine, I find wholly unconvincing.
- 24 Q. Realistically, how long would it take to move several million
- 25 people out of the city, settle them, and then produce food

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- 1 sufficient to eat, if indeed there was a huge crisis over food at
- 2 that point? Are we talking weeks, or months?
- 3 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 4 The Expert, please wait.
- 5 The Defence Lawyer, you may proceed.
- 6 [10.26.08]
- 7 MR. KOPPE:
- 8 Thank you, Mr. President.
- 9 I know I'm not supposed to object to any questions asked by the
- 10 Trial Chamber to the expert. However, I would like to make an
- 11 observation, that I'm not sure if the answer to this question
- 12 will fall within the realms of the expertise of this particular
- 13 witness. He's an historian and the way well, I think you have
- 14 my point.
- 15 BY JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:
- 16 Well, I won't pursue that question. And, Mr. Koppe, I accept that
- 17 it might not fall within the realms of the expert's expertise,
- 18 but perhaps within his common sense to be able to ask that and
- 19 answer that question.
- 20 Q. Given that many of the reasons presented for the evacuation of
- 21 Phnom Penh have been around food, was the possibility of foreign
- 22 aid for food ever considered seriously by the New Democratic
- 23 Kampuchean regime?
- 24 Over a history, especially last century, there have been a number
- 25 of examples of vast quantities of food being moved to a place

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- 1 where there has been conflict and there are hundreds of thousands
- 2 of people in danger of starving. So was that prospect ever
- 3 discussed?
- 4 [10.27.51]
- 5 MR. SHORT:
- 6 A. Some rice did arrive from China. It was in limited quantities,
- 7 nonetheless, some you could qualify that as food aid. But the
- 8 CPK leadership, which made a point of honour of self-sufficiency,
- 9 was absolutely against the idea of, as they would have said,
- 10 going begging, bowl in hand, to foreign countries, when they had
- 11 just won, in their terms, a great victory. I think there is an
- 12 internal logic in their position. You may say it offers very
- 13 little to the people who were hungry. It was a theoretical
- 14 position rather than a matter of practical help for a population
- 15 which was suffering.
- 16 But that, again, is consistent with the policies of the CPK
- 17 throughout the period when they were coming to power and
- 18 throughout the period that they were in power. They wished to
- 19 make a very different kind of country, a country which, in their
- 20 view, would be "egalitarian, pure, wonderful" in inverted
- 21 commas. The intentions were good, but there was no concern for
- 22 the suffering along the way.
- 23 [10.29.44]
- 24 Q. Other reasons well, perhaps a further confirmation of a
- 25 reason given for the evacuation was quoted by you, again at page

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- 1 287, which is English, 00396494, and French, 00639824 to 25,
- 2 where you quote Pol Pot as telling Chinese journalists the
- 3 following: "Until we had smashed all kinds of enemy spy
- 4 organizations, we did not have enough strength to defend the
- 5 revolutionary regime."
- 6 In the hierarchy of reasons given, how important do you think
- 7 this particular reason that is, disabling spy networks might
- 8 be?
- 9 A. I think it's probably second equal, or second, or third. If
- 10 you put the first reason as an ideological imperative to equalize
- 11 the city and the countryside by, essentially, eliminating the
- 12 city, with all its turpitudes and filth. That was the key.
- 13 Secondly, to disable spy networks, which as I mentioned, they did
- 14 very effectively; and at the same time to break up the city
- 15 population so it could not resist.
- 16 [10.31.40]
- 17 Q. Ieng Sary discussed the reasons for the evacuation with you
- 18 when you interviewed him, and that same page, 287, he said that
- 19 it was noted that the failure of the proletariat to exercise
- 20 dictatorship over the bourgeoisie was the reason for the
- 21 overthrow of the Paris commune. So that's going back a bit in
- 22 history, and he said that and you quote this: "Pol Pot would
- 23 not make the same mistake."
- 24 So is that a significant reason or a blend of the reasons you've
- 25 already listed?

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- 1 A. I think it's the it's putting the third reason I gave, to
- 2 break up the networks among what I called the city population, in
- 3 other words the bourgeoisie, so that he could not resist. And
- 4 yes, the Paris commune in 1870, '71, was something that they had
- 5 in mind. Mr. Khieu Samphan, Pol Pot, Ieng Sary were all students
- 6 in Paris at a time when the 80th anniversary of the Paris commune
- 7 was being celebrated. It was a subject that interested them a lot
- 8 and they, like communists from other Asian countries, did draw
- 9 lessons from it.
- 10 [10.33.27]
- 11 Q. On the next page, 288, you conclude that the goal of the
- 12 evacuation was not to destroy, but to transmute. Pol Pot wrote
- 13 later that the evacuation was and it's a quote "an
- 14 extraordinary measure that one does not find in the revolution of
- 15 any other country". And you go on to say:
- 16 "It was the nub of the party's political and economic strategy
- 17 which was then being elaborated at a series of Standing Committee
- 18 meetings first held in the railway station and subsequently in
- 19 other locations."
- 20 Do you want to comment on Pol Pot's statement?
- 21 A. When I wrote that in my book I thought at that time, and I
- 22 still think, it's important to emphasize that the goal of the
- 23 Khmer Rouge was not to destroy a large part of the Cambodian
- 24 population. They didn't set out to kill everybody. They set out
- 25 to change the country, in other words, to transmute. And Pol Pot

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- 1 was very proud of the fact that they had done something by
- 2 evacuating the cities in particular, which had been done nowhere
- 3 else, and when Pol Pot sorry, when Mao, late in 1975, met the
- 4 Vietnamese leader, Le Duan, Mao said to Le Duan, "Could you have
- 5 done that?" And Le Duan said, "No." Mao says, "No, we couldn't
- 6 either."
- 7 [10.35.32]
- 8 So for the Khmer Rouge, for the leadership, the fact that they
- 9 had done something that they had taken a radical step to
- 10 transform Cambodian society, which no other communist party was
- 11 capable of taking, or had taken, was important.
- 12 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 13 Thank you, Mr. Expert.
- 14 The time is appropriate for a short break. We shall take a break
- 15 now and return at 11.00.
- 16 Court Officer, could you assist the expert during the break and
- 17 have him return to the courtroom at 11 a.m.?
- 18 (Court recesses from 1036H to 1101H)
- 19 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 20 Please be seated. The Court is now back in session.
- 21 Once again, I give the floor to Judge Cartwright to continue
- 22 putting questions to the expert. You may proceed.
- 23 Please wait; I notice the defence lawyer is on his feet. You may
- 24 proceed.
- 25 MR. KOPPE:

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- 1 Thank you, Mr. President.
- 2 Judge Cartwright, could I ask you to ask the expert a little bit
- 3 further on his notes, which are electronically available? Because
- 4 the sooner we might have an answer on that, the earlier we can
- 5 start reviewing those. Thank you.
- 6 BY JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:
- 7 Q. Yes. Mr. Short, you're aware that, over the last few weeks,
- 8 you've been asked about some of the sources, including those
- 9 Central Committee meetings from 1973, and you've indicated that
- 10 you didn't have ready access to your stored archives. But,
- 11 literally I think, yesterday you sent a disc with some material
- 12 on it which I have not, due to time available, had an opportunity
- 13 to examine.
- 14 [11.02.58]
- 15 So, could you just describe what was on that disc, very briefly,
- 16 please?
- 17 MR. SHORT:
- 18 A. Allow me to apologize to the Court for not having been able to
- 19 provide this material earlier. You asked for a number of
- 20 documents. They are all in storage elsewhere, but just before I
- 21 came to Cambodia I discovered a disc which I thought might have
- $\,$ 22 $\,$ some of the material on it, and indeed it does. So what I have
- 23 sent you are the documents you asked for from the Vietnamese
- 24 military archives in Hanoi. The originals were in Vietnamese.
- 25 They were transcribed and I have given you French translations.

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- 1 [11.03.55]
- 2 And I've also given you this document, which is the complete
- 3 electronic notes to the book, which contains much fuller sources
- 4 than are in the printed version. You asked and I've just been
- 5 able now to check earlier you asked about a quote from Pol Pot
- 6 saying the evacuation of Phnom Penh was not pre-planned. That was
- 7 in an interview with Yugoslav journalists, in late 1977 or early
- 8 1978. I've been trying I'm a little puzzled about your
- 9 references to the 1973 Central Committee meeting, because I seem
- 10 to have the crucial Central Committee meeting at Meak in
- 11 September 1974.
- 12 Q. Well, I think we won't go into the minutiae of this at this
- 13 stage, but this disc can be made available to counsel. But, Mr.
- 14 Koppe, you will see that it's a little late in the piece for
- 15 analysis while this expert is with us. So perhaps we'll just move
- 16 on at this stage, Mr. Short.
- 17 I want to turn now to the evacuation itself, which you rather
- 18 trenchantly describe as a "shambles". At page 275 of your book,
- 19 which is English ERN 00396483, and French, 00639810 to 811, you
- 20 give an estimate of lives lost at 20,000 that is, lives lost
- 21 during the evacuation. Can you give me any information about the
- 22 source for that estimate, please?
- 23 [11.06.04]
- 24 A. There have been various estimates made by different writers.
- Ben Kiernan gave 10,000, another estimate I've seen was 35,000.

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- 1 Mr. Ieng Sary at one point spoke of two to 3,000. My median
- 2 figure, if you like, was 20,000. It's unprovable. There was no
- 3 count. But it was probably of that order. It's as close as we're
- 4 ever going to get.
- 5 Q. Thank you. As I've said earlier, we've had a number of
- 6 witnesses describe what actually occurred during the evacuation,
- 7 but I want to look at some of the policies around it. For
- 8 example, were the evacuated city-dwellers allowed to take much
- 9 with them? And what about money? Could you comment on those two
- 10 aspects of their possessions, please?
- 11 [11.07.14]
- 12 A. I should say, obviously, I was not present. I have no direct
- 13 information. What I have been able to conclude is based on the
- 14 testimony of those who were present, or who watched what
- 15 happened. In terms of property, some of the city-dwellers, the
- 16 richer ones, started off driving cars. In some cases, they were
- 17 able to get quite far in their cars. In other cases they had to
- 18 abandon them very quickly. I think it's worth stressing that
- 19 there were tremendous differences in the way that the troops from
- 20 the different zones treated the evacuees. If you were going east,
- 21 it was one set of rules. If you were going to the south or the
- 22 southwest or the north, it was another set of rules. But,
- 23 basically, people were able to carry less and less, so it was
- 24 abandoned along the way.
- 25 In the first hours maybe the first days Cambodian currency

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- 1 was used. But it then was made very clear by the Khmer Rouge
- 2 escorting the refugees that money would have no value. And
- 3 store-keepers there were still stores along the way those who
- 4 had a little something to sell would stop selling it for money.
- 5 They would then sell it for valuables; for jewels, for gold, or
- 6 whatever.
- 7 [11.08.50]
- 8 Q. You also spoke at page 280 of your book, which has the English
- 9 ERN 00396488 and the French 00639816 to 817, that those being
- 10 evacuated were obliged to write personal histories or
- 11 biographies. Can you tell can you summarize the reasons for the
- 12 writing of these biographies? And then we'll turn to the outcome
- 13 from the collection and examination of those biographies.
- 14 A. This was a Khmer Rouge technique which they had certainly
- 15 learned from the Vietnamese communists, who in turn had learned
- 16 it from the Chinese communists. But the Khmer Rouge took it
- 17 further. The initial purpose was to establish the background of
- 18 those who were being evacuated from the cities.
- 19 [11.10.04]
- 20 Q. You say that, at the same page, that technicians and skilled
- 21 workers were identified and taken away, and that many deportees
- 22 concluded that, as nothing further had been heard from them, they
- 23 had been killed. You contradict that assumption. Could you please
- 24 explain that?
- 25 A. Yes. The supposition that they had been taken away and killed

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1 was, I think, a reflection of the views which people developed of

- 2 the Khmer Rouge regime. If someone disappeared, it meant they had
- 3 been killed. In fact, no the skilled workers were taken back to
- 4 Phnom Penh and put to work in the factories some of the
- 5 factories which resumed production. Railway workers were taken to
- 6 run the railways, shipping workers to run the ports, and so on.
- 7 Q. A further group, you mention on that same page, were members
- 8 of the military and civil servants from the Lon Nol regime who
- 9 you said were taken away for re-education. Can you tell us if
- 10 your research disclosed what happened to that group? That class
- 11 of people?
- 12 A. As a class, on the whole, they were killed. They were
- 13 executed. Certain among them were not. I mean, again one of the
- 14 characteristics of the regime was that treatment was not
- 15 completely uniform. It depended on the zone or, very often, at a
- 16 much lower level, the officials the Khmer Rouge cadres -
- 17 responsible. So there were quite high civil servants members of
- 18 the royal family who survived. In general, however, if your
- 19 background was judged irredeemably compromising, you were killed.
- 20 [11.12.27]
- 21 Q. In the last few days, we've been hearing witness account of
- 22 events that occurred at Tuol Po Chrey, in Pursat province, in the
- 23 days immediately following the fall of Phnom Penh to the Khmer
- 24 Rouge. During your research for this book, did you come across
- 25 any material that related to those the allegations concerning

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- 1 Lon Nol military and civil servants at Tuol Po Chrey? It's not in
- 2 the index to my copy of the book.
- 3 A. No, it's not a place name which rings an immediate bell with
- 4 me. But senior military officers were executed in a variety of
- 5 places, and at different stages in the evacuation. I mean, a
- 6 large number were evacuated were executed in Phnom Penh itself.
- 7 Others were executed at different stages on the route.
- 8 [11.13.45]
- 9 Q. Another class of people of professionals like architects,
- 10 doctors, engineers, lawyers, teachers were also taken for
- 11 re-education, according to your comments at page 280. Do you know
- 12 what happened to that group of people?
- 13 A. Yes. Attempts at re-education were made in the very early
- 14 stages, and those groups they were put on an extremely harsh
- 15 regime. Many of them died. But those who survived were judged to
- 16 be fit to become, once again, part of the New People, and
- 17 therefore to live in the countryside and reform themselves
- 18 through agricultural labour. There was one later attempt. Son
- 19 Sen, the defence minister we're now talking about 1976, I think
- 20 or '76, early '77 did attempt to start re-education courses.
- 21 They were judged unsatisfactory, and so they stopped. And,
- 22 basically, after that, if you committed what the regime regarded
- 23 as misdeeds, then you paid with your life.
- 24 Q. At the same page, you talk about the attitude of the
- 25 population of Phnom Penh and other city-dwellers as being one of

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- 1 surprise at the evacuation. You said, back at page 267, which is
- 2 English ERN 00396475, and French 00639799 to 800 and I quote
- 3 from your book:
- 4 [11.15.53]
- 5 "It is hard to understand why the Cambodian elite refused so
- 6 stubbornly to see the writing on the wall."
- 7 And you gave two reasons for this surprise at the fact they were
- 8 being evacuated. Can you recall what those two reasons were?
- 9 A. One reason was certainly that the Khmer elite believed that an
- 10 arrangement would be possible with the new regime. And found it
- 11 very hard to believe what the reports which did reach Phnom Penh
- 12 which were that this was a radical regime with which no
- 13 compromise was possible. And I think that I mean, one can say
- 14 it's blindness, and they certainly were surprised, but if you
- 15 look back at Cambodian history certainly under Sihanouk and
- 16 indeed earlier whenever there was a traumatic event, there was
- 17 an arrangement afterwards. In this case, there was no
- 18 arrangement.
- 19 [11.17.14]
- 20 The other reason, I really can't remember. I'm sorry.
- 21 Q. Well, at page-
- 22 A. Remind me.
- 23 Q. At page 267, you specifically refer to Sihanouk's presence at
- 24 the head of the resistance as being one factor, and also Khieu
- 25 Samphan, who was widely viewed as a good and honest man and his

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1 prominence was another factor. Would you wish to comment on that?

- 2 I am going to turn to Khieu Samphan and the reasons why he was
- 3 respected and influential, so you don't need to expand greatly on
- 4 that.
- 5 A. Yes. Forgive me for a mental blank. Those reasons were
- 6 extremely important. Sihanouk's support of the Khmer Rouge, or
- 7 his "leadership", in inverted commas, of the movement against Lon
- 8 Nol reconciled many, many Cambodians to it. Khieu Samphan's
- 9 reputation is another key element. If you would allow me to add
- 10 one thing, which comes from our earlier discussion about the
- 11 evacuation and Mr. Khieu Samphan's role in it, I would like to do
- 12 so.
- 13 [11.18.40]
- 14 You quoted him as saying that he had remonstrated with Pol Pot. I
- 15 hope he will forgive me if I say that really doesn't add up. I
- 16 don't think Mr. Khieu Samphan or anyone else was in a position to
- 17 remonstrate. And one thing which we need to remember about this
- 18 leadership is that you could not object to the policies the
- 19 leadership had laid down without exposing yourself to very
- 20 serious trouble, or in most cases putting your life on the line.
- 21 One man who did object to the evacuation was Hou Youn, who said
- 22 "what the Standing Committee has done is wrong". Now, Hou Youn
- 23 was killed afterwards. He was a senior leader who had been with
- 24 Pol Pot in Paris, and for whom Pol Pot had considerable sympathy.
- 25 He wasn't killed he wasn't executed, but he was killed some

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- 1 months later in rather strange circumstances.
- 2 [11.19.58]
- 3 So I think with when it comes to things like the evacuation,
- 4 and indeed many Khmer Rouge policies this is not to justify
- 5 people's silence but, with respect, the Court needs to be aware
- 6 that we are not talking about a democratic state where people
- 7 could object and say I disagree. We're talking about an extremely
- 8 rigid regime, where if Mr. Khieu Samphan or anybody else had said
- 9 "I object", their neck would have been on the line.
- 10 Q. Well, turning to Khieu Samphan and his influence or otherwise,
- 11 as you have just described it in his monograph "Cambodia's
- 12 Recent History", he describes how he joined the CPK, and that -
- 13 and he fled to the forest, when then-Prince Sihanouk suspected
- 14 him, because he was the editor of the French-language newspaper.
- 15 And he was also suspected as being one of the leaders of the
- 16 conflict, and so in Samlaut. So, in 1966, Khieu Samphan said -
- 17 and I quote from 00103736, English; and French 00 I'll slow
- 18 down, sorry. 00595403. Khieu Samphan described it like this, that
- 19 he accepted the proposal of the CPK the Communist Party of
- 20 Kampuchea "to allow us to take shelter in the countryside".
- 21 [11.21.57]
- 22 Now, this implies a certain distance from the CPK on his part,
- 23 namely that they invited him to join them in the forest. Do you
- 24 have any comment on that?
- 25 A. That is consistent with or, more or less consistent with -

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1 what Mr. Khieu Samphan told me. He said that he was not a member

- 2 of the CPK at that stage. He had been a member of the French
- 3 communist party when he was a student. But that he was in close
- 4 touch with the Phnom Penh city organization. And he and Hou Youn,
- 5 whom I mentioned earlier, both left at the same time, and spent a
- 6 considerable period in complete isolation in a very remote
- 7 village. And this plays in to what I was saying about influence -
- 8 Mr. Khieu Samphan's possible influence. One point he made and I
- 9 am inclined to believe it is that Hou Youn found it very
- 10 difficult to accept his isolation, and wanted to move about. Mr.
- 11 Khieu Samphan was very disciplined, did exactly what he was told,
- 12 and kept followed the rules.
- 13 [11.23.34]
- 14 And I do think that was an honest characterisation of his
- 15 personality. That is to say, throughout the Khmer Rouge the
- 16 evacuation and everything else he basically did what he was
- 17 told.
- 18 Q. In that same monograph, at page 60, English 00103753 and
- 19 French 00595433, he says that he was loath to go out between 1970
- 20 and 1975, when he was still in the jungle, because his elevated
- 21 position meant that security and protocol for him were a problem.
- 22 Does that fit in with the analysis that you have just given?
- 23 A. No. Mr. Khieu Samphan was, at that time, not that he was a
- 24 figurehead, an extremely useful figurehead for the Kampuchean
- 25 Communist Party, with the title of Commander-in-Chief of the

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- 1 Khmer Rouge Armies, and so on. But he was at that time I think
- 2 in 1973, '74, he became an associate member of the Central
- 3 Committee. He was nowhere near the Standing Committee, he was
- 4 nowhere near a key decision-making role. He later over time, he
- 5 won Pol Pot's trust, precisely because he could be relied on to
- 6 do what he was told. But he was not, at that time, at a level
- 7 where he would have had a lot of security to enable him to travel
- 8 about.
- 9 [11.25.30]
- 10 Q. In his statement to the Co-Investigating Judges, E3/27 a
- 11 statement given in 2007 Khieu Samphan confirmed that he stayed
- 12 permanently with the Khmer Rouge leaders between 1970 and 1975.
- 13 He said his roles included liaison with Sihanouk, and he said
- 14 that quote:
- 15 "He was presented officially as the leader of the Resistance
- 16 Movement. My official title was Deputy Chairman of the National
- 17 United Front of Kampuchea, and Commander-in-Chief of the people's
- 18 liberation of Kampuchea. I was considered as the leader of the
- 19 Khmer Rouge since then, but that was not the real situation of my
- 20 position. The real leader was Pol Pot the political and
- 21 ideological, but not the military leader." Unquote.
- 22 [11.26.37]
- 23 Now, it seemed to me, when I read that in the interview, that
- 24 what he was saying was that, before they became the de jure
- 25 government of Kampuchea, his position was as the Head of State

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- 1 and the titular head of the armed forces, but not the real
- 2 leader, like a prime minister would be in the sorts of western
- 3 democracies that I could compare it with. Would that be a fair
- 4 assessment to make?
- 5 A. I think, actually, you are doing him more credit than you
- 6 should be. His position, even titular Head of State the titular
- 7 head of the Khmer Rouge of the Cambodian Resistance was, of
- 8 course, Prince Sihanouk. Yes, Mr. Khieu Samphan had this title -
- 9 Commander-in-Chief and Deputy Chairman of the FUNK but he came
- 10 up from having been a journalist a committed journalist who
- 11 believed in the cause of equality and similar ideological goals,
- 12 to being a kind of an amanuensis for Pol Pot, and gradually
- 13 rising. But it was not quick. He was, if you like, a protégé of
- 14 Pol Pot.
- 15 And, much later in his career, Pol Pot would have liked to see
- 16 him as a successor. It didn't happen, for all kinds of reasons,
- 17 partly because he was perhaps a better follower than a leader.
- 18 But up to 1975, and indeed really up to 1976, when he became Head
- 19 of State, his role should not be exaggerated.
- 20 [11.28.45]
- 21 Q. Khieu Samphan does not make any mention in his monograph of
- 22 what he actually did in the jungle between 1966 and 1975, when
- 23 Phnom Penh fell. Have you been able to are you able to shed any
- 24 light on this lengthy period of apparent inactivity?
- 25 A. He spent, I think, at least a year in more-or-less isolation,

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1 in a small village. Then, I remember him saying to me that one

- 2 day there was a lot of activity, and they said to him "look,
- 3 we're moving". And that was after '67, after the Samlaut
- 4 uprising. And they went to Mount Aural, where other intellectuals
- 5 sympathetic to the communist cause gathered over the following
- 6 years. And then to the northeast, near Kampong Chham, in the
- 7 jungle where Pol Pol's headquarters was based in the early
- 8 seventies, after Pol Pot had come down from Ratanakiri.
- 9 [11.30.13]
- 10 What exactly he did there he was living in the same leadership
- 11 compound as Pol Pot, but the best description I can give is the
- 12 one I just mentioned. An amanuensis, who was taken gradually into
- 13 the leader's confidence and certainly stayed very close to Pol
- 14 Pot throughout that period, right up to the end the final
- 15 offensive in Phnom Penh.
- 16 Q. It does appear, however, from what he has said in his
- 17 interview with the OCIJ and in his monograph, that during this
- 18 lengthy period in the jungle, he became more interested and
- 19 involved or more interest in the Khmer Rouge Revolution, and he
- 20 lists three matters in this monograph. He noted that he had a lot
- 21 of knowledge of the armed struggles of 1968 and 1969. He observed
- 22 thousands of youngsters joining the Khmer Rouge guerrilla units,
- 23 during this period in the jungle. And he saw entire villages
- 24 being liberated one after the other. Do you think that these
- 25 experiences had an impact on him?

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- 1 A. It's very difficult to get into somebody else's mind. That is
- 2 the way the Mr. Khieu Samphan has wished to portray his
- 3 development. I think you have to look back to the economic thesis
- 4 which Mr. Khieu Samphan wrote as a student doctoral student in
- 5 Paris, where which prefigures much of the or large parts, at
- 6 least, of the economic and social policy which the Khmer Rouge
- 7 eventually introduced autarky, strict egalitarianism.
- 8 [11.32.27]
- 9 I don't, myself nothing Mr. Khieu Samphan ever said to me
- 10 really suggested an interest in military matters. He was a
- 11 figurehead, but that was it. He was much more interested in
- 12 transforming society. And intellectual he was an intellectual,
- 13 and interested in ideology. With a very rigid outlook on making
- 14 everybody exactly equal. There is a story from later, but I -
- 15 from a student who attended a lecture that he gave, where he
- 16 spoke of communism and the origins of the word. Com-un-ism like
- 17 one ism. Everyone has to be the same. And I think that is the
- 18 basis of his commitment to the revolution.
- 19 Q. Well, from this discussion and it's not been very deep I'm
- 20 still left wondering why the prominence given to Khieu Samphan
- 21 pacified or encouraged the city elite when they realized that he
- 22 was one of the heads of the Movement or that or certainly
- 23 influential in the Khmer Rouge Movement in 1975. Because his
- 24 reputation is not very deep, shall we say?
- 25 A. The foundations of his reputation are much earlier. They're

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- 1 not from the period he was with the Khmer Rouge. It's just that
- 2 he had an image. When he came back to Cambodia from Paris, in I
- 3 think 1960. I'd have to look it up, but it's roughly that time -
- 4 and in his family wanted him to become an official, a mandarin.
- 5 Do very well. And he said no, he wanted to become a journalist.
- 6 And he started "L'Observateur" which was if you read it today,
- 7 the criticisms of the Sihanouk regime are very elliptical and
- 8 very kind of gently put, but nonetheless they were they made a
- 9 serious impression on the intelligentsia of Phnom Penh.
- 10 Sihanouk's interior minister had his police strip Khieu Samphan
- 11 naked in the street. He was humiliated. He kept on with the
- 12 newspaper. So he became he developed a reputation, almost, you
- 13 could say, a unique reputation, in Cambodia, as a man of probity,
- 14 of honour, who was not easily intimidated, and who believed in a
- 15 better and "juster" system for the country.
- 16 [11.35.42]
- 17 Now whoops, had Prince Sihanouk's regime left a political space
- 18 for people like Khieu Samphan, much that had happened later might
- 19 not have happened. But there was no space for them, so he had
- 20 this reputation of honesty and probity, and he carried that with
- 21 him right up until the to 1975. So that's what reassured the
- 22 elite.
- 23 Q. One comment he made in his monograph was that he learned only
- 24 after the coup in 1970 that Saloth Sar, and not Ieng Sary, was
- 25 the Secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea. Do you wish to

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- 1 comment on that?
- 2 A. I can only say I think it's extremely likely that that is
- 3 true. There were many people in not as high up in the Communist
- 4 Party as Mr. Khieu Samphan but at quite senior intermediate
- 5 levels, who didn't know until 1975 or the beginning of 1976 that
- 6 Pol Pot was the leader of the Movement.
- 7 [11.37.10]
- 8 Q. In his statement to the Co-Investigating Judges, he said that
- 9 he came to Phnom Penh a few days after its evacuation on the 17th
- 10 of April, and moreover that he came with Nuon Chea and Pol Pot,
- 11 who took him to the railway station. They stayed there for about
- 12 a month, and then went to the Silver Pagoda. So, by this time he
- 13 was very much a member of the inner circle. Would that be a fair
- 14 comment to make?
- 15 A. Partly fair. What I would dispute or worry about is the word
- 16 "member". He was associated with the inner circle, and he moved
- 17 about with them, but I don't think he was a member of the inner
- 18 circle. Again, amanuensis you know, an inner circle has people
- 19 trusted people who are with them, but who are not of them, and
- 20 I would say Mr. Khieu Samphan was that.
- 21 Q. In your book, at page 286, and I've given the ERN numbers
- 22 earlier; you said that Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan were sent to
- 23 inspect the Northern Zone checkpoint on Highway 5. Now, did you -
- 24 presumably they had some observations made of the evacuation -
- 25 did you discuss that particular matter with Khieu Samphan?

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- 1 [11.39.15]
- 2 A. No. I have to say, at the time Mr. Khieu Samphan and I
- 3 discussed that period, I think he had a memory lapse and
- 4 remembered having been in Phnom Penh only a month after the
- 5 evacuation.
- 6 Q. Now, you've already touched briefly on Khieu Samphan's
- 7 influence on economic policies, discussing his earlier work his
- 8 earlier academic work as presaging the economic and social
- 9 policies adopted by the Khmer Rouge. What about the policy
- 10 concerning private property and material goods? Was this part of
- 11 Khieu Samphan's economic theory?
- 12 A. To the best of my recollection, it was not in his thesis as a
- 13 doctoral student in Paris. That dealt much more with autarky,
- 14 with self-sufficiency. The ideas about private property came
- 15 later, or if they at least were not expressed in that thesis.
- 16 Q. In a copy of the "Revolutionary Flag" magazine of December
- 17 1976 to January 1977, document number E3/25, at the very
- 18 beginning of a speech entitled "The Shining Victories of 1976 and
- 19 the Clear, Bright Future of 1977", this comment is made:
- 20 [11.41.26]
- 21 "As for the various exploiting classes that were attacked and
- 22 overthrown, we struck them again during 1976 and further
- 23 annihilated them. They cannot raise their heads, whether in the
- 24 countryside, in the cities, in the ministries, or in the offices
- 25 or in the revolutionary ranks inside the Party. This attack and

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- 1 annihilation was not an easy thing just done in one or two
- 2 fields; it was systematic, an attack on every field to dig them
- 3 out by the large roots and the small roots."
- 4 I'm not quite sure whether that reference, which is followed by
- 5 the comment about the private ownership regime of the feudalist
- 6 landowners and capitalists, is a description of the way in which
- 7 they would treat their enemies, or a more symbolic language used
- 8 for an attack on the "exploiting classes" and their economic
- 9 theories. Are you able to assist me with that?
- 10 [11.42.35]
- 11 A. I think the two were linked, but essentially what I would see
- 12 that as the starting point at least is that every human being
- 13 has within him desires for private property, desires to be
- 14 different from others, and that this constitutes his
- 15 individualism. And the Khmer Rouge wished to demolish the
- 16 individual, so that everybody was no longer individual but part
- 17 of a mass. Now, if the roots of individualism, of private
- 18 property, of desire for goods, starts to grow in a person, then
- 19 he is liable to become an enemy of the regime. So, the two go
- 20 together, they're different sides of the same coin. And I think
- 21 what "Revolutionary Flag" is talking about is precisely that.
- 22 Q. (Microphone not activated)
- 23 A. Sorry, I'm not hearing.
- 24 [11.44.04]
- 25 Q. Sorry, Sorry, President. I'm sorry, Mr. Short. The page

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- 1 immediately after 289, you said that the case for autarky had
- 2 been made by Khieu Samphan in his doctoral thesis presented in
- 3 1959. And he defined autarky as self-conscious, autonomous
- 4 development. And I apologize to the interpreters, because it's
- 5 not going to be easy to capture these concerns. It was therefore
- 6 in his view an objective necessity, and to bring that about it
- 7 was necessary to restrict free trade and redefine the
- 8 relationship between the individual and the State. Again, this
- 9 seems to me to be a merging of theories. The way you control
- 10 people and the way you control economic policy. Do you agree with
- 11 that, or is that overstating the situation?
- 12 A. I think one can read that when you talk about a change in
- 13 the relationship between individual and the State or when Mr.
- 14 Khieu Samphan talks about that that could simply cover
- 15 collectivization. It doesn't necessarily I think one has to be
- 16 a little bit careful of reading into the earlier document what
- 17 became a highly elaborated theory 20 years later, or 15 years
- 18 later. I think the thing evolved.
- 19 Q. Well, there were other policies as well. For example, the
- 20 rooting out of enemies and symbolic language was often used there
- 21 as well. "Digging up by the roots" and so on, and you refer to
- 22 that in your book.
- 23 [11.46.20]
- 24 You have studied the Chinese Communist Party, and you've already
- 25 touched to some degree on the CPK policies and their connections

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- 1 or dissimilarity to the Chinese Communist Party's approach. But
- 2 were these economic policies and the policies towards enemies'
- 3 orthodox communist parties at the time?
- 4 A. No. And just to pick up what you said about digging out roots,
- 5 that was from the material from the 1970s. I was merely trying to
- 6 say one shouldn't read into the thesis of 1959 to exact a
- 7 template for what happened later.
- 8 [11.47.27]
- 9 No. On the international different communist parties what
- 10 happened, what the Khmer Rouge did, there's a lot of resemblance
- 11 to what other Asian communist parties, particularly the
- 12 Vietnamese and the Chinese, did when they were under very intense
- 13 pressure early on in their development. And as I said, the
- 14 closest resemblance was with the Chinese Communist Party when it
- 15 was very small, was under terrible pressure, existed in only one
- 16 very small part of China, in the very early thirties. And there
- 17 was a movement called the Sufan, which was the
- 18 anti-counter-revolutionary movement, when exactly the same sorts
- 19 of things happened as in Khmer Rouge Cambodia Kampuchea. Where
- 20 the watchword was, "better to kill ten innocent than leave one
- 21 guilty person alive". The Vietnamese then refined it and made it
- 22 better to kill 100 innocent people than leave one. But, it was a
- 23 particular period in the development of those two parties. With
- 24 the Khmer Rouge, they never went beyond I think Lenin would
- 25 have said it was an infantile stage of communism. It was totally

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- 1 extreme, and whereas in China it stopped. They introduced the
- 2 idea of thought reform, and Mao said "heads are not like chives.
- 3 They don't grow again if you cut them off". Well, in Cambodia
- 4 they cut them off, and also starved people to death, and they
- 5 didn't grow again. So there's a huge difference.
- 6 [11.49.25]
- 7 Q. At page 291 of your book, ERN in English 00396498 (sic) and
- 8 French 00639830, you summarize, in effect at least, I believe
- 9 you summarize, in effect, what you have just said.
- 10 "The strategy mapped out by the CPK Standing Committee in May
- 11 1975, however, posed an insuperable problem for even the most
- 12 sympathetic foreign observer. It was not so much a matter of its
- 13 content, even though this was far more extreme and unrelenting
- 14 than anything Khieu Samphan and Hou Youn had envisaged. The
- 15 problem lay in the way it was to be implemented 'not irrational
- or utopian', as a French specialist put it, just 'cruel and
- 17 inhuman'."
- 18 And you go on to say: "What Pol and his colleagues approved that
- 19 spring was a slave state, the first in modern times."
- 20 Now, do you want to reflect on that statement? Was it a flourish,
- 21 or is there any other comment you wish to make?
- 22 [11.51.00]
- 23 A. No, it was absolutely not a flourish. It is the essence of
- 24 what I believe the Khmer Rouge polity was. It was a slave state
- 25 in which people had no money, had no choice over their personal

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- 1 lives, over anything they did. Over where they lived, how long
- 2 they worked, who they lived with, in many cases. All the tiny
- 3 choices which make up our everyday lives were removed, were
- 4 forbidden. And this is the tragedy of the Khmer Rouge regime.
- 5 They did it for the most excellent of motives, which was to raise
- 6 living standards in the countryside, to eliminate the poor so
- 7 that everybody had a reasonable standard of living. But the
- 8 methods they employed, for policies you know, of autarky, of
- 9 relying on agriculture, which were not in themselves stupid.
- 10 These policies could be justified. But the way they did it made
- 11 it hell on earth, and very literally a slave state. I object very
- 12 strongly to the use of the term genocide, because for me it's a
- 13 complete misuse of words, but a slave state yes-
- 14 [11.52.32]
- 15 Q. Well, perhaps I'll just interrupt you, because genocide is a
- 16 legal label, though it is used very broadly in the community. But
- 17 it's not something in this particular part of the Trial that we
- 18 are considering, so you don't need to comment on that. That is
- 19 really for the Judges.
- 20 I want to start now, in the few minutes we have left before the
- 21 lunch break, to look at the roles of Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea
- 22 in the CPK from 1975 until the fall of Phnom Penh in 1979. And I
- 23 just want to put a context around this from the statute.
- 24 Are you familiar with the statute of the Communist Party of
- 25 Kampuchea the one adopted in 1975 with the document number

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- 1 E3/130?
- 2 A. I can't see it on my screen, but I imagine I surely am, yes.
- 3 Q. Let me just run through the structure as set out in that
- 4 statute. The general conference was to be which was an
- 5 organization of the Party was to have the highest power-rights
- 6 throughout the country and was to represent the entire country.
- 7 [11.54.06]
- 8 The Standing Committee of the Party was to call a general
- 9 conference every four years, although it could meet more
- 10 frequently. Are you aware if the general conference met more
- 11 often than the one time when it met in the first year of its
- 12 operations?
- 13 A. Yes. You are using the term general conference. I would have
- 14 said party congress. I think they are identical. And there were,
- 15 I think three congresses if I might just consult. Yes, the
- 16 Third Congress in '71, Fourth Congress in '76, and Fifth Congress
- in '78 so two congresses after '75.
- 18 Q. Now, between meetings of the party congress or the general
- 19 conference, the Central Committee was said to be the highest
- 20 operational unit throughout the country, and it had ideological
- 21 and organizational functions, including "implement the Party
- 22 political line and the statute throughout the country". It was
- 23 obliged to instruct all zones, sector, and city and Party
- 24 organizations in political and organizational principles and
- 25 stances concerning the tasks of national defence and building of

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- 1 Democratic Kampuchea. It was also to govern and organize cadre
- 2 and Party members through the whole Party. And under Article 8 -
- 3 I quote:
- 4 [11.56.02]
- 5 "Any sector or unit which has special characteristics, be they
- 6 political, military, economic, or cultural/social affairs
- 7 related, may be organized separately with the Central Committee
- 8 being responsible directly or indirectly along a specific
- 9 organizational line."
- 10 Now, bearing in mind that separate approach that the Central
- 11 Committee has established how familiar are you with the lines
- 12 of communication and the structures around the Central Committee
- 13 and Office S-21?
- 14 A. What you have just read out from the statutes, is a very
- 15 fine theoretical construct which had no reality. It didn't exist.
- 16 And that was also true of the parliament the National Assembly.
- 17 The only unit which mattered on a day-to-day basis was the
- 18 Standing Committee and you mentioned S-21 the Security
- 19 Committee, which was a much smaller group.
- 20 [11.57.24]
- 21 Both of these had very few members. Increasingly, as time went
- 22 on, decisions were made by Pol Pot and Nuon Chea, rather than
- 23 even the full Standing Committee. But the Central Committee would
- 24 meet I think it met three times between 1975 and 1979. They
- 25 were partly work conferences, partly conferences to absorb the

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- 1 decisions which the Standing Committee had already reached. And
- 2 S-21 was not under the Standing Committee, and certainly not
- 3 under the Central Committee. It was under the Security Committee
- 4 composed on Son Sen, Pol Pot, and Nuon Chea.
- 5 Q. And Khieu Samphan had been member of the Standing Committee of
- 6 the Communist Park of Kampuchea for some years prior to the fall
- 7 of 1975. What about Khieu Samphan?
- 8 A. Nuon Chea had been a member of the Standing Committee since
- 9 the 1960s.
- 10 Q. I'm talking about the Central Committee. Sorry, did I confuse
- 11 the two? The Central Committee.
- 12 A. Khieu Samphan had become an associate or an alternate in
- other words, a non-voting member of the Central Committee in
- 14 1973, if my memory serves. He became a full member after 1975,
- 15 which meant he had a vote in the Central Committee. But, as I
- 16 say, the Central Committee was an echo chamber. It was a body
- 17 which would give formal shape to what had already been decided by
- 18 the Standing Committee?
- 19 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 20 Thank you, Judge, and thank you, Expert.
- 21 The time is now appropriate for lunch adjournment. The Chamber
- 22 will adjourn for lunch and resume at 1.30 this afternoon.
- 23 [11.59.51]
- 24 Court officer is now instructed to arrange the place and lunch
- 25 for the expert during the break, and invite him back to this

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- 1 courtroom before 1.30 this afternoon.
- 2 Security guards are instructed to bring Mr. Khieu Samphan down to
- 3 the holding cell downstairs, and have him back in this courtroom
- 4 this afternoon before 1.30.
- 5 The Court is now adjourned.
- 6 (Court recesses from 1200H to 1330H)
- 7 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 8 Please be seated. The Court is now back in session.
- 9 Once again, the floor is given to Judge Cartwright to continue
- 10 putting questions to this expert. You may proceed.
- 11 BY JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:
- 12 Thank you, President.
- 13 Q. While the Central Committee was established by statute, the
- 14 Standing Committee was, in fact, not. Is that your understanding
- 15 of the situation?
- 16 MR. SHORT:
- 17 A. The Standing Committee, I'm sure, had a statute-free
- 18 existence; whether it is referred to in the statutes you just
- 19 quoted, the 1975 statues, I'm not sure, but the Standing
- 20 Committee certainly existed from a very early stage of the CPK.
- 21 [13.31.43]
- 22 After the 1963 Congress, after the 1960 Congress, since that time
- 23 there has always been a central body, a very small central body,
- 24 which determined policy.
- 25 Q. And after April 1975 and the establishment of the the new

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- 1 version of the Standing Committee, who was the chair or president
- 2 of it?
- 3 A. The Secretary of the Standing Committee has had been Pol
- 4 Pot, Saloth Sar, since 1963. He later became Secretary of the
- 5 Party. There is a distinction between being head of the Standing
- 6 Committee and head of the whole Party.
- 7 Nuon Chea was, again from 1963, the number two, the deputy
- 8 secretary.
- 9 Q. And both were members of the Standing Committee; I'm talking
- 10 post-1975.
- 11 A. Both before and after 1975, they held the same positions. They
- 12 were members of the Standing Committee.
- 13 [13.33.10]
- 14 Q. In a paper that has been put before the Chamber by Craig
- 15 Etcheson titled "Overview of Hierarchy of Democratic Kampuchea",
- 16 E3/494, the author states that the Standing Committee was known
- 17 also as the Centre or the Organization and that it operated from
- 18 an office called Office 870. Do you agree with that?
- 19 A. I agree with it partly. The Organization, literally Angkar,
- 20 was the term used for the Khmer Communist Party, as a whole, by
- 21 its members; especially in the early period when it was in
- 22 clandestinity and it then became the name by which the population
- 23 knew the Cambodian Communist Party. 870, yes, was the code name
- 24 for the Standing Committee.
- 25 Q. In his statement to the Co-Investigating Judges, Khieu Samphan

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- 1 says:
- 2 [13.34.30]
- 3 "In principle the Central Committee was the most important body,
- 4 but in practice it was the Standing Committee. We can compare
- 5 this to the parliament and the government in a parliamentary
- 6 regime. It is the government that conducts the day-to-day
- 7 business of the State; therefore, the Central Committee did not
- 8 have effective power as opposed to the Standing Committee."
- 9 Do you agree with that statement of Khieu Samphan?
- 10 A. Yes, with the one proviso that in a parliamentary system of
- 11 parliament controls, exercises control over government. In the
- 12 Khmer Rouge regime the Central Committee did not exercise control
- 13 over the Standing Committee.
- 14 Q. Are you familiar with the role and functions of the Standing
- 15 Committee? And I'll just ask you some questions and you can agree
- 16 or not.
- 17 First, did the Standing Committee have the power to appoint
- 18 senior officials to the Party, the government, and the military?
- 19 And did it have the power of monitoring and implementation of CPK
- 20 policies?
- 21 [13.36.03]
- 22 A. It had those powers, certainly; whether it exercised them in a
- 23 systematic way and I'm thinking of monitoring and verifying -
- 24 that is a different matter.
- 25 Q. In the minutes of 9 October the Standing Committee minutes

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- of 9 October 1975, E3/182, a meeting that both Khieu Samphan and
- 2 Nuon Chea are recorded as attending it was resolved that in
- 3 bringing up projects, we must ask the Standing Committee's
- 4 opinion so it may decide and approve them. The minutes also
- 5 record that while all the work should not be concentrated at the
- 6 Standing Committee, it will monitor each section's implementation
- 7 of the line and receive reports from all those responsible for
- 8 the various aspects of government and the military.
- 9 Does that reflect reasonably well, subject to the caveat you just
- 10 gave, the functions of the Standing Committee and its particular
- 11 role in relation to those bodies and parts of the country such as
- 12 the zones and the districts under it?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 [13.37.45]
- 15 Q. The Standing Committee also required in these minutes that
- 16 each person who'd been given responsibility for an area of work
- 17 and operations for example, Nuon Chea, Party affairs and State,
- 18 and Khieu Samphan, the Front, the Royal Government, and Commerce
- 19 must report to the Standing Committee. Does that reflect your
- 20 knowledge of the relationship between the members of the Standing
- 21 Committee with each other?
- 22 A. That is quite a difficult question. I'm not trying to avoid a
- 23 clear answer.
- 24 I don't think anyone except those who were actually members of
- 25 the Standing Committee is in a position to say quite how they

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- 1 interacted. I can't see Nuon Chea reporting to his colleagues on
- 2 his own work. He was at a if you like, a higher level as deputy
- 3 secretary. Basically, he and Pol Pot divided responsibility for
- 4 all aspects of work between the two of them.
- 5 [13.39.07]
- 6 That other members would report, essentially when there was a
- 7 Standing Committee meeting Khieu Samphan or the other members
- 8 would report at the Standing Committee, but to Pol Pot and, to
- 9 some extent, Nuon Chea. So it wasn't among equals; there was a
- 10 definite hierarchical structure.
- 11 Q. Returning briefly to the statute, the revolutionary army was
- 12 specifically referred to in the statute and was stated to be
- 13 under the absolute leadership monopoly of the CPK. Did it also
- 14 report to the Standing Committee?
- 15 A. Yes, commanders and the zone leaders and zone military
- 16 commanders would send telegrams to 870; that would be the
- 17 destination.
- 18 Q. The other branch of government, as the western democratic
- 19 understands it to be, is the judiciary. There was no mention of a
- 20 judiciary in this statute that we've been discussing, but in a
- 21 press release issued by the People's Representative Assembly on
- 22 the 14th of April 1975 E3/262 on the final page this was the
- 23 complete mention of the judiciary.
- 24 [13.41.00]
- 25 "After in-depth discussion, the Assembly appointed a Judiciary

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- 1 Committee whose president is Kang Chap."
- 2 And that's the end of the statement. Did you ever discuss the
- 3 establishment of this committee, or indeed an independent
- 4 judicial system or a judicial system of any description, with any
- 5 of your interviewees?
- 6 A. To the best of my recollection, no, for one reason; there was
- 7 no judiciary or judicial system in Cambodia, in Khmer Rouge
- 8 Cambodia; therefore, there seemed no point in raising it. It
- 9 never existed.
- 10 Q. Now, the various organs that I have mentioned very briefly,
- 11 the General Conference or People's Congress, the Central
- 12 Committee, the army, the judiciary, where was the real
- 13 organization of the work of the Democratic Kampuchean regime
- 14 conducted; within any of those organs, excepting the judiciary
- which you've already mentioned?
- 16 [13.42.27]
- 17 A. The army was controlled by the defence ministry; that is, by
- 18 the defence minister, Son Sen, who was, in fact, not a full
- 19 member, but an an alternate member of the Standing Committee.
- 20 There is a real problem as to whether there was any independent,
- 21 decision-making power within government, within what we would
- 22 describe as a council of ministers. A council of ministers was
- 23 said to have existed. People were designated as this minister or
- 24 that minister, but my understanding and it can only be an
- 25 understanding is that all the decision-making power resided in

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- 1 the Party structure; in other words, the Standing Committee. And
- 2 the government although ministries existed, some more than
- 3 others basically was a transmission belt with no authority.
- 4 Q. Now, I want to return to Khieu Samphan and then Nuon Chea and
- 5 look at their roles in relation to these bodies and structures.
- 6 [13.43.43]
- 7 In by 1975 or rather 1976, he had already been appointed to
- 8 some roles, formal roles, in the Democratic Kampuchean regime.
- 9 For example, in the minutes of the 30th of March 1976; that is,
- 10 of the Standing Committee, E3/12, which is titled "Decision of
- 11 the Central Committee Regarding a Number of Matters", he was
- 12 noted as appointed as being President of the State Presidium of
- 13 Democratic Kampuchea. In effect, was that now the formal
- 14 acknowledgement of his title as Head of State?
- 15 A. Yes, it was.
- 16 Q. He was a candidate member of the Central Committee, as you
- 17 have indicated, but became a full member of the Central Committee
- 18 from 1976. Does that is that a fair summary of your knowledge
- 19 of his role in the Central Committee?
- 20 A. Yes, his as I understood it, his promotion to full
- 21 membership was in parallel to the decision to appoint him Head of
- 22 State.
- 23 [13.45.28]
- 24 Q. Now, he has said consistently that he was not appointed to the
- 25 Standing Committee, but none of the minutes of the Standing

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- 1 Committee that recorded his attendance make any distinction in
- 2 this regard. Are you able to shed any light on his formal
- 3 position within the Standing Committee?
- 4 A. I'm not; except to say that I have never seen any document,
- 5 nor have I interviewed anyone who affirmed or which stated that
- 6 Khieu Samphan was a member of the Standing Committee. His
- 7 presence is absolutely certain. And in a way, it follows
- 8 naturally enough from the role he had earlier which was to
- 9 accompany the top leadership to become to be a sort of
- 10 amanuenses and therefore to attend Standing Committee meetings
- 11 after 1975. But I could not say that he had the decision-making
- 12 role that a full member of the Standing Committee would have.
- 13 I don't think he was a full member. And the reason, he was after
- 14 all, an intellectual. He his path into the Party was not the
- 15 path taken by the former Issarak war lords, who became the zone
- 16 commanders, and it was not the path taken by Pol Pot and Ieng
- 17 Sary and Nuon Chea, the the guiding core of the Standing
- 18 Committee. So that he had this, I won't say peripheral role, but
- 19 a different kind of role is understandable.
- 20 [13.47.30]
- 21 Q. I want to look at what he says of his roles during the period
- 22 we're concerned with and going back to his monograph, E318 -
- 23 E3/18, he says English; 00103749, Khmer; 00103837, and French;
- 24 00595426 that neither he, Hu Nim, or Hou Youn led any forces.
- 25 He says and I quote: "We were only the figureheads of the Khmer

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- 1 Rouge movement and had no role in the movement's leadership or in
- 2 key decisions."
- 3 When you discussed when you interviewed him, did you did you
- 4 talk to him about what he perceived his role as and what the
- 5 membership or at least the attendants at the Standing Committee
- 6 and membership of the Central Committee might indicate to the
- 7 contrary?
- 8 A. I have no recollection of of having discussed with him
- 9 specifically the question of attending attendance at Standing
- 10 Committee meetings.
- 11 [13.49.07]
- 12 I mean, certainly he said he was not a member. He used, to me,
- 13 terms very similar to those you have just mentioned; that they
- 14 were, indeed, the three of them, Hu Nim, Hou Youn, and Khieu
- 15 Samphan, figureheads. I think it's absolutely true that none of
- 16 them had any military command responsibilities; their role in
- 17 decision-making, likewise.
- 18 There is a question a little bit later on, which perhaps you will
- 19 come to, as to what his role in in the general office of the
- 20 Standing Committee was, but again, we're not talking about a
- 21 decision-making role. We would be talking about an executive
- 22 role.
- 23 Q. Well, I presume you're referring to his position within the
- 24 Organization Office 870 and and he says in that same monograph:
- 25 "I was responsible for relations with the Prince and his wife and

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- 1 for establishing a price scale for products from the cooperatives
- 2 and other economic units."
- 3 [13.50.26]
- 4 He was also responsible for implementing the Permanent
- 5 Committee's decisions, and from that time for Standing Committee,
- 6 regarding the distribution of products collected in Phnom Penh to
- 7 different zones and regions and working with the department of
- 8 foreign trade to ensure the importation of specific goods. This
- 9 tends to suggest that he had a very narrow area of responsibility
- 10 and that membership of the Central Committee and at least
- 11 attendance at many of the Standing Committee meetings was of no
- 12 significance in regard to his particular role. Do you agree or
- 13 not?
- 14 A. I don't agree with the words "of no significance". The very
- 15 fact of attending Standing Committee meetings is itself
- 16 significant. Because there's a very small group of people and if
- 17 you were there during their discussions that gave you a certain
- 18 power, not necessarily the power to influence those decisions,
- 19 but at least you were among a very, very small group which knew
- 20 what was going on.
- 21 And I didn't when I referred to the general office, I did not
- 22 mean 870, which is the same as the Standing Committee.
- 23 [13.51.57]
- 24 There was a general office headed initially by Doeun, and in
- 25 which Khieu Samphan later played a role, which was, if you like,

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- 1 the executive arm of 870 and there I think he well, as I say,
- 2 he had an executive role, but to what extent it may or may not
- 3 have been decision-making is very, very difficult to say.
- 4 Q. I want to take you to a selection of the surviving minutes of
- 5 the Standing Committee and just very briefly summarize the topics
- 6 that were discussed at each of these meetings and each record
- 7 that both Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea attended.
- 8 I'm going to deal first with the minutes of the 8th of March
- 9 1976, E3/231, concerning propaganda, so that was the topic
- 10 discussed at that meeting, a further meeting on the same day,
- 11 E3/232, on base work. And during that meeting, Khieu Samphan
- 12 reported on issues around the election and methods of propaganda
- 13 and education.
- 14 [13.53.30]
- 15 Eleventh of March 1976, E3/197, again, attended by both Nuon Chea
- 16 and Khieu Samphan, when Prince Sihanouk's resignation was
- 17 discussed and Khieu Samphan reported on the Prince's views. At
- 18 that time, there was a direction by the comrade secretary or Pol
- 19 Pot that Prince Sihanouk was not to leave the country. He was to
- 20 be kept as a dignitary, but that he should not be killed.
- 21 A further meeting on the same day, 11th of March, E3/217, where
- 22 there was a discussion of the resolution of border conflicts and
- 23 of the approach if Vietnam committed aggression against
- 24 Democratic Kampuchea on the eastern border. Discussing both
- 25 defence and attack on Vietnam as political measures and also

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- 1 discussing on-going negotiations over the border.
- 2 Thirteenth of March, 3/234, again, both were present, and that
- 3 was a discussion of commerce and contacts with China and the
- 4 forming of a delegation seeking to make purchases from China.
- 5 [13.55.00]
- 6 Now, all of those meetings indicate that a very wide range of
- 7 military, economic, diplomatic, political matters were discussed
- 8 and that both as both Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan were present,
- 9 do you have anything to say about the level of knowledge and
- 10 engagement that both might have had, or particularly knowledge,
- 11 that both might have had about the on-going conduct of the
- 12 affairs of Democratic Kampuchea?
- 13 A. I would repeat what I said a little earlier; that is, that the
- 14 very fact of being at the Standing Committee gave knowledge which
- 15 was extraordinary because so few people had it. What we don't
- 16 know is what input Khieu Samphan had at those meetings on these
- 17 individual issues. The minutes of the meeting on base work on the
- 18 8th of March 1976, it says that Comrade Hem, Khieu Samphan,
- 19 reported on, as you said, education and propaganda and indeed
- 20 methods of election. I think that was certainly one of his
- 21 fields; education and propaganda generally, not just in relation
- 22 to the elections. And there are quite well-attested evidence or
- 23 witnesses who have described being at seminars, long seminars, at
- 24 the Olympic Stadium and elsewhere in which Khieu Samphan gave
- 25 them ideological training guidance, so that, I think, was one of

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- 1 his fields.
- 2 [13.56.56]
- 3 The military questions, the whole problem of border incursions
- 4 with Vietnam, I again, I have absolutely no evidence that he
- 5 had an important role in that. He was there. He listened. He had
- 6 knowledge, but I doubt very much that he had a great deal to say.
- 7 It might just be worth mentioning that, insofar as I've had any
- 8 evidence of how the Standing Committee worked, Pol Pot would
- 9 chair the meetings. He would ask people's opinions on key issues
- 10 and then, at the end, he would set out the policy, which he had
- 11 from the start wanted to follow, incorporating some of the
- 12 remarks that had been made around the table. That was his modus
- 13 operandi. And I think the key thing is that he would incorporate
- 14 others' remarks, but the policy that emerged was that which he
- 15 had essentially decided himself before the meeting even began.
- 16 Q. There was another meeting, but this time of the Central
- 17 Committee on the 30th of March 1976. No record we have no
- 18 record of who attended that meeting. It has the document number
- 19 E3/12.
- 20 [13.58.26]
- 21 At that time, however, Khieu Samphan was either a candidate
- 22 member of the Central Committee or a full-rights member,
- 23 according to your testimony, and of course Nuon Chea was a full
- 24 member of the Central Committee.
- 25 Now, this was the occasion when the now familiar right to smash

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1 inside and outside the ranks was formulated. Among the bodies

- 2 entitled to smash were the Zone Standing Committees and the
- 3 Central Office Committee of which both he and both Khieu
- 4 Samphan and Nuon Chea were members, the Standing Committee and
- 5 general staff. Now, do you think it's possible that either man
- 6 was unfamiliar with those decisions made recorded at that
- 7 meeting on that occasion?
- 8 A. I'm sure they were both familiar with that that decision. I
- 9 I'm not at all sure, in fact I doubt that although it says
- 10 "decision of the Central Committee" , I don't think there was a
- 11 Central Committee meeting which took that decision. That
- 12 terminology could equally apply to a decision issued by the
- 13 Standing Committee. But I'm quite sure that both Mr. Khieu
- 14 Samphan and certainly Mr. Nuon Chea were very well aware of what
- 15 was in this document.
- 16 [14.00.09]
- 17 Q. Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea's relationship outside of these
- 18 meetings, are you able to comment at all on that? Did they are
- 19 you are you aware of whether they respected each other, worked
- 20 together; do you have any comments?
- 21 A. I think all I can say is there is evidence that Pol Pot
- 22 thought highly of Khieu Samphan and I can't remember the exact
- 23 document of speech, but he was one of those I think perhaps
- 24 Nuon Chea was the other who whom he singled out and it was
- 25 something he very rarely did.

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1 The relationship between Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, I have no

- 2 privileged information on at all.
- 3 Q. According to Etcheson, there were offices that operated under
- 4 Office 870 or with the the prefix K and Pol Pot was said to
- 5 live and work at K-1 and Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan both lived
- 6 at K-3. Does that accord with your knowledge?
- 7 [14.01.34]
- 8 A. Not entirely, no. Pol Pot had three main residences, at least
- 9 that I know of, in Phnom Penh. And the one in which they lived -
- 10 and Khieu Samphan was there; Vorn Vet was there; Nuon Chea was
- 11 there was in the so-called bank buildings at the four arms of
- 12 the river. That became the main, permanent headquarters. There
- 13 was another one which is that whole block where Lucky Supermarket
- 14 now is. That was another another residence and there was a
- 15 third residence further out.
- 16 Q. But are you saying that all these all these well-known names
- 17 from Pol Pot through Vorn Vet, Khieu Samphan, and Nuon Chea all
- 18 operated working and living together very much in company with
- 19 each other?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 [14.02.47]
- 22 Q. Now, I want to turn to Nuon Chea, who has, himself, confirmed
- 23 his lengthy involvement with the Communist Party of its of
- 24 Kampuchea and its predecessors, and also, that since 1960, he was
- 25 appointed Deputy Secretary of the Party, a position that

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1 continued through the DK era. That complies with your knowledge;

- 2 does it?
- 3 A. Absolutely.
- 4 Q. His responsibilities as Deputy Secretary, you've already
- 5 touched on those to some degree. He was, if I may summarize, very
- 6 much alongside Pol Pot or immediately beneath him. Is that a fair
- 7 summary or is it overstating the position?
- 8 A. I think it's a fair summary. It's very difficult to grasp that
- 9 exact relationship between Pol Pot and Nuon Chea. I remember
- 10 suggesting to some former Khmer Rouge officials that Nuon Chea
- 11 was the manager and Pol Pot was the if you like the, you know,
- 12 the the director, and they said no, it wasn't that clear cut.
- 13 It was perhaps closer to an alter ego.
- 14 [14.04.21]
- 15 They occupied they both took an interest in and responsibility
- 16 for the same things in many cases. So, it was difficult, very
- 17 difficult, to know where the influence of one or the influence of
- 18 the other started and ended.
- 19 Q. And we've we know that he has deputized for Pol Pot on
- 20 occasions, but it's a little unclear about whether due to Nuon
- 21 Chea's own statements on this topic, as to whether, in fact, he
- 22 was acting prime minister at some stage as alleged in the Closing
- 23 Order, in paragraph 888. Do you have any knowledge about that?
- 24 A. This is something I dealt with in my book. It no, I don't
- 25 think he was acting prime minister. I think this was something

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- 1 which had been agreed between the two of them basically to throw
- 2 sand in the eyes of the Vietnamese who misinterpreted it as the
- 3 eclipse of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary and were very happy about that.
- 4 And in fact no, the leadership remained united and Pol Pot,
- 5 although it was announced that he had stepped down as prime
- 6 minister, no such thing happened.
- 7 [14.05.58]
- 8 Q. Now, with his roles as Deputy Secretary of the Party,
- 9 membership of the Central Committee and also of the Standing
- 10 Committee and deputizing roles in those committees, does that
- 11 structure align with your knowledge of other communist parties;
- 12 for example, China and Russia, that you have studied? This
- 13 blending of different roles and no clear distinction between,
- 14 shall we say, the legislative branch and the executive branch,
- 15 dismissing the judicial branch of course. What what do you have
- 16 to say about that? Was it a common way to run a communist party
- 17 then?
- 18 A. Yes and no no in the sense that the Democratic Kampuchea
- 19 regime, the CPK, was really sui generis. It was of its own kind
- 20 and unlike any others.
- 21 [14.07.22]
- 22 That said, all communist parties, all communist systems have
- 23 ultimate decision-making by the Party, by the Central Committee,
- 24 or the Politburo. But more usually the way they do it is to have
- 25 what is called a Party fraction in the leadership of the ministry

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- 1 and through the Party fraction, the Central Committee
- 2 instructions are then conveyed to the elements of government. So
- 3 there is a much more defined structure and system for the Party
- 4 to convey its its orders.
- 5 In Democratic Kampuchea that it was not that systematized and
- 6 the blending of roles, particularly between Nuon Chea and Pol
- 7 Pot, I can think of no no equivalent, really, in any other
- 8 communist party.
- 9 Q. Do you think that this was the result of what you described
- 10 earlier today as the stage that the Communist Party of Kampuchea
- 11 was at; that is, the infant stage, the un-evolved stage or do you
- 12 think it was deliberate, for example, to keep a veil over their
- 13 activities? Is there any anything from your research that you
- 14 can assist me with there?
- 15 A. I think the first reason that it was a communist party at the
- 16 very early stage of its development probably was a factor.
- 17 [14.09.05]
- 18 I don't think it was deliberately I don't think it was part of
- 19 the secrecy element and I suspect if the Communist Party of
- 20 Kampuchea had remained in power for longer, then it would
- 21 gradually have become more structured. There are certain signs -
- 22 sorry, signs that that was happening.
- 23 Beyond that sorry, you there was a third question which I've
- 24 now forgotten.
- 25 Q. Nuon Chea has always denied having any formal role in relation

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- 1 to the military affairs of Democratic Kampuchea. I just want to
- 2 know what your view of that is. Do you have any knowledge of his
- 3 involvement, direct involvement, in decisions relating to the
- 4 military, outside those Standing Committee minutes where military
- 5 matters were discussed?
- 6 A. No, I don't. He did he did have some military
- 7 decision-making role much, much later on in the middle 1990s when
- 8 they were fighting a guerrilla war still and it was very there
- 9 were very much localized commands in different different parts
- 10 of the guerrilla areas, but in the period 1975 to 1979; no, I
- 11 don't think he had a military role.
- 12 [14.10.53]
- 13 Q. There is one report of a Standing Committee meeting convened
- on the 26th of March 1976, E3/218, which has the heading
- 15 "National Defence", indicating the subject matter of the meeting,
- 16 and I have raised this previously with another expert. In that
- 17 particular Standing Committee meeting was chaired by Nuon Chea as
- 18 Deputy Secretary. There is no confirmation that Pol Pot was there
- 19 at all. And there is a lengthy report by Comrade Ya concerning
- 20 military policy, the military situation, vis-à-vis Vietnam. And
- 21 towards the end, the opinions and instructions from Comrade
- 22 Deputy-Secretary are set out in reasonable detail. What how do
- 23 you how do you characterize that degree of involvement in
- 24 discussion or direction with relation to military affairs?
- 25 A. Well, Comrade Ya was Ney Sarann who was a zone leader and

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- 1 therefore not directly a military leader, so it was within the
- 2 Party that this discussion took place, not not from Nuon Chea
- 3 directly to military commanders.
- 4 [14.12.42]
- 5 And I missed the date, but if Pol Pot were not there, I would
- 6 imagine it's because he was out of the country. He did make a
- 7 number of unpublicized visits to China and there was one in '76;
- 8 if it was at that time that would explain why Nuon Chea would be
- 9 chairing the meeting.
- 10 Q. This was the 26th of March 1976.
- 11 A. Let me just look. I forgive me, but we could probably sort
- 12 this out. No, I have no record of a visit then I'm afraid.
- 13 Q. Nuon Chea, himself, in his statement to the Co-Investigating
- 14 Judges on the 19th of September 2007, E3/54, described his role
- in the Democratic Kampuchea post-1975 like this:
- 16 [14.14.11]
- 17 "As for myself, after the liberation, I was in the legislative
- 18 body, so I was not involved with the executive. Besides the
- 19 Party, there was a Military Committee of the Party whose chairman
- 20 was Pol Pot, with Son Sen and Ta Mok as deputies, and So Phim and
- 21 Ke Pauk as members, so I was not in the Military Committee. I was
- 22 Deputy-Secretary of the Party and President of the Assembly.
- 23 Besides that, I was in charge of educating cadre and Party
- 24 members, so I was not involved in anything relating to these
- 25 charges."

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- 1 These are the charges that the Co-Investigating Judge had just
- 2 announced to him.
- 3 "At that time, the military were the strongest group because they
- 4 were the ones who defeated Lon Nol. As for the politicians, they
- 5 were not strong. They received less esteem."
- 6 Do you think that that is a fair summary of his influence within
- 7 the Democratic Kampuchean regime; namely, that his influence was
- 8 less than those who had direct involvement with military orders
- 9 and organization?
- 10 A. No, I think that is not true. It's it's a mixture of
- 11 elements which are undoubtedly true. He was not part of the
- 12 Military Committee and extrapolations which I certainly would not
- 13 agree with. To pretend that the military had power in Democratic
- 14 Kampuchea and that the politicians; in other words, the Party
- 15 leaders, did not, is to turn truth on its head.
- 16 [14.16.24]
- 17 The Party needed the support of the military, but as I think you
- 18 read out in one of the documents we've just heard, the army was
- 19 absolutely subordinated to the Party. And it was the Party which
- 20 took the decisions which the military implemented.
- 21 It relied there was a disconnect in the sense that the military
- 22 leaders the main military leaders like Ta Mok and Ke Pauk had
- 23 come up from the Issarak tradition; whereas, the Party leadership
- 24 was from Paris, the former students, and in the case of Nuon
- 25 Chea, from Thailand. So there were different groups which Pol Pot

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- 1 tried to bring together and reconcile, but the final word was
- 2 with the Party.
- 3 Q. This isn't a very critical point, but speaking before the
- 4 Trial Chamber, some months ago now, Nuon Chea demurred when it
- 5 suggested it was suggested to him that he was called Brother
- 6 Number Two during this regime. Is that a title that's been
- 7 developed since the regime was pushed out of Phnom Penh or was it
- 8 something that was current during the regime?
- 9 [14.18.02]
- 10 A. Both Pol Pot and Nuon Chea were called "Om" "Grand Uncle".
- 11 Pol Pot was also known as First Brother, "Bong Ti Muoy" "Bong
- 12 Ti Muoy" and Nuon Chea, yes, was Second Brother, and Ieng Sary
- 13 was Third Brother, but the use of "Brother Number One", "Brother
- 14 Number Two", with respect to my colleagues who have used it, I
- 15 think, is wrong. It gives an Orwellian overtone which did not
- 16 exist at the time, and every family in Vietnam, in China, has a
- 17 first, second, third, fourth, fifth brother. That's that's the
- 18 way your family members are known, so it was in no sense
- 19 menacing; it was just how they were described.
- 20 Q. I want to finish my questioning of you with a discussion of a
- 21 topic that you touch on from time to time through your book which
- 22 does not focus specifically on Nuon Chea or Khieu Samphan, but on
- 23 the regime, itself. And that's the question of secrecy as used in
- 24 the regime.
- 25 [14.19.25]

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1 Before April 1975, you speak at page 162 of the change of name

- 2 from the Worker's Party to the Communist Party of Kampuchea in
- 3 1966 and you said: "It was kept secret from the Party rank and
- 4 file and from the Vietnamese."
- 5 Some of the comments you've made this morning and this afternoon
- 6 about keeping matters confidential from the Vietnamese may apply
- 7 here, but what about the Party rank and file. Are you able to say
- 8 your source for that and also why the change of name would be
- 9 kept secret?
- 10 A. The change of name was kept secret essentially from the
- 11 Vietnamese and the Party rank and file were not told because if
- 12 the Party rank and file had known, then it would have leaked out
- 13 to Hanoi. And the reason was that the Vietnamese have a
- 14 Vietnamese Worker's Party and if the Cambodians have a
- 15 Cambodian-Kampuchean Communist Party, in the hierarchy of Party
- 16 values, if you like, that indicates a superior level of
- 17 development, so they did not want needlessly to annoy the
- 18 Vietnamese on whose on whom they still relied for many things
- 19 at that time.
- 20 [14.21.03]
- 21 But secrecy, yes, was an absolutely characterizing aspect of the
- 22 Cambodian communist leaders. Nuon Chea, in the interview in 1978,
- 23 which you read extracts from earlier, makes a very strong point
- 24 to a Danish Communist Party delegation that secrecy is the key to
- 25 everything. And it's partly explained I mean there are many

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1 aspects. I remember Mr. Khieu Samphan, when we talked, saying you

- 2 can't you can't tell Cambodians anything. They can't keep a
- 3 secret for one minute, so there is an attitude and Mr. Khieu
- 4 Samphan was not alone in that view. There is an attitude that
- 5 unless things are kept secret, they will leak immediately.
- 6 In the 1960s, Sihanouk's police force, Prince Sihanouk's police
- 7 force, was very strong, very numerous, very determined to root
- 8 out Communist influence. Again, clandestinity was essential. And
- 9 you go back still further, under the French, when the Issarak
- 10 were active, the same not the same obsession with secrecy
- 11 occurred. So the regime throughout was characterized by secrecy,
- 12 and I think it has as much to do with Khmer culture as with
- 13 objective practical conditions.
- 14 Q. In this period before 1975, you describe Nuon Chea's work in
- 15 Phnom Penh as his "secret work"; that's at page 183 of your book.
- 16 And you describe him as he was in 1968 in these terms:
- 17 "Nuon Chea, the opaque master of the underground, undetected by
- 18 authorities, continued to devote himself to what was now his main
- 19 task, using his cover as a commercial traveller to send rifles,
- 20 grenades, and ammunitions to the rebels in the bush."
- 21 [14.23.31]
- 22 You also speak of how Nuon Chea managed to remain in Phnom Penh
- 23 for some time after other notable figures had fled to the jungle,
- 24 and that was in spite of crackdowns, he remained undetected. Is
- 25 this, again, part of the secrecy that would surround a

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- 1 clandestine or illegal organization which is trying to take
- 2 power, or were there some other reasons other than those you've
- 3 already touched on?
- 4 A. I think Nuon Chea was simply very good at it. He managed to
- 5 remain undetected where others decided it had become too
- 6 dangerous and they should go to the bush to the jungle.
- 7 No, it's part of the general of modus operandi in
- 8 clandestinity. But it also suggests that Nuon Chea was not easily
- 9 ruffled; he could live under considerable stress perhaps more
- 10 effectively than some of the others.
- 11 [14.24.52]
- 12 Q. In this same period, another reference to secrecy, you speak
- 13 of the secret offices of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, and
- 14 you mention another more secret office known as L 71, headed by
- 15 Son Sen's wife, Yun Yat, produced the Party's internal monthly
- 16 journal "Revolutionary Flags", which appeared in two versions,
- 17 one with five flags on the cover destined for senior cadres, and
- 18 the other with a single flag for the Party rank and file.
- 19 So this, again, I infer, is part of the development of an illegal
- 20 organization, and the extension of its influence to the Party
- 21 rank and file, as well as a method of communication with the more
- 22 significant figures, pre 1975. Is that a fair inference?
- 23 A. Yes, L 71 was near Kampong Thom in the early seventies. And
- 24 again, knowledge is power. So it's quite parsimoniously
- 25 distributed to those who need or can be trusted with different

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- 1 degrees of knowledge.
- 2 Q. After liberation, as you've already indicated, this secrecy
- 3 continued, and you referred to E3/196, the statement of the
- 4 Communist Party of Kampuchea to the Communist Workers Party of
- 5 Denmark in July of 1978, a speech given by Nuon Chea as Deputy
- 6 Secretary. And in that, he speaks about secrecy after liberation,
- 7 and he says:
- 8 [14.26.51]
- 9 "Since liberation, we continue a secret work because we consider
- 10 the strategic line to be more important than tactics. We have
- 11 published the names of only a few of our cadres and members. Not
- 12 many need to be public. During the war, all of them were secret."
- 13 And he goes on to say that they learned to do this from the
- 14 experiences of the Communist Party in Kampuchea and also gives
- 15 examples of the way they operated signals and flags and pictures
- 16 and so on.
- 17 So why, after liberation, was it so important to keep the names
- 18 of the significant people in the Party, or indeed, other members
- 19 of the CPK so secret?
- 20 [14.27.49]
- 21 A. Well, you are touching on a subject which which is not
- 22 limited to this, and at the risk of using a shorthand term, one
- 23 would have to say paranoia. And there is a geographical paranoia
- 24 of Cambodia squeezed between big Thailand and big Vietnam. There
- 25 is paranoia about enemies burrowing within the Party. That, I can

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- 1 only call it paranoia, took many different forms throughout the
- 2 Cambodian the Kampuchean Communist Party regime, and I think
- 3 this is simply one aspect of it, put in a particularly dramatic
- 4 way by Nuon Chea to a friendly foreign Communist Party
- 5 delegation.
- 6 JUDGE CARTWRIGHT:
- 7 Well, Mr. Short, and President, that was the extent of the
- 8 questioning that of the examination that I wished to make.
- 9 Thank you very much, Mr. Short. I think you will find there are
- 10 quite a few more questions because mine have been fairly narrow
- 11 in scope. Thank you.
- 12 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 13 I hand over to Judge Jean -Marc Lavergne. You may proceed, Judge.
- 14 [14.29.19]
- 15 OUESTIONING BY JUDGE LAVERGNE:
- 16 Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon to you, Mr. Short.
- 17 Q. I have a certain number of questions to put to you to add to
- 18 what we have already heard so far. And to begin with, I'd like to
- 19 ask you about one of the sources you used in writing your book,
- 20 "Pol Pot: History of a Nightmare".
- 21 In your book, you referred to a document, which you said was
- 22 written by In Sopheap, if you'll pardon the pronunciation. The
- 23 document is called, "Khieu Samphan, Enlarged and Real", [or
- 24 something to that effect, says the interpreter], and it is a
- 25 typewritten note, so it's not a published document, which may be

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- 1 problematic.
- 2 This document may be one of those that is in the DC Cam holdings.
- 3 I don't have a copy and I'm wondering if you look at the document
- 4 you could authenticate it as being the one that you in fact used
- 5 in writing your book as one of your sources?
- 6 [14.31.14]
- 7 MR. SHORT:
- 8 A. Yes sorry, I was fiddling with this if I'm shown it I
- 9 probably can identify it.
- 10 Q. In that case, I'll ask the greffier to give the document when
- 11 we have the coffee break, and that way you'll have a look at it.
- 12 If the witness identifies the document, of course, it will be
- 13 made available to the parties.
- 14 I have other questions to ask you about sources, but before doing
- 15 that, I'd like to ask you about any possible link between
- 16 population movements and the establishment of a policy of forced
- 17 collectivization by the ever-increasing development of
- 18 cooperatives.
- 19 Could you tell us first, if, before the evacuation of Phnom Penh,
- 20 the Khmer Rouge leadership prepared a population movement policy?
- 21 Obviously, there were actual practices, but in what sort of
- 22 context did those practices develop?
- 23 A. It did start earlier. It started with the ah, she can't -
- 24 the translator can't hear.
- 25 (Words in French, no interpretation)

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- 1 [14.33.10]
- 2 JUDGE LAVERGNE:
- 3 No, it is actually better if you stay in the same language, or
- 4 else it can cause difficulties in the interpretation system, but
- 5 the start of what you were saying was not heard in the French,
- 6 but so if you could repeat that, it would be very useful.
- 7 MR. SHORT:
- 8 A. I apologize. I understand.
- 9 No, I was saying that, yes, there were movements of population
- 10 earlier. I think the first ones started the first ones we
- 11 really know of started in 1973. Then there was the movement of
- 12 population out of Kratie and from Udong in 1974. There were
- 13 movements of population along the Vietnamese border, regrouping
- 14 into collectives. So it didn't start in 1975. It did start
- 15 earlier, but it was usually on a small scale, and in many cases,
- 16 for practical reasons, in the countryside, whereas in 1975 it
- 17 became an ideological movement.
- 18 BY JUDGE LAVERGNE:
- 19 Q. What I would like to do is read out a part of your book to see
- 20 if you still agree with what you wrote at the time. In French the
- 21 ERN is 00639773 to 74; in English, 00396446 to 47.
- 22 [14.34.21]
- 23 This is an excerpt which says that "in order to avoid
- 24 bombardments, entire villages were moved, evacuated and
- 25 transferred elsewhere. Population movements on a smaller scale

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- 1 had already occurred in 1970, and even in Ratanakiri, from 1968,
- 2 but in that instance it was designed to allow people to escape
- 3 government controls by transferring them further within liberated
- 4 zones".
- 5 Now, you did refer to the year, 1973.
- 6 But going on with the excerpt: "Now they were sent to remote
- 7 mountain and jungle areas. Their original homes, if not already
- 8 destroyed, were burned down to stop them returning. Instead of
- 9 working individually or in small mutual aid teams, they were
- 10 dragooned into cooperatives of 30 or 40 families who farmed the
- 11 land in common. Here, too, there were precedents: in the
- 12 Southwest and the Special Zone, attempts had been made to
- 13 introduce cooperatives after the May 1972 Central Committee
- 14 meeting. But they had been unpopular and authorities had not
- 15 insisted. Now, collectivization was imposed by force throughout
- 16 the liberated zones." Quote, unquote.
- 17 [14.37.31]
- 18 This is the first extract I wanted to read to you. Do you still
- 19 agree with what you wrote in your book, and if so, could you
- 20 comment on why? Thank you.
- 21 MR. SHORT:
- 22 A. Yes, I certainly agree with what I wrote, but I think you -
- 23 there is a distinction between collectivization and population
- 24 movements.
- 25 Collectivization could occur without a village being moved. When

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- 1 villages were burnt down and the population moved elsewhere, it
- 2 was usually for practical reason practical reasons, in the CPK
- 3 context at that time, being sorry as the extract says, for
- 4 control.
- 5 We later, with the evacuation of Battambang and Phnom Penh, after
- 6 April of 1975, it's really a different exercise. It's not about
- 7 regrouping villages to collectivize them, whether on the spot or
- 8 elsewhere, it's about emptying the towns.
- 9 [14.39.04]
- 10 Q. When a population is moved, before or after '75, is the point
- 11 as well not to facilitate the establishment of cooperatives? You
- 12 say that you don't need to move a village to turn it into a
- 13 cooperative, but when people are displaced are there any other
- 14 options other than turning them into cooperatives?
- 15 A. But it wasn't always necessary to displace people in order to
- 16 create cooperatives. My understanding is that many the majority
- 17 of cooperatives were based on the villages which were already
- 18 existing. There were areas, particularly along the Vietnamese
- 19 border, where villages were destroyed and people were moved up
- 20 into more remote areas, but there were many areas, the majority,
- 21 where the cooperatives were created on the basis of existing
- 22 villages.
- 23 You mentioned the Ratanakiri movements of population. Again, they
- 24 were for very practical reasons, to take supporters, of what was
- 25 then a nascent gorilla campaign against the government, into

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- 1 safer areas which could be more easily defended.
- 2 [14.40.47]
- 3 So again, practical reasons, I think these were two different
- 4 things: collectivization and population movements.
- 5 JUDGE LAVERGNE:
- 6 I think we can come back to this issue at a later stage.
- 7 This may be a good moment to have a break, Mr. President.
- 8 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 9 The time is now appropriate for a short break. We shall take a
- 10 break until 3 p.m. when we return.
- 11 Court Officer, could you assist the expert during the break and
- 12 have him returned to the courtroom at 3 p.m.?
- 13 The Court is now adjourned.
- 14 (Court recesses from 1441H to 1501H)
- 15 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 16 Please be seated. The Court is now back in session.
- 17 I wish to ask the expert. Just now, there was interruption in the
- 18 interpretation, because we know that you are well conversed with
- 19 both languages, English and French. And now, the question being
- 20 put to you is in French. According to the information I have
- 21 received, you can actually respond back in French.
- 22 So, for this reason, I ask the interpreting team to be prepared
- 23 accordingly so that the proceeding of examination is going
- 24 smoothly.
- 25 MR. SHORT:

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- 1 [Interpreted from French:] Yes, thank you, Mr. President.
- 2 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 3 So interpreters are instructed to change the channel accordingly.
- 4 Now question and answer will be in French.
- 5 [15.02.51]
- 6 You may proceed, Judge Jean-Marc Lavergne.
- 7 BY JUDGE LAVERGNE:
- 8 Thank you, President, and thank you, Mr. Expert, for responding
- 9 in French. I also gather that when you are being asked questions
- 10 in English that you are at liberty to revert to English.
- 11 Q. Let us return to the matter of the policy of collectivization
- 12 and the establishment of cooperatives. Is it accurate to say that
- 13 the policy had been developed as of May 1973, and that there had
- 14 been some practical considerations that had been considered
- 15 according to which the supply of rice had to be controlled by the
- 16 revolutionary forces, which would have then prevented the
- 17 Vietnamese forces from disturbing the production and supply of
- 18 rice? Is this accurate?
- 19 [15.03.13]
- 20 MR. SHORT:
- 21 A. Yes, I do think it is accurate. There were two reasons for
- 22 that. Firstly, there was an interest to organize the production
- 23 and supply of rice in order to prevent the Vietnamese from
- 24 causing disorder. But it was also to preclude any chaos later on.
- 25 Q. So in effect, there was an ideological consideration or

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- 1 interest to build a pure and honest society, based on the words
- 2 that were used at the time. And in essence, in the eyes of the
- 3 leaders, private trade and private ownership were sullied or
- 4 dishonest undertakings. And here, I want to refer to a passage in
- 5 order to justify the implementation of this policy:
- 6 "Pol Pot would distort the reality by making sure that
- 7 three-fourths of the population lived in quasi-indigents. As of
- 8 1973, the policy of establishing cooperatives by the Khmer Rouge
- 9 was based on quasi-famine. The majority of Cambodians would
- 10 suffer from famine during the regime.
- 11 [15.05.52]
- 12 "Cooperatives, therefore, represented progress to the extent that
- 13 the majority of Cambodians were happy and devoted to the new
- 14 collective system, as Pol put it. Dissent was ipso facto, the
- 15 mark of a class enemy. Like many of the policies he imposed, it
- 16 was a case of Pol Pot, as it were, cutting the feet to fit the
- 17 shoes."
- 18 Do you confirm what I have just read out, and do you wish to
- 19 provide any further explanation?
- 20 A. I do confirm that. There is a quote that I would like to
- 21 share. It wasn't just a matter of cutting the feet to fit the
- 22 shoes, but Mey Mann, who was a student in Paris alongside Pol
- 23 Pot, and who was also in Cambodia during the Revolution, said
- that "all men and all women were to only be 1 metre and 60
- 25 centimetres tall". It fell into the same line of thinking.

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- 1 Everyone living under the Democratic Kampuchea regime had to fit
- 2 a certain mould. And there's a contradiction in that, because Pol
- 3 Pot knew very well that 79 per cent of people living in total
- 4 shortfalls wasn't true.
- 5 [15.08.02]
- 6 And for all those who didn't want to become members of the
- 7 Communist Party, he only accepted peasants or middle class
- 8 peasants, and as for the slightly richer peasants or anyone
- 9 belonging to any higher echelon was denied entry into the Party.
- 10 And he employed other methods. We're not talking about 75 per
- 11 cent. We're talking about a rather small minority that lived in
- 12 what would be considered quasi-absolute poverty.
- 13 Q. So those who belonged to a particular class would be certain
- 14 of being of agreeing to the policies being implemented?
- 15 A. Exactly. And poverty was not corrupted by material goods.
- 16 Q. And with respect to poverty and what the Khmer Rouge
- 17 considered ownership and their policy of collectivization, I wish
- 18 now to refer to another document. This is the "Revolutionary
- 19 Flag", the August 1975 issue, E3/5. ERN in Khmer are the
- 20 following: 00357556 to 7597; in French, 00538953 to 62; and in
- 21 English the ERNs are 00401477 to 1497.
- 22 [15.10.21]
- 23 This is an article entitled "Cadres, Members of the Party, the
- 24 Population, and Revolutionary Army Must Agree with the Party to
- 25 Review and Assess the Situation as well as Review the Tasks

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- 1 Required for the Great Leap Forward".
- 2 It refers to 1973 as the date at which the absolute democratic
- 3 revolution was to begin. There is mention of the collectivization
- 4 of land and the prohibition of private property ownership and
- 5 property, return to the bartering system, and as for merchants,
- 6 they have been ordered to exert manual labour, like everyone
- 7 else.
- 8 And as for private ownership and property, at French ERN
- 9 00538961:
- 10 "If we look at Phnom Penh (so called private property) can be
- 11 powerful. In the countryside, however-"
- 12 "Private ownership dominates in Phnom Penh. However, we cannot
- 13 allow this. Property and ownership must have no power."
- 14 [15.12.23]
- 15 I believe this morning you testified that collectivization had
- 16 been used as a reason by Pol Pot as one pretext for the
- 17 evacuation of cities and of Phnom Penh. So, therefore, is what I
- 18 just read out something which is consistent with your analysis or
- 19 something that emerged later on?
- 20 A. I'm not entirely sure I understand. What emerged later on?
- 21 Q. Was the ideological reason behind the reason to evacuate the
- 22 cities, or did the ideological reason crop up afterwards in order
- 23 to justify the evacuation?
- 24 A. It was used beforehand, and that ideological reason was highly
- 25 significant, in my mind. Let's think of China, where the

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- 1 countryside encircled cities. Whereas in the Cambodian
- 2 Revolution, the countryside was much purer, much cleaner, as you
- 3 said. However, it was a way to evacuate all of the corruption
- 4 that festered in the cities.
- 5 [15.14.05]
- 6 And there was a time, before 1973, when Pol Pot had come to the
- 7 realization that trade in small cities of the countryside and
- 8 small townships of the countryside was resuming and he wanted to
- 9 eradicate this. Therefore, it was one of the triggers of the
- 10 radicalization that had begun to take shape in 1973.
- 11 Q. And so the radicalization had begun before 1973 and did it
- 12 start to emerge and manifest with the abolition of currency? Was
- 13 the abolition of money and currency a result of that?
- 14 A. There were two stages. After 1973, there was a system of
- 15 bartering that began to prevail in the countryside; however, at
- 16 the time, there was not a very prevalent use of the currency used
- 17 during the Lon Nol regime. And that is why, at the same time, in
- 18 the liberated zones, the Lon Nol regime money was no longer used.
- 19 And Peking was requested to print revolutionary money. And in
- 20 1974, it had been decided that only revolutionary currency would
- 21 be used in Democratic Kampuchea.
- 22 [15.15.58]
- 23 Later on, after April 1975, whatever reserves remained at the
- 24 Central Bank was destroyed. However, they did attempt to
- 25 establish a system of a very specific system of currency, and

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- 1 then in 1975, there was a policy to no longer allow currency to
- 2 be circulated and not to use it, because as Ta Mok said, the
- 3 wound had not been healed, he had to stem the bleeding. That was
- 4 his own expression. And so therefore, it was their decision to go
- 5 down that path. And I believe that it is crucial turning point,
- 6 because at some point in time there was no longer any point of
- 7 return on even the most minor details. And it is a symbol of the
- 8 system of enslavement that I describe in my book.
- 9 Q. Are you certain that the decision to not and to no longer
- 10 use money was only taken after the 17th of April, or had it not
- 11 been decided upon earlier?
- 12 A. I am certain, because Pech Chheang, who served after the
- 13 ambassador, the DK ambassador in China, talked about the
- 14 distribution of the currency. There were also people who
- 15 witnessed and who attested to the fact that, in their
- 16 cooperatives, they were being shown what would be the new money
- 17 of the revolutionary regime. So for several months on-going there
- 18 was a process to institute and circulate this new currency.
- 19 [15.18.44]
- 20 Q. And with respect to the development in the policy of
- 21 collectivization, would the establishment of cooperatives also
- 22 foster the elimination of the enemy? Would this also be a way of
- 23 determining much more easily who was in agreement or not with the
- 24 regime?
- 25 A. Yes. Was it a primary cause or was it simply collateral

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- 1 damage, that spinoff from the policy of collectivization? It's
- 2 true. Yes, indeed, it had facilitated the task.
- 3 Q. I have a much broader question before moving to another topic.
- 4 Generally speaking, and based on what is written in your book, do
- 5 you still agree and stand by what you wrote in your book, or
- 6 there were certain passages in your book, relative to which with
- 7 the hindsight and wisdom of time, that you would look upon a bit
- 8 differently or modify?
- 9 A. I have reread my book. There are a few repetitions in the book
- 10 that I would have taken out for stylistic reasons, but there is
- 11 nothing that strikes me or nothing that would compel me to say,
- 12 why did I say that? I still stand by what I wrote and believe
- 13 that it is correct.
- 14 [15.20.36]
- 15 O. Thank you.
- 16 Let's move into another realm concerning the rule of Mr. Khieu
- 17 Samphan.
- 18 Now, it would appear that following the fall of Prince Sihanouk,
- 19 as of March 1970, a letter was written by to the Front and
- 20 signed by Khieu Samphan, Hou Youn, and Hu Nim.
- 21 You describe that the letter was supposedly written by Pol Pot,
- 22 who, at the time, would have resided in Peking. Can you please
- 23 confirm that, and possibly provide some more ample explanations?
- 24 A. He wasn't in Peking, he was just travelling through. When
- 25 Sihanouk fell out of power, he just happened to be there, Pol Pot

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- 1 that is.
- 2 In material terms, it was impossible for such a letter to be sent
- 3 so quickly to (inaudible). So if you wanted a hypothesis, I
- 4 wasn't given any affirmation that Pol Pot had authored the
- 5 letter. Now, it's the only plausible possibility was that it was
- 6 Pol Pot, or someone from his entourage, but it was written in
- 7 such a skilful manner in order not to arouse any concerns or
- 8 cause any fears; it had all of the hallmarks of Pol Pot.
- 9 Q. And shortly after the sending of the letters, there was the
- 10 formation of the GRUNK, the Royal Government of the Union of
- 11 Cambodia. And Mr. Khieu Samphan is presented as the Vice Prime
- 12 Minister and the Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces the
- 13 Popular Armed Forces of Revolutionary Kampuchea.
- 14 Do you know when exactly Mr. Khieu Samphan, following the coup
- 15 d'état, when he when Mr. Khieu Samphan could have met Pol Pot
- 16 and when could Mr. Khieu Samphan have met King Sihanouk? Do you
- 17 have any idea?
- 18 [15.23.50]
- 19 A. To the best of my memory, to the best of my knowledge, I
- 20 believe that when Pol Pot settled in Kampong Thom, that is he was
- 21 no longer in Ratanakiri, he moved to the central area of the
- 22 country, and set up a new headquarters of the Communist Party of
- 23 Kampuchea near Kampong Thom. Khieu Samphan and the others had
- 24 travelled from the Aoral Mountains, where they were based, and it
- 25 was only then Khieu Samphan and Pol Pot came into contact with

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- 1 one another.
- 2 As for Khieu Samphan and King Sihanouk, I'll have to check and go
- 3 into my documents, but I do believe that they met in Peking
- 4 before the Prince visited the liberated zones of Cambodia. But
- 5 the two, Khieu Samphan and the Prince Sihanouk, had very little
- 6 contact. Ieng Sary was the CPK representative in Peking, and it
- 7 was essentially through Ieng Sary that communications were sent.
- 8 And the delegation in Paris had rallied around Sihanouk after his
- 9 fall.
- 10 [15.25.25]
- 11 Q. Now, perhaps the defence for Khieu Samphan will provide us
- 12 some more specific details, but I'm not entirely sure that there
- 13 was a meeting in Peking between Mr. Khieu Samphan and King
- 14 Sihanouk before he returned in 1974. Perhaps we are mistaken, but
- 15 I am sure that the Khieu Samphan defence will provide us the
- 16 correct clarifications.
- 17 Now, when the GRUNK was formed, at any point in time was Mr.
- 18 Khieu Samphan consulted? And if you simply do not know, just
- 19 state so.
- 20 A. I don't believe that Mr. Khieu Samphan was consulted. I don't
- 21 believe that his personal opinion was actually elicited. I don't
- 22 believe this. Pol Pot was in Peking at the time. As Sihanouk was
- 23 there, Thiounn Mumm was there, as well as other members of the
- 24 Party, and it was the discussion was restricted amongst
- 25 themselves.

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- 1 Q. Because we're talking about essential and significant
- 2 decisions, when a man is appointed prime minister of a country it
- 3 is a landmark moment, and Prince Sihanouk would have accepted a
- 4 role, even if it were to serve as a bridge between the Front and
- 5 the Khmer Rouge. But how would that actually play out? What form
- 6 would that actually take?
- 7 [15.27.34]
- 8 A. This morning I told you that Mr. Khieu Samphan was devoted and
- 9 devoted wholeheartedly to the cause. I believe that Khieu Samphan
- 10 believed entirely that he would carry out his duties. As for the
- 11 Front and everything else, it would have played out later on.
- 12 Khieu Samphan was in Kampong Thom, and any communication with
- 13 Sihanouk would have gone through Ieng Sary, it would have gone
- 14 through the Chinese, but it would have gone through Ieng Sary.
- 15 And apparently, there was quite a bit of friction between the
- 16 two. Khieu Samphan's role only coalesced afterwards.
- 17 Q. So you're stating, if I understand correctly, Pol Pot had
- 18 decided to appoint Khieu Samphan to this very strategic position
- 19 as vice prime minister, because he knew that Khieu Samphan was a
- 20 loyal man, devoted to the cause, and that he would abide by his
- 21 decision. Is this what I am to understand?
- 22 A. It was not a strategic position; it was window-dressing.
- 23 [15.29.22]
- 24 Q. He held the flag, but to carry the flag carries out a
- 25 strategic purpose for the public. It's important to be able to

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- 1 identify references that they can identify as symbols of peace
- 2 and unification. It's an image. It's an image that has strategic
- 3 interests.
- 4 A. Yes, on the image I agree, that had strategic importance, but
- 5 talking about influence and leadership, no, not at all.
- 6 Q. As you see it, did Khieu Samphan accept to be purely an image
- 7 or did he in fact want to have decision-making powers?
- 8 A. That's a crucial question, but the answer may not match the
- 9 question. I would tend to say, but this is really just an
- 10 assumption based on what I believe I have understood of Mr. Khieu
- 11 Samphan's character, that he preferred to be in a secondary
- 12 position rather than the one in charge, and that is why he was so
- 13 useful to Pol Pot and to the regime. He was somebody who was very
- 14 reliable, who didn't ask questions, and who acted in the required
- 15 way.
- 16 [15.31.39]
- 17 Q. Thank you. Thank you for those answers.
- 18 I'd now like to turn to another subject, because we are short of
- 19 time here.
- 20 I want to ask you about possible links between the Khmer Rouge
- 21 and the People's Republic of China. You are in fact an expert on
- 22 Pol Pot and also on the history of China. So I'd like to ask you,
- 23 do you remember the dates when Pol Pot first went to stay in
- 24 China?
- 25 A. It was at the end of 1965, the start of 1966. I can't give you

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- 1 the precise dates from the top of my head, but he didn't stay
- 2 very long. We're talking about one month or six weeks. And what
- 3 does need to be stressed is that it was a great deal before the
- 4 start of the Cultural Revolution, so he had no experience of that
- 5 period.
- 6 Q. 1965-1966, that is when we can say that Vietnamese oversight,
- 7 so to speak, of Cambodia was still pretty strong. So to get to
- 8 China, he must have gone through Vietnam. Is that correct?
- 9 [15.33.16]
- 10 A. That's absolutely true. He wanted to go to China and he also
- 11 wanted to go to North Korea. The Vietnamese had said no, North
- 12 Korea is out of bounds, but they accepted to take him to China.
- 13 Q. Now, this may be a bit complicated, because we are talking
- 14 about a secret visit here, but do we know anything about the
- 15 people he might have met in the Chinese Communist Party?
- 16 Do we know who was dealing with relations with other foreign
- 17 Communist parties, for example?
- 18 A. Well, we know that he met Pech Chheang, who was a member of
- 19 the Chinese Political Bureau, who was the Mayor of Peking, and
- 20 who was removed from the picture during the Cultural Revolution.
- 21 It's not entirely clear if he met Kang Sheng, who was the big
- 22 chief when it came to all kinds of external relations. He also
- 23 met the foreign minister, I think, at the time. That we do know.
- 24 We also know that he was housed at the institute, which was
- 25 designed for revolutionaries from other continents, Africa, South

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- 1 America, and so forth, but it was only an initial meeting. And I
- 2 rather doubt that he was manoeuvring with any kind of wide scale
- 3 knowledge of China.
- 4 [15.35.30]
- 5 Q. You just quoted the name of Kang Sheng, a significant name, I
- 6 think, in the history of China. It seems that at the time Kang
- 7 Sheng was in charge of relations with foreign Communist parties.
- 8 But can you tell us a little bit more about who Kang Sheng was
- 9 and why the meeting with Pol Pot could have been rather
- 10 important?
- 11 A. Kang Sheng was a member of the Standing Committee of the
- 12 Political Bureau. He was a very powerful man who wielded
- 13 considerable influence. He had been trained in the Soviet Union
- 14 in the 1930s. He was alongside Mao, and he did his dirty work for
- 15 him. He was head of the Special Services.
- 16 [15.36.34]
- 17 He was a formidable individual. If Pol Pot hadn't didn't meet
- 18 Kang Sheng himself, and it's quite probable that he didn't, he
- 19 certainly would have met people from his entourage. And I think
- 20 probably that was the most significant side of the whole visit.
- 21 Because afterwards, in China, who was supporting Pol Pot in the
- 22 Cambodian Revolution? Well, it was these protégés of Kang Sheng,
- 23 the deputy Chinese prime minister, the people that later on were
- 24 called the "Gang of Four", the ultra-radicals, in other words.
- 25 And you can quite easily situate the start of that friendship

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- 1 with the most radical elements within the Chinese regime in terms
- 2 of that 1965, '66 visit.
- 3 Q. So, Pol Pot was in Peking in 1970, that we know. Between '66
- 4 and '70, did Pol Pot go back to Peking?
- 5 A. No. From all the knowledge available, no, he didn't go abroad
- 6 between those two visits.
- 7 [15.38.16]
- 8 Q. In your book, there's a footnote that caught my eye. It refers
- 9 to information that you might have heard from the mouth of Ieng
- 10 Sary when you interviewed him. And apparently Ieng Sary told you
- 11 that in 1970, Pol Pot had frequent contacts with Kang Sheng. Can
- 12 you confirm that you heard that Ieng Sary told you that, and
- when he did, what did that make you think?
- 14 A. Yes, I do confirm that. There's no doubt at all that they met
- 15 in 1970. I heard about this as well from the Chinese side. And I
- 16 didn't mention this in the book, but Ieng Sary was absolutely
- 17 clear on the subject. I think you can probably situate it at the
- 18 start of 1970 in the Kang Sheng entourage.
- 19 Q. The footnote I'm referring to is number 200; English ERN is
- 20 00396704, and it's page 259 of the book in French, ERN
- 21 00638714.
- 22 [15.39.56]
- 23 If we can stay with Kang Sheng one moment more, you include a
- 24 FBIS broadcast summary from Phnom Penh Domestic Service. It's on
- 25 E3/1356. The English ERN is 00167593; and in French, 00700106.

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- 1 And we're looking at a broadcast concerning condolences to the
- 2 People's Republic of China following the death of Kang Sheng.
- 3 It's from the 24th of December 1975, and the Chinese Embassy at
- 4 this moment received Prime Minister Penn Nouth, Deputy Prime
- 5 Ministers, including Khieu Samphan and Ieng Sary, who go to the
- 6 Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Phnom Penh to
- 7 express their condolences on the occasion of the death of Kang
- 8 Sheng, Deputy Prime Minister of the Chinese Communist Party. He
- 9 died at the age of 77. The prime minister and deputy prime
- 10 ministers laid a wreath, which had the following inscription:
- 11 "Sincere and deepest condolences for the sad death of His
- 12 Excellency, Kang Sheng, a Chinese revolutionary individual of
- 13 exceptional quality and a companion in arms close to the
- 14 Cambodian people."
- 15 [15.42.14]
- 16 So one can only assume that there was a certain amount of
- 17 influence there.
- 18 In your view, because you talked to us about those who would
- 19 eventually become what was called the "Gang of Four"; does the
- 20 name Zhang Chunqiao mean something to you?
- 21 A. Zhang Chunqiao was deputy prime minister and probably the most
- 22 influential of the ultra-radicals. He had Kang Sheng's
- 23 protection. And the initial secret visit was made by him to
- 24 Democratic Kampuchea.
- 25 Now, you're going to ask me when, but I can't remember; it's in

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- 1 my book, maybe the spring of '75 or '76, but that was the first
- 2 major visit by a Chinese leader. There are photographs. He went
- 3 to Angkor Wat with Pol Pot and Ieng Sary and the Chinese
- 4 delegation.
- 5 Zhang Chungiao was somebody who was hugely important in the
- 6 connection between the two countries, and when he lost his
- 7 position and was arrested there was consternation in Phnom Penh.
- 8 [15.43.59]
- 9 Q. So there was an official visit with photographs and somebody
- 10 also reported on a secret visit, which took place after the 7th
- 11 of April 1975, and that was Kaing Guek Eav, Duch, who said that
- 12 he received confidential information from a Chinese teacher, who
- 13 he met in Beijing, who told him that Zhang Chunqiao had secretly
- 14 come after the 17th of April 1975 to Democratic Kampuchea.
- 15 It's document E3/441, and the English ERN is 00265559, and I'm
- 16 sorry to say I haven't got the Khmer ERN.
- 17 This information is not in fact corroborated by others, but did
- 18 you ever hear about this secret visit?
- 19 [15.45.14]
- 20 A. I believe that there may be a mistake here. It's very
- 21 difficult to date the Zhang Chunqiao visit. It was secret. Their
- 22 photos were not published at the time and it wasn't broadcast or
- 23 announced either in China or on the radio in Phnom Penh. But I
- 24 would situate the visit around or in April 1976. I had a source
- 25 in Peking in the Chinese Party who actually told me that Zhang

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- 1 Chungiao had to get back to Peking by the end of April, and that
- 2 would locate the visit in the first half of April 1976.
- 3 There are other testimonies that are not terribly precise either.
- 4 At B 1, in the Foreign Ministry, for example, they prepared
- 5 banners, placards to welcome the dignitary, but sources say that
- 6 that was more at the end of 1975, but I think people are mixing
- 7 the date, and I believe that it was April '76.
- 8 Q. Well, whatever the case, he came at least once and he met a
- 9 certain number of important people here. Let's come back to the
- 10 crucial year of 1975 and the meetings that were held between the
- 11 Chinese leaders and those of the Khmer Rouge Revolution. Start
- 12 with Ieng Sary.
- 13 [15.47.08]
- 14 In your book, you told us that before he came back to Cambodia,
- 15 Ieng Sary went to Peking. Can you tell us if there was a
- 16 particular reason for him to transit through Peking and what the
- 17 purpose and result was?
- 18 A. I need to check. I don't have the answer in my mind at the
- 19 moment. Maybe you can give me a little bit of guidance?
- 20 Q. At the time, were there perhaps plans to obtain significant
- 21 aid, particularly military? Perhaps the assistance would not have
- 22 to go through Vietnam but go directly through the Kampong Som
- 23 Port?
- 24 A. That's absolutely true. But again, the calendar is somewhat
- 25 complicated. Ieng Sary went to Peking and then he came back with

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- 1 a man called Kong Chu Un (phonetic), who was the deputy leader of
- 2 the International Relations Department of the Chinese Communist
- 3 Party, and that was about a week after the 17th of April, it was
- 4 the first plane to Phnom Penh from Peking. And straightaway,
- 5 talks got underway. And the subject and the talks ended in
- 6 Peking when Pol Pot met Mao, but it was very important to have
- 7 detailed discussions on Chinese aid for Cambodia. But that was
- 8 happening in the autumn of 1975.
- 9 [15.49.25]
- 10 Q. So, you situate the meeting between Pol Pot and Mao to, as you
- 11 say, talk in detail about the scope of Chinese aid to Cambodia,
- 12 you situate this in September 1975? In my notes, I see reference
- 13 to a visit in May or even June '75?
- 14 A. June '75. You're right.
- 15 The meeting with Mao was to talk big philosophical and
- 16 ideological issues. The details were worked out with Deng
- 17 Xiaoping, who, at the time, was Deputy President of the Chinese
- 18 Party and who was going to become Mao's successor, except that he
- 19 too was destituted (sic) for a period.
- 20 Q. Other important meetings took place during this period. There
- 21 were meetings between Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai, involving King
- 22 Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan. In August 1975, we know that Sihanouk
- 23 is in Peking and Khieu Samphan went as well to meet up with the
- 24 king and perhaps convince him to come back, but what can you tell
- 25 us about these meetings?

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- 1 [15.51.17]
- 2 You have whetted our appetite because you have referred to
- 3 minutes of meetings that may have taken place and are apparently
- 4 held in the central archives in Beijing, but it's very hard for
- 5 us to have access to them, and we would have very much liked to
- 6 have had those documents.
- 7 A. It's not only incredibly difficult for you; it's pretty hard
- 8 for me too. I didn't really have access to those documents; I was
- 9 able to talk to Chinese officials who had seen the documents. The
- 10 conversation with Zhou Enlai We know very little about what
- 11 happened at that instance. We know a little bit more about the
- 12 meeting that took place with Khieu Samphan, Ieng Sary, and Mao.
- 13 And Mao asked them to give Sihanouk and Penn Nouth decent
- 14 treatment and not send them off into the patty fields. And Khieu
- 15 Samphan promised that they would be given proper treatment and
- 16 all the honours that were due to them once they were back in
- 17 Cambodia. But there was a significant moment of hesitation before
- 18 Prince Sihanouk came back to Cambodia.
- 19 [15.53.01]
- 20 Q. So can you say that among the Chinese leadership there was a
- 21 whole current of opinion in favour of moderation and trying to
- 22 push that idea with the Khmer Rouge leaders. And on the other
- 23 side those who were more ultra-Maoist and in favour of the way
- 24 the Revolution was being put into effect by the Khmer Rouge.
- 25 A. That's absolutely true, Zhou Enlai himself was worried about

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- 1 what was going to happen in Cambodia. And who said who told
- 2 Khieu Samphan that they should absolutely not emulate the great
- 3 leap forward in China. They couldn't say it in so many words but
- 4 he had understood that it was a major disaster and he was arguing
- 5 in favour of moderation without success of course. It was a time
- 6 when the Khmer Rouge were steeped in hubris and arrogance. They
- 7 had won a victory and they didn't want to listen to the voices of
- 8 moderation. When Mao met Pol Pot the meeting was highly
- 9 instructive. He made all kinds of references, underwriting his
- 10 speech, to say, "Open up, don't stay to rigid. You're going to
- 11 put your own revolution into effect, but this can't be done in
- 12 isolation." So I think Mao was very impressed what the Khmer
- 13 Rouge had achieved but he too was worried and disturbed.
- 14 [15.55.11]
- 15 Q. Can we say that, as these leaders saw it, the fact that King
- 16 Sihanouk was back in Phnom Penh could have lent a little
- 17 moderation to the Revolution. Do you see that as having been one
- 18 of the hopes of the Chinese leaders in an attempt to calm things
- 19 down, and that was why they were asking Sihanouk to be brought
- 20 back with all due dignity and respect?
- 21 A. It's a difficult question. I'm not sure we now what they were
- 22 thinking. I think the Chinese leaders were too lucid to think
- 23 that Sihanouk could have had a big influence on the behaviour of
- 24 the Khmer Rouge. But the very fact that he was in Phnom Penh,
- 25 that he was Head of State, did give a slightly different image to

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- 1 the regime. The Chinese are very practical people; I don't think
- 2 that they would have believed that there could have been a real
- 3 change in the regime's policy due to the presence of Sihanouk.
- 4 [15.56.32]
- 5 Q. At that time we heard much talk of independence, sovereignty
- 6 and self-reliance. And it seems that the Khmer Rouge leaders
- 7 wanted to defend their own independence in an extremely resolute
- 8 way. Now can we talk about independence being defended including
- 9 vis-à-vis the Chinese?
- 10 A. Yes. They didn't want to be the tools of the Chinese. It was a
- 11 much smaller problem then vis-à-vis the Vietnamese, but they
- 12 wanted their own proper existence alongside the Chinese. But they
- 13 didn't want to be the creatures of the Chinese. But can I come
- 14 back a little bit to the matter of the Prince. Another reason
- 15 without any doubt why China wanted Sihanouk to return was that if
- 16 he stayed outside of the Khmer Rouge he would have had much less
- 17 opportunity to play a significant role at a later stage. So he
- 18 had to be implicated in the political system if he was going to
- 19 retain his hopes for the future.
- 20 Q. It seems as if that assistance provided by China was
- 21 significant. I don't know if you can talk about unconditional,
- 22 because there were ups and downs in this relationship between
- 23 China and Democratic Kampuchea, but nevertheless there was
- 24 technical assistance, military assistance, economic aide
- 25 including to develop a banking system so that products could be

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- 1 exported. But at any particular time was a request for food aid
- 2 from the Khmer Rouge leadership in the direction of China.
- 3 [15.59.02]
- 4 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 5 Q. Let's move to another personality who may have played a
- 6 significant role. I'm talking about a gentleman called Chen
- 7 Yonggui who was also known as the leader of the Tachai commune
- 8 and brigade.
- 9 Earlier I made mention of Pol Pot's visit in 1976 in China where
- 10 you were working. And it would appear that Pol Pot met with that
- 11 personality and began cultivating relations. Can you please tell
- 12 us some more about that?
- 13 A. Yes, Chen Yongqui was a model peasant. He received great
- 14 assistance from the Chinese State in order to build his commune
- 15 and showcase it as the model commune. It was all fiction but it
- 16 was the case and he was allied with radicals of the extreme left
- 17 such as Chunqiao. And there was a 15-day visit to Cambodia and he
- 18 spoke effusively of the regime at the time. However, it wasn't a
- 19 person who held any real importance, he was simply a symbol of
- 20 Chinese agriculture. And yes, he was cited and the relations were
- 21 tied, but with no real effect.
- 22 [16.01.16]
- 23 Q. In the commune of Tachai it was a model based in China but it
- 24 is a model that was discussed extensively during Democratic
- 25 Kampuchea. So what kind of role did that particular model play in

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- 1 the structuring and establishment of cooperatives in Cambodia? Do
- 2 you have any knowledge of that and what can you tell us?
- 3 A. There you are entirely right. For the Cambodians the whole
- 4 issue was of great importance. The commune and the figure was
- 5 used as an example, as a successful farming, and in theory it was
- 6 the case but in practice no. Everything was already taking place
- 7 and after the arrival of Chen Yonggui nothing really changed. He
- 8 came he admired the landscape, he looked around, they were very
- 9 friendly with one another and he paid compliments.
- 10 [16.02.35]
- 11 Q. What can you tell us about how he spoke of the Cambodian
- 12 accomplishments?
- 13 A. Yes, it's precisely that. He just spoke well of it and paid
- 14 compliments.
- 15 Q. We talked about the Cultural Revolution, can you please refer
- 16 us to particular documents about the Cultural Revolution.
- 17 Was it a phenomenon that could have influenced the leaders of
- 18 Democratic Kampuchea and provided them guidance? And what about
- 19 the "Gang of Four" and the death of Mao Zedong?
- 20 [16.03.28]
- 21 A. Yes, to my knowledge there is one document that does make
- 22 mention of the Cultural Revolution. It is the message sent to the
- 23 Central Committee, from Pol Pot to the Chinese. It's a series of
- 24 praises for the Cultural Revolution but for the Chinese the
- 25 Cultural Revolution was perhaps the most wonderful phenomenon in

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- 1 all of history, it was rhetoric.
- 2 Q. Allow me to shift to another line of questions with respect to
- 3 the sources you cite.
- 4 You talk about letters that you may have found in electronic form
- 5 and that have since been conveyed to all the parties. I'll simply
- 6 call them letters from the Vietnamese archives as this is the
- 7 case, they are documents that you obtained and that you believed
- 8 were held in the Vietnamese archives. Can you walk us through how
- 9 you obtained the documents? If they were original Khmer documents
- 10 or had they already been translated into Vietnamese? What can you
- 11 tell us about those documents?
- 12 [16.05.20]
- 13 A. All of those documents were obtained by an American researched
- 14 called Christopher Goscha who was working on his doctoral thesis
- 15 at the university de Paris. His thesis was on the Khmer Rouge
- 16 period, and the Khmer Rouge before 1975. He worked in the
- 17 military library of Vietnam while he was researching the subject.
- 18 Of the documents there are some that were translated from Khmer
- 19 into Vietnamese. They originate from the Communist Party of
- 20 Kampuchea. This is the case for but the majority of documents,
- 21 rather, are Vietnamese reports. Some of them are rather lengthy
- 22 reports on the Cambodian situation between 1949 and 1950, and
- 23 '67. And of the military Vietnamese reports or rather of the
- 24 Vietnamese reports, they contained citations and references to
- 25 Cambodian documents to which we do not have access. And so,

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- 1 between the two, there's a rather interesting link. They are not
- 2 necessarily complete, but they do portray an interesting
- 3 relationship between the two parties and they certainly
- 4 illustrate the point of view of the Vietnamese with respect to
- 5 the Cambodian Communist Revolution.
- 6 [16.07.24]
- 7 Q. We can of course return to those documents if the parties so
- 8 wish. I have here before me two documents that are worthy of
- 9 interest. They are YYYTLM75. It is a letter that you, sir, had
- 10 referred to earlier. It dates back to 1967 addressed to the
- 11 Chinese Communist Party and the start of the Cultural Revolution
- 12 and it talks about how all of the criteria in Cambodia are now
- 13 met for the fomenting of the proper Revolution. There's another
- 14 document KK76 and this is a document emanating from the Communist
- 15 Party of Kampuchea. I refer, however, that we do not have time to
- 16 go into those documents. I do have one final question on a
- 17 document concerning In Sopheap the document entitled "Khieu
- 18 Samphan, Enlarged and Real", and my earlier question as to
- 19 whether or not this is indeed the same document that you have
- 20 referred to in your book.
- 21 A. Yes, this is indeed one and the same document.
- 22 Q. And very briefly, Mr. Witness, can you please tell us who In
- 23 Sopheap is, if you recall? Did you meet the gentlemen? Did you
- 24 interview him? Can you please tell the Chamber anything about
- 25 this particular document?

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- 1 [16.09.13]
- 2 A. In Sopheap, I'm not sure if the case still is relevant, but
- 3 was in Pailin. And if I'm not mistaken his brother was a
- 4 physician and his mother, Madam In, were all loyal partisans of
- 5 the Cambodian Revolution. And I did interview him several times
- 6 and he was the one that handed me this document. I found it very
- 7 interesting, namely the start of the document on the life of
- 8 Khieu Samphan. And I do make reference to it several times.
- 9 Q. So you were telling us that you received this document
- 10 directly from Mr. In Sopheap and you cannot authenticate what he
- 11 related in that particular document? Is that correct?
- 12 A. That is correct.
- 13 JUDGE LAVERGNE:
- 14 I believe that document can be admitted into the proceeding.
- 15 Mr. President, I wish to thank you very much for the time that
- 16 has been allocated to me for questions.
- 17 And I wish to thank you, Mr. Expert.
- 18 [16.10.37]
- 19 MR. PRESIDENT:
- 20 Thank you, Judge Lavergne, and thank you, Mr. Expert.
- 21 Today's proceedings have come to an end. We will adjourn today's
- 22 proceedings now and will resume tomorrow that is, Tuesday the
- 7th of May 2013, commencing from 9 a.m.
- 24 Tomorrow we will continue to hear the testimony of the expert
- 25 Philip Short, who will be first questioned by the Prosecution and

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| 1 | followed by the Lead Co-Lawyers. |
|----|---|
| 2 | Mr. Short, the hearing of your testimony has not concluded, and |
| 3 | we will continue to hear your testimony tomorrow. For that reason |
| 4 | you are required to attend tomorrow's proceedings commencing from |
| 5 | 9 a.m. |
| 6 | Court Officer, in collaboration with the WESU unit, please assist |
| 7 | the expert Mr. Short's return to his residence and have him |
| 8 | returned to this courtroom at 9 a.m. |
| 9 | Security guards, you are instructed to take the two Accused - |
| 10 | that is, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea - back to their detention |
| 11 | facility and have them returned to the courtroom tomorrow, prior |
| 12 | to 9 a.m. |
| 13 | As for Mr. Nuon Chea, please bring him to the holding cell |
| 14 | downstairs, which has been equipped with the facilities so that |
| 15 | he can follow the proceedings through remote means. |
| 16 | The Court is now adjourned. |
| 17 | (Court adjourns at 1612H) |
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