

## **KHMER ROUGE 'TRAPEANG THMA' DAM CONSTRUCTION**

### **Interview series: Interview No. 2**

Interview with Pan Chhuong, Male, Age 64 years old  
Position in KR period: Deputy Chief of Mobile Unit in Region 5  
Present Address: Daun Chreng village, Preah Neth Preah commune,  
Preah Neth Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province  
By Dany Long, DC-Cam PA Team Leader  
Translated by: Kamboly Dy and Dany Long  
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Dany: First, I would like to know your name. What is your name?  
Chhuong: Pan Chhuong  
Dany: Pan Chhoung?  
Chhuong: Yes  
Dany: How old are you today?  
Chhuong: I am 64 years old.  
Dany: Where were you born?  
Chhuong: In Preah Neth Preah [district].  
Dany: What is the village?  
Chhuong: Pouy Sam-raong [village].  
Dany: What is the commune?  
Chhuong: Yes, Preah Neth Preah commune, Preah Neth Preah district, in the past  
it [this area] was called Battambang province.  
Dany: Preah Neth Preah commune, Preah Neth Preah district, Battambang  
province [today, it is called Banteay Meanchey province].  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Huy: Banteay Meanchey was created only in 1987.  
Dany: Where are you currently living?  
Chhuong: I live in Daun Chreng village, Preah Neth Preah commune.  
Dany: Daun Chreng village, Preah Neth Preah commune.  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: What is your wife name?  
Chhuong: Her name is Tuy Sophal.  
Dany: Tuy Sophal, how old is she?  
Chhuong: She is 51 years old.  
Dany: 51 years old. How many children do you have?

Chhuong: I don't have any children, only adopted children.  
Dany: How many adopted children do you have?  
Chhuong: I have two adopted children and one child from my wife. It is like my own child. There is a total of 3 children.  
Huy: One is the child of his wife.  
Chhuong: That is right. One is my wife's child with her ex-husband.  
Dany: There are two adopted children. What about the son?  
Chhuong: There is one boy and one girl.  
Dany: Is the child of your wife boy or girl?  
Chhuong: Boy  
Dany: What do you do?  
Chhuong: Farming  
Dany: Farming?  
Chhuong: Yes  
Dany: Do you have any other jobs?  
Huy: He is a member of the pagoda committee.  
Dany: Pagoda committee?  
Chhuong: Yes  
Dany: What is your father's name?  
Chhuong: His name is Pan Heun.  
Dany: Pan Heun?  
Chhuong: It is Pan Heun.  
Dany: It is "oeu" and "n".  
Chhuong: Right  
Dany: Is Hoeun still alive today?  
Chhuong: He passed away.  
Dany: When did he die?  
Chhuong: He died in 1979.  
Dany: What about your mother?  
Chhuong: My mother's name is Khieu Pouy.  
Dany: Khieu?  
Chhuong: Pouy  
Dany: Khieu Pouy?  
Chhuong: Yes  
Dany: Is Pouy still alive or die?  
Chhuong: She died in 1977.  
Dany: 1977?  
Chhuong: Yes  
Dany: It was the 3-year period?  
Chhuong: Yes  
Dany: How many brothers and sisters do you have?  
Chhuong: I have six brothers and sisters.  
Dany: Six brothers and sisters. How many women and men?

Chhuong: Two women and four men.  
Dany: Two women and four men. What range you are among your siblings?  
Chhuong: I am the last child.  
Dany: Last child?  
Chhuong: Yes  
Dany: Last child. What grade did you study when you were young?  
Chhuong: I did not study much. I studied grade 10.  
Dany: Studied to grade 10?  
Chhuong: The old grade 10.  
Dany: Grade 10 in what school?  
Chhuong: In Preah Neth Preah.  
Dany: In Preah Neth Preah, what year did you stop studying?  
Chhuong: Oh, I don't know what year.  
Dany: Was it long before the coup [1970]?  
Chhuong: Oh, long time before that. I had a wife before the coup time.  
Dany: Oh, when you stopped studying, what else did you do?  
Chhuong: I sold my labor to others.  
Dany: Sold labor?  
Chhuong: Yes, I did labor work in the machine hall and did plowing. I never had my own rice field. I sold my labor to feed my old mother. My father is blind.  
Dany: What did you do [where was the machine hall]?  
Chhuong: The machine hall of Mr. Ngoa Si in Preah Neth Preah.  
Dany: What kind of machine hall was it?  
Chhuong: It was a rice mill.  
Dany: A rice mill?  
Chhuong: Yes  
Dany: A rice mill. What did you do at that rice mill?  
Chhuong: At that time, I did labor work at the rice mill. After leaving this mill, I worked on the rice fields for pay in several seasons. For example, I worked in this village for one season and that village for another season. I harvested in this village and plowed in that village.  
Dany: Yes, you worked on the rice field for pay?  
Chhuong: Yes  
Dany: What year did you stop working on the rice field for pay?  
Chhuong: I worked for pay until 1972.  
Dany: Until 1972 and then what happened next?  
Chhuong: In 1972, I had a motor taxi [romork-motor].  
Dany: Motor taxi, from where to where?  
Chhuong: I rode a motor taxi from Svay [Svay Sisophon town] to Siem Reap [province].  
Dany: From Svay?  
Chhuong: To Siem Reap.

Dany: To Siem Reap?

Chhuong: Yes

Dany: How did you do business with motor taxi?

Chhuong: I delivered salt. At that time, the Khmer Rouge (KR) took over many roads. I delivered salt to sell in Siem Reap. But I did not sell on my own; I just delivered for others for pay.

Dany: You delivered salt from Svay to Siem Reap?

Chhuong: Yes

Dany: Did you deliver anything else?

Chhuong: Nothing else. That was it.

Dany: Only salt?

Chhuong: Yes. At the end of 1972, I was arrested by the KR.

Dany: Arrested by the KR?

Chhuong: Yes

Dany: When you delivered salt, how many turns did you make?

Chhuong: One turn

Dany: One turn?

Chhuong: Yes

Dany: In 1972, where did the KR arrest you?

Chhuong: I was arrested at the East of Sorsor Sdom [district], the road to Wat [pagoda] Prasat.

Dany: East?

Chhuong: East of Sorsor Sdom.

Dany: Sorsor Sdom?

Chhuong: Called Wat Prasat.

Dany: Sorsor Sdom, Wat Prasat?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: At that time, was it part of Siem Reap or Preah Neth Preah?

Chhuong: It was part of Siem Reap [province].

Dany: Siem Reap, what happened after you were arrested?

Chhuong: The KR arrested six motors. A total of six motor.

Dany: Six motors?

Chhuong: Yes and at night we escaped. I escaped with them.

Dany: You left the motor behind?

Chhuong: Yes, and as I was running, I thought I dare not run. I thought that if I ran back and I was asked for the motor back from the owner, I did not have anything to give them instead. [As I was running I thought I dared not return to get the motor bike. This was because I had nothing to give in return to get it back.]

Dany: Oh, you rented the motor from other?

Chhuong: Yes, the motorbike belonged to others. I was a servant, a worker. Those who owned the motors themselves escaped by leaving their motors behind. For me, if I left the motor behind, I was afraid that the owner

would ask me to pay them back, and I did not have anything to pay them back with. Therefore, I stayed with the KR and worked for them. If I returned back, I didn't have anything to pay them back. I volunteered to struggle with them [KR]. I dared not escape. The others escaped.

- Dany: You didn't escape and stayed with the KR?
- Chhuong: Yes
- Dany: When you stayed with the KR, what did you do?
- Chhuong: At that time, I was asked to mill rice, only milling rice.
- Dany: Where did you mill rice?
- Chhuong: I milled rice at Khsach Mountain, West of Krom Mountain.
- Dany: You stayed with the KR to mill rice. What else did you do?
- Chhuong: Yes, I worked on the rice mill for one year. Then I was sent to Kok Kha-pos.
- Dany: Was it Tuol Kha-pos?
- Chhuong: Yes, Kok Kha-pos
- Dany: Kok Kha-pos?
- Chhuong: Yes
- Dany: Where is Kok Kha-pos?
- Chhuong: Kok Kha-pos is in Banteay Meanchey province. Oh, Kok Kha-pos was in our side.
- Dany: Is it the border between Battambang and Banteay Meanchey?
- Chhuong: Yes, Battambang and Banteay Meanchey, but the people were at the other side and Wat Kok Kha-pos is at our side. But we did not stay in Wat Kok Kha-pos. It was called Kok Kha-pos in the forest. It was called Kok Kha-pos. .
- Dany: What did you do over there?
- Chhuong: I milled rice. I was made chief of the rice milling unit there.
- Dany: Chief of a rice milling unit?
- Chhuong: That's right.
- Dany: At that time, why was a lot of rice was milled. When you were [sor-sdom]..., you were rice mill worker. When you went there, you milled rice again?
- Chhuong: They [KR] got rice [so] it has to mill it [and otherwise they] had nothing to eat. There was a lot of KR. We milled rice and shared it together for food.
- Dany: How did you mill rice, by machine or by hand?
- Chhuong: By hand, grinding mortar.
- Dany: Hand grinding mortar?
- Chhuong: That's right, milled by hand.
- Dany: How many people milling rice over there?
- Chhuong: Oh, there were a lot of people, both men and women. I did not count.
- Neighbor: There may be ten people in one group for one grinding mortar.

Chhuong: But my group consisted of 30 people. It was called the small unit. I was made chief of the small unit. I was asked only to mill rice.

Dany: You milled only rice not working as chief?

Chhuong: Yes

Dany: What happened next?

Chhuong: When they fought the battle field in Peam Kampong Saing, the rice mill workers were asked to take luggage to where they fought.

Dany: What year did they fight?

Chhuong: 1973.

Dany: In 1973, where did they fight? Wat Kampong?

Chhuong: Kampong Krasang, Peam Kampong Krasiang

Dany: Pream Kampong Krasang?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Where is Peam Kampong Krasang?

Chhuong: Peam Kampong Krasang was in Phnom Leap commune.

Dany: When they capture there, your group was asked to take luggage there?

Chhuong: Yes, we took luggage of food, staple food. We took whatever we lacked.

Dany: You collected and delivered luggage?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Where did you take the luggage to?

Chhuong: We took the luggage and shared it with each other to eat and kept it at Angkar's place. The delivery place was called Angkar's place.

Dany: What was next?

Chhuong: After that, I was sent to stay in Ta Khieu.

Dany: When were you sent there?

Chhuong: In 1974, oh in 1974.

Dany: In 1974, did they send all the 30 people in your milling group?

Chhuong: Yes, they sent 30 men to help construct the dam called Ta Khieu Dam.

Dany: 30 men?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: To help construct the dam?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Where was the dam?

Chhuong: At Ta Khieu.

Dany: Where is Ta Khieu?

Chhuong: Sranal, Ta Khieu.

Dany: Yes Srana in Sambour commune.

Chhuong: That's right, in Sambour commune.

Dany: Sambour commune?

Chhuong: Yes.

Huy: Mongkul Borei district.

Dany: Sambour Daun Loek.

Chhuong: Sambour Daun Loek, Mongkul Borei district.  
Dany: Daun Loek?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Coming to construct that dam, were you the leader in the construction?  
Chhuong: No, there were people higher than me, but I was the unit chief.  
Dany: Unit chief?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Huy: What was the name of the big leader?  
Chhuong: I forget his name. Let me think for a while.  
Dany: Yes. Did they start construction on the dam in 1974. Did they start to construct the dam at this time?  
Chhuong: Yes, when we constructed the dam, the country was not yet liberated. We were in the forest.  
Dany: At that time, did they have a plan to construct the dam?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Not yet liberated?  
Chhuong: Yes, they had a plan to construct dam in the forest.  
Dany: The dam is called Ta Khieu dam?  
Chhuong: That's right, Ta Khieu dam.  
Dany: How long did it take to construct that dam?  
Chhuong: I didn't know how long it took. As the construction was going for a while, those who were from Preah Neth Preah were arrested. As the Preah Neth Preah people were all arrested, they conscripted those in Pauy Kdoeung [village], in Chheoung Wat village and those who were doing fishing at Rohal and Kra-peu Ha [area].  
Dany: Who was gathered up?  
Chhuong: Those who did fishing.  
Dany: Those who casted fishing nets?  
Chhuong: Casting nets, people doing fishing.  
Dany: Where was it, in Rohal?  
Chhuong: In Rohal, there were a lot of viallagers from Kra-peu Ha.  
Dany: When they were arrested, where were the people taken to?  
Chhuong: They were taken to help build the dam.  
Dany: To help build the dam?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: How long did it take to build the dam?  
Chhuong: We did not finish the construction. As we built for a bit, peace arrived.  
Dany: You mentioned earlier that you got married before the 1970 coup?  
Chhuong: Yes, that is my first wife.  
Dany: What year did you get married?  
Chhuong: In 1968, we just offered food to the ancestors. That is my first wife.  
Dany: With first wife?  
Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What is the name of your first wife?  
Chhuong: Touch Phean.  
Dany: Touch Phean. You did labor work after getting married?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: You rented a motor taxi and got paid?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: When you stayed with the KR, did you live with your wife or not?  
Chhuong: No, my wife lived with her parents at home.  
Dany: Oh, really?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: You entered the struggle alone?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: When you entered the KR, did you often meet your wife and children?  
Chhuong: No, I never met them. I forget the name of the chief of Sambour commune. His name is Phan. He was the head for building the dam, name Phan.  
Dany: Phan?  
Chhuong: That's right.  
Dany: At Ta Khieu dam?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: He was the chief of the Sambour commune?  
Chhuong: That's right, chief of the Sambour commune. As the commune was liberated, he was named commune chief.  
Dany: When did you finish building Ta Khieu dam?  
Chhuong: As they arrested more people in Preah Neth Preah to help build the dam, my forces were taken to dig up the road in Mek Cha-ba, digging up the national road. As we were digging, at around 9, peace arrived. As we were digging, peace arrived.  
Dany: You were digging?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: It means that when you were digging, the KR liberated Phnom Penh in 1975.  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Where were you digging?  
Chhuong: I dug up Mek Cha-ba road; it was O Nhor road.  
Dany: What did you dig for?  
Chhuong: Dig to cut off the new road so not to allow the trucks to come to help. Our troops, the KR troops, were fighting at Phnom Touch. Therefore, we dug to cut off the road not to allow them to come to help.  
Dany: So as you were digging, the 1975 victory came.  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: What happened next after the victory?



Chhuong: When we achieved victory, I returned back home. I didn't return back to the unit office. As I arrived home, I saw that my wife, my mother and my father were living in misery, so I stayed at home. I stopped working for the KR.

Dany: You returned back home?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: When you returned back home, where did you live?

Chhuong: I was at Pouy Samroang.

Dany: Return back home?

Chhuong: At Pouy Samroang, Pouy Samroang village.

Dany: In Pouy Samroang, how many children did you have at that time?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: You didn't have children?

Chhuong: No, I only had a wife.

Dany: Pouy Samroang

Chhuong: As they [KR] entered, they arranged for a commune chief and I was called back to work.

Dany: When did they finish the arrangement and call you back to work?

Chhuong: They arranged in 1974, oh in 1975 which means 17 April.

Dany: It means the liberation of 17 April 1975. It was 17 April?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: In April 1975, they liberated Phnom Penh.

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: In what month, were you called back?

Chhuong: I was called back in around July or August. It was the month for plowing the rice fields.

Dany: Yes, July or August 1975?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: In 1975, why did they call you back?

Chhuong: I was asked to work at Preah Neth Preah commune with the commune chief. The people in Preah Neth Preah were all evacuated.

Dany: You worked in Preah Neth Preah?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: At that time, what did you do at Preah Neth Preah commune?

Chhuong: When I was at Preah Neth Preah, I was asked to supervise the youth in the whole Preah Neth Preah commune.

Dany: Commune of youth?

Chhuong: Right.

Dany: You were asked to supervise the commune of youth. What was it called at that time?

Chhuong: It was called...I supervised 17 April youth.

Dany: Wasn't it a mobile unit at that time?

Chhuong: They didn't have mobile units yet.

Dany: They did not yet have mobile units?

Chhuong: I was asked to supervise the 17 April youth.

Dany: Yes, in commune, village, but 17 April people did not consist of old [base] people?

Chhuong: That's right, in the 17 April people, there were no old [base] people. They were the base people.

Dany: Were there a lot of 17 April people in the commune?

Chhuong: There were a lot but I forgot all. It is like I supervised people in a village, for example how many youth were there who had to come to work at my place. When they needed some youth at the hospital, they would come to ask from me to allow youth to work at the hospital. When they needed some youth at the military unit, they would come to ask me to allow youth to work in the military unit. The same with the commerce office. They would ask for them from me. If I thought it would be good to give them to the commerce office, I would consider who was best fit for the commerce office. Those who were best to go to the hospital were sent to the hospital. That's it.

Dany: So you supervised the youth. If they needed youth to work as medical staff, you would send them to work in the hospital, commerce office, military units?

Chhuong: Yes, for example, Thin was sent to the commerce office.

Dany: At that time, what were the names of the people on the commune committee?

Chhuong: Ta Krork.

Dany: Ta Krork was the commune secretary?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Who else was in the commune committee?

Chhuong: Ta Sorn.

Dany: Ta Krork and Ta Sorn.

Chhuong: And Ta Phan.

Dany: Ta Phan?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: As you supervised the youth, were you in the commune committee?

Chhuong: Yes, I was in the commune committee, but it was outside my framework. I only had the right to supervise the youth.

Dany: As you supervised and when you divided, at that time, did you know how many youth were there in Preah Nethr Preah commune?

Chhuong: I did not know the number at that time. When I was working, I knew. Now I forget. There were about 6 to 7 youth in each village. Those who I sent to were allowed to enter the mobile unit. Those who remained entered the mobile unit at cooperatives, commune mobile unit.

Neighbor: Regional mobile unit.

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: What did the commune youth do?

Chhuong: The commune you did not do anything. Whenever I was to deliver things in the commune, for example from one house to another with luggage, we all would help deliver. We did nothing else. Whenever we were asked to go somewhere, we would go. When I ran out of youth, I was asked to enter the mobile unit.

Dany: How long did you supervise the youth?

Chhuong: I supervised from July until January.

Dany: Until January 1976.

Chhuong: Yes, until January 1976. Then I was asked to build Kambor [mountain] dam.

Dany: In January 1976, you were moved out from youth group, right?

Chhuong: Yes, the region requested me to work for the region.

Dany: Which region?

Chhuong: Region 5.

Dany: Region 5 requested you?

Chhuong: I was asked to prepare to build dams and to dig up canals in the region.

Dany: What was your position when you were requested?

Chhuong: I was deputy to Ta Vall. My position was to supervise youth in the mobile unit of region 5, but I was just the deputy.

Dany: Deputy, it was called deputy?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: You were deputy to Ta Vall and supervised mobile unit in region 5?

Chhuong: Yes, mobile unit in region 5.

Dany: So Ta Vall was the chief in the region 5 mobile unit?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Ta Vall was the chief, how many deputies were there?

Chhuong: Only me.

Dany: Ta Vall?

Chhuong: If he was absent, I took over. He took care of tasks at the top while I took care of the tasks at the bottom. That was it.

Dany: Did they start preparing region mobile unit in January 1976?

Chhuong: Yes, they prepared to build Kambor dam.

Dany: Ta Val. was the chief of mobile unit and you were the deputy?

Chhuong: Yes

Dany: Only two, nobody else?

Chhuong: Yes, two

Dany: At that time, what was the name of the region secretary?

Chhuong: His name was Brother 07 aka Ta Hoeng.

Dany: Brother 07?

Chhuong: Yes

Dany: What was his full name?

Chhuong: Hoeng  
Dany: Hoeng. Was this his revolutionary name or a name given from what regime?  
Chhuong: Oh, I didn't know what his name was in the past. I never knew.  
Dany: He never had any other names?  
Chhuong: Yes, I only heard the name Hoeng. Ta Vall's previous name was Haun.  
Dany: Haun?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Haun was his original name?  
Chhuong: Yes, when he worked for the KR, he put his name as Vall.  
Dany: Name Vall. Had you ever changed your name?  
Chhuong: No, I never changed.  
Dany: So Ta Hoeng was the secretary of the region and his code name was 07?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Secretary of Region 5. When did he become the Region Secretary?  
Chhuong: Possibly since the peace time, Region Secretary.  
Dany: Oh, in 1975?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Ta Hoeng was the Region Secretary. What's about his deputy?  
Chhuong: I don't know which ones were his deputies. Some people said this while some others said that. I don't know which ones are the real ones.  
Dany: What's about Chiel?  
Chhuong: Chiel came later. Chiel was the son of Ta Moul Sambath.  
Dany: Yes, Chiel was the son of Ta Moul Sambath aka Ta Nhim?  
Chhuong: That's right, the son of Ta Nhim.  
Dany: Chiel came later?  
Chhuong: Later.  
Dany: What's about Lai Si, Lai Eng, Eng Lai?  
Chhuong: Don't know.  
Dany: You don't know?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Son of Ta Nhim, Ta Moul Sambath. What's about his other deputies, you don't remember?  
Chhuong: I don't remember. I just saw Chiel once for a while, never talked to him. I talked to Ta Hoeng for many months.  
Dany: Ta Hoeng was the Secretary of Region 5. Where was its office?  
Chhuong: The region office is at the party office today.  
Dany: The present party office in Svay (Svay Sisophon district)?  
Chhuong: Yes, that's right. At that time, it was called the political office.  
Dany: At that time where was Ta Hoeng's house?  
Chhuong: His house was near the party office.  
Dany: His house at the party office?

Chhuong: Yes, it was near the [Pra Hout]....

Dany: Wasn't his house at Preah Neth Preah at Chup?

Chhuong: No

Dany: Didn't he come to live there?

Chhuong: No, never.

Dany: He didn't live there?

Chhuong: No, he lived in Svay.

Dany: He was at Svay?

Chhuong: Yes, here there lived only Ta Moang, Ta Sam-at, district chiefs.

Dany: Ta Moang and Ta Sam-at?

Chhuong: Secretary of Preah Neth Preah district.

Dany: Secretary of Preah Neth Preah?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Where was his house?

Chhuong: His house was at the end of the village. You go to Chub [commune] and then Chroam [commune], the house of the one named Thy, who bought a tractor at the other side of the road.

Huy: Oh, the house of....[...could not hear].

Chhuong: May be that one.

Huy: The house that....

Chhuong: At the north of Wat Kok Thai [...could not hear clearly], a little bit from that house.

Huy: Saly's house?

Chhuong: Oh, Saly, Saly's house.

Dany: [So] Ta Moang and Ta Sam-at lived near each other?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What about Ta Vall. Where did he live?

Chhuong: Ta Vall was near the pond in Chub. In the past few years, Heng has worked on post at that place. It was the house of the old chief of forestry.

Dany: Near the house of the former chief of forestry.

Chhuong: Near what. It was in the house of the former chief of forestry.

Dany: It was in Chub, right?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Where were you?

Chhuong: I was on mobile. My house was at the Pouy Chass village.

Dany: Pouy Chass?

Chhuong: Yes, I lived in my house.

Dany: Old Pouy Chass [village], what's about Ta Vall, what is his birth place?

Chhuong: No, I did not know where his birthplace is. Some said in Takeo; some said other places. I dared not ask him because he was the high-ranking cadre. I don't know where his real birthplace is.

Dany: What did he look like at that time?

Chhuong: He was thin like me. Ta Vall and I, when we were walking in the mobile unit, were confused for each other.

Dany: Confused?

Chhuong: That's right, they saw only me.

Dany: Thin like you?

Chhuong: Yes, we had the same size and tall.

Dany: What's about his hair?

Chhuong: Not much different.

Dany: What's about color, similar?

Chhuong: Yes, but he had sharper face than I do. If we walked mobile at night, we were always confused. People were panic that Ta Vall was coming.

Dany: What was his wife's name?

Chhuong: His wife's name was...I forget...Kin. Her name is Kin. They had one child named Daung.

Dany: Where is she now?

Chhuong: Kin was in Mok Chhneang [village].

Dany: In the village in Mok Chhneang.

Chhuong: Yes, Kin is still alive today.

Dany: In Mok Chhneang, in Spean Sraeng's bridge?

Chhuong: That's right, in Mok Chhneang, Spean Sraeng's bridge.

Dany: If I ask people at Spean Sraeng's bridge, they will know?

Chhuong: Yes, you can find her there. You can meet Samet aka Samrech. You ask Samrech, who knows all. Samrech and I lived together since then.

Dany: When you were at Pouy Chass, were you living with your wife?

Chhuong: No, my wife was in a mobile unit at another place.

Dany: Really?

Chhuong: My wife worked as a medical staff, boiling medicine for patients.

Dany: So you didn't live together?

Chhuong: No, not together.

Dany: So you had one work location and your wife had another?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: You didn't live together like you do today?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: Why didn't you live with your wife since you also had a high position?

Chhuong: I didn't know where to keep her. I didn't have clear destination. I was asked to go here and there.

Dany: In January 1976, you were recruited to be deputy chief of a regional mobile unit. Who appointed you at that time?

Chhuong: Our colleagues, not anyone else. We were called to see the Secretary of the Region. He was preparing the work at the battle field directly. He said "it was up to Chhuong to supervise if Ta Vall is absent." If Ta Vall was there, Ta Vall was the supervisor. If not, I was.

Dany: Was it called the committee of commanding battle fields of region 5?

Chhuong: Yes, yes.

Dany: But it was a mobile unit?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: But was it generally called committee of commanding battle field?

Chhuong: Committee of the commanding battle field in the region.

Dany: Committee of the commanding battle field meant that you worked or went to war. If I remember the technical term for troops, if you were the committee of battle field, when you fought you commanded the troops?

Chhuong: No, commanding of the battle field...the intelligence units were those who prepared the groundwork before fighting. When they were already aware of the enemies' weaknesses and were able to fight, then the commanding of the fighting committee would instruct the military commanders to fight in the battles.

Dany: Did you have that position?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: But 1975 was the victory day. Where did you have a battle in 1976?

Chhuong: No, we just talked in military terms. If we talk about troops, we supervised the mobile unit like we were supervising troops. To fight in the battle field in Kambor was building dams and canals. They were called battle fields. We fought at the first battle field in Kambor dam. We would determine a win over it by completing it in a certain number of months. And we had to supervise the forces to make sure it was finished as planned. It was impossible if you could not finish it. It is the same with a military commander.

Dany: At that time, it was called the commanding committee for the battle field. When you put in a plan to build a dam, how did you prepare the plan to fight and finish it in three months? How did you do that? How did you prepare that? How did you give orders to those in small and big units?

Chhuong: Yes, I instructed orders through battalions and regiments.

Dany: How did you plan to finish it within three months?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Was the order coming from you or from Ta Vall?

Chhuong: From Ta Vall.

Dany: From Ta Vall?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: Who did Ta Vall receive the order from?

Chhuong: When talking about that, it is a lot of things. Commanders like Ta Hoeng, who was the big chief of the Region Secretary. He said that "now the destination is Kambor dam. We have to fight to finish it within three months and a half or four months. How many months can all friends determine to fight to finish it?" As each of us wanted to benefit,

like Ta Vall. He wanted interests, so he was determined to fight to finish it within three months. The plan was four months, but he made it three months in order to achieve it. As the decision was made within three months, we had to gather forces to make sure we achieved it as planned. If we could finish it as planned, it would be four months. This would show that the commanders were weak. They wanted the strong ones. Therefore, the people had to suffer extremely.

- Dany: [So] Ta Hoeng put out the orders during the meeting?
- Chhuong: Yes in the meeting.
- Dany: In the meeting, Ta Vall received orders from the commanders [to complete it] between three and four months. Ta Vall discussed this with Ta Hoeng and others for three to four months.
- Chhuong: Yes, that's right. After the discussion, we decided to make it in four months. So we decided to ask for advice directly from the commander of the battle field who directly supervised the mobile units whether we could decide like that or not.
- Dany: At that time, did you attend the meeting with Ta Vall and Ta Hoeng?
- Chhuong: Yes.
- Dany: Who else attended the meeting?
- Chhuong: Ta Srouch and I forget the others, Ta Lam and Ta Yeak in A-reak Bak-kor [village].
- Dany: Ta Lam?
- Chhuong: That's right.
- Dany: Ta Lam and Ta Srouch?
- Chhuong: And other people...I forget their names.
- Dany: What did Ta Lam do?
- Chhuong: Ta Lam was also the commander of the region mobile forces in the camp. But he was at the rice field camp.
- Dany: Camp commander?
- Chhuong: That's right, camp in A-reak Bak-kor.
- Dany: It was the rice field of the region.
- Chhuong; Yes.
- Dany: What's about Ta Srouch?
- Chhuong: Ta Srouch was also with the rice field camp. But he worked on the dams and canals to plant rice at Sala Krahom [commune].... Srouch may have passed away; he disappeared. Srouch was as young as I was, but he was called Ta [grandfather].
- Dany: But where was Ta Srouch, at Sala Krahom?
- Chhuong: Sala Krahom
- Dany: Sala Krahom?
- Chhuong: Yes, Sala Krahom, which was also the regional camp.
- Dany: But he received order from only that part?
- Chhuong: Yes.



Dany: But they divided the assignment completely. For example, Ta Vall and others received mobile forces?

Chhuong: Yes, let me explain. In the meeting, they assigned the mobile forces to build the dam for four months. The camps which worked on rice fields or built the embankment decided also to achieve it within four months, for example. Therefore, all commanders had to determine how many months it would require to achieve their goal. As they assigned four months, we said three months. Some said three months while some others said three months and a half depending on their respective commanding.

Dany: Only these people attended the meeting, Ta Hoeng, Ta Vall, you and Ta Lam?

Chhuong: Ta Srouch.

Dany: And Ta Srouch?

Chhuong: Yes, and another who I forget and cannot not recall. I remembered once for a while. He was at the camp to plant cotton.

Dany: Planting cotton?

Chhuong: Yes, planting cotton, corn and bean. The female teachers were staying at Pouy Chass office with a teacher, Sambath.

Huy: Sok Sambath?

Chhuong: That's right.

Huy: Sok Sambath, the director of central school.

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: Planting cotton. What's about region committee, only Ta Hoeng attending the meeting?

Chhuong: Yes, only Ta Hoeng.

Dany: No one else?

Chhuong: No deputies; I didn't see deputies. We had several meetings and I only saw him. He spoke beautifully. The more he spoke, the more beautiful he sounded.

Dany: Who?

Chhuong: Ta Hoeng.

Dany: Ta Hoeng?

Chhuong: He was the top intellectual. He was not ignorant.

Dany: Where did he come from?

Chhuong: He was also from Takeo.

Dany: Where did he receive his education from?

Chhuong: I don't know where he received his education from. But his talking was that of the level of educated people, not the ignorant. The ignorant speak in a different way. All students and intellectuals sent from Phnom Penh and put into the mobile units were called up to attend the meeting.

Dany: He asked them to a meeting?

Chhuong: Whenever the intellectuals came down there, he asked them to attend a meeting. He spoke very beautifully, like the educated people.

Dany: During the meeting, did he say where he received direction from or was he himself the one who prepared the plan? For example, the building the dam?

Chhuong: No, I didn't know. I didn't know about that. It came from him directly.

Dany: Didn't he say about Angkar or Central Committee or others?

Chhuong: No, it came from him directly.

Dany: From him?

Chhuong: That's right, from the region.

Dany: What about the zone level, for instance, Ta Moul Sambath, Ta Nhim. Did they ever attend the meeting?

Chhuong: No, when the zone wanted to hold a meeting, they met with region secretaries. They called upon the region secretaries to meet at their place. Low-ranking people like us didn't know.

Dany: Also not?

Chhuong: Yes, never knew.

Dany: But did he ever come down to the meeting?

Chhuong: No, never came down.

Dany: Oh, never came?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Yes, so you first started in 1976 when you received the rank as deputy commander. Which dam did they first start to build?

Chhuong: Kambor dam.

Dany: Kambor dam, from where to where for the Kambor dam?

Chhuong: From Kambor to Sreh [mountain].

Dany: From Kambor to Sreh?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: How long was it?

Chhuong: 13 kilometers

Dany: 13 kilometers?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: How long did it take to build the dam?

Chhuong: It took three months to finish.

Dany: 13 kilometers from Kambor to Sreh [mountain]. How many kilometers for the width and length?

Chhuong: The surface of the embankment was five meters, and the bottom of the dam was 10 meters.

Dany: An embankment of 5 meters and a bottom of 10 meters?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Was that the plan from Ta Hoeng? Or did Ta Vall or you initiate the idea?

Chhuong: No, he assigned it, but we prepared the technical things. I prepared with Ta Vall.

Dany: Two people with Ta Vall?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: But about the location. For example, you chose the location from Kambor to Sreh. Did Ta Hoeng assigned the plan from Kambor to Sreh or Ta Vall and you were able to choose the location?

Chhuong: Ta Hoeng was the one who assigned from Kambor to Sreh to make sure the dam was directed to Wat Sreh. The dam started from Kambor and went on to Sreh, so we tried to direct the line. At first I put the direction wrongly, so we stopped. Later, I asked the people from Kandal villages like Khuon, Borei, Oung, Chon, Vann and Chhai to stay with me. These people had big carts and water buffaloes to deliver bamboo, also Khun and others.

Dany: As you directed the line, the embankment was to be 5 meters and bottom 10 meters?

Chhuong: Yes, bottom 10 meters.

Dany: Bottom 10 meters. What about the height?

Chhuong: Yes, it was two meters in height but depended on the water level.

Dany: How many forces did you use to finish the dam within three months?

Chhuong: As I total all forces, there were at that time 6500 people.

Dany: 6500?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: 13 kilometers for three months?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What happened next after finishing the Kambor dam?

Chhuong: It was not yet finish. Let me explain. As we finished half of the Kambor dam, we were assigned to build another dam from Smach, Char and Kok Toem. It was 18 kilometers. Therefore, Ta Vall took me out from here to build dam over there. He asked me to prepare there, and he stayed here.

Dany: Where is Char Kok Toem?

Chhuong: Kok Romchek, Kok Romchek dam.

Dany: Kok Romchek, Kok Romchek dam?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: How was Kok Romchek dam?

Chhuong: At Kok Romchek, its width was 18 kilometers, but there were only 4000 forces. There were about 4500 and three machines. He asked me to be determined to finish it within three months as well.

Dany: How was it? Did you set this goal?

Chhuong: No, I dared not set it. I dared not try because the forces were small. If there were many forces, I would have dared. So it was finished later, not sooner.

Dany: It was finished later than the three months?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: 18 kilometers?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Embankment 5 meters, bottom 10 meters and height 2 meters?

Chhuong: Yes, the same.

Dany: From Kok Romchek to where?

Chhuong: From Kok Romchek.

Dany: To where?

Chhuong: No, as mentioned earlier, at Char, Kok Toem.

Dany: Yes, from Char, Koktoem.

Chhuong: Char, Koktoem to Tien Kam.

Dany: To Tien Kam?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Only in Kok Romchek commune?

Chhuong: Kok Romchek in Phnom Srok district.

Dany: How long did it take to build the dam, from what month to what month?

Chhuong: More than four months.

Dany: More than four months?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: From what year?

Chhuong: The dams were built at the same year with Kambor dam. It was one month and a half difference.

Dany: One month and a half?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: So when was it finished?

Chhuong: I didn't know the finishing date.

Dany: You do not know?

Chhuong: Yes, because I had not finished it yet, [tractor] was assigned to finish up the building. They assigned [tractor] to finish it up and withdrew all my forces including forces from Kambor dam to help plant cotton at Kang Va Mountain.

Dany: At Kang Va Mountain?

Chhuong: Yes, some were assigned to work at the cotton farms.

Dany: When did they withdraw the forces to work on the cotton farm? What month and year?

Chhuong: If not September, it was October.

Dany: September, October, what about year?

Chhuong: In 1976.

Dany: In 1976, they withdrew all forces from both Kambor and Kok Romchek?

Chhuong: Yes

Dany: At Kok Romchek, they planted cotton?

Chhuong: At Kang Va Mountain.  
Dany: Where is Kang Va Mountain?  
Chhuong: Kang Va Mountain is in the North of Svay.  
Dany: Yes?  
Chhuong: North of Svay.  
Dany: North of Svay?  
Chhuong: Yes, North of Svay.  
Dany: Were there a lot of people that they withdrew for forces, how many did you say?  
Chhuong: A lot.  
Dany: Tens of thousands of people?  
Chhuong: More than tens of thousands of people. There were a number of hectares of land.  
Dany: How long did you plant there?  
Chhuong: We finished the planting in about one month.  
Dany: Yes, finished in about one month?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: After that, what next?  
Chhuong: After that, they turned the forces back to the battle fields in Kok Romchek. However, they withdrew only old forces. The middle-age people were asked to close Smach creek.  
Dany: How did they close Smach creek?  
Chhuong: Close the gate of the creek. The dam was built over the creek.  
Dany: Did they build another dam over the creek?  
Chhuong: Yes, across the Smach creek because the dam that we were building was directed toward the creek. First we built only at the place where there was no creek. Where there was a creek, we kept it for a while. After finishing the place where there was no creek the time to plant cotton arrived. Returning back from the cotton plantation, the forces were asked to close the creeks.  
Dany: After closing the gates of the creek, what happened next?  
Chhuong: Yes, later I was asked to work on Trapeang Thma dam.  
Dany: When did you start preparing Trapeang Thma dam?  
Chhuong: I went there in January when rice started to give crops.  
Huy: Rice starts to give crops in around November or December.  
Chhuong: Yes, rice giving crops in December. In December, the rice had not yet come...it was around October, November.  
Dany: November, December 1976?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: In 1976, what was next?  
Chhuong: I prepared a plan for building Kambor dam. For the Trapeang Thma dam, I was the commander of the battle field to prepare the groundwork.

Dany: Prepare the groundwork?

Chhuong: I prepared the groundwork. There were six people. I brought along with me the deceased Thuy and Soeum.

Dany: Yes, I would like to know from the beginning. Before you started the journey there, did you convene a meeting?

Chhuong: I was called to attend a meeting.

Dany: Who attended the meeting at that time before preparing Trapeang Thma dam?

Chhuong: Those who attended the meeting included Ta Hoeng as Chief of the Region Committee, Ta Vall and me.

Dany: Ta Vall and you?

Chhuong: Yes, three people.

Dany: At that time, what was your plan because before the meeting you did not know anything?

Chhuong: I didn't know. Three people were called upon for a meeting. However, some forces were not yet withdrawn from Kang Va. As we were called upon for a meeting I found out it was because the [upper] Angkar asked us to prepare the plan. At first, there was no plan to build a basin. We were asked to make a road to go to Thailand. We were asked to prepare an electricity system to allow water to run from here to Thailand across Sre Noy.

Dany: Sre Noy in Varin district in Siem Reap?

Chhuong: No, our Sre Noy over there.

Huy: Sre Noy at Banteay Chhmar [district].

Dany: Yes, I confuse it with the other Sre Noy.

Chhuong: Oh, Daun Noy, I confuse Sre Noy.

Dany: Daun Noy?

Chhuong: Yes. As I arrived, I worked there for two months. I worked to make the line straight for two months. I made all the right directions and reported back. And then they changed the plan. They said not to work on the road yet but to work on the dam, Trapeang Thma dam. Forces were sent there to build the dam. They had worked for three days at Kaun Khleng Mountain.

Dany: What about the first meeting with Ta Hoeng, Ta Vall and you? When did you meet, during what month and year?

Chhuong: The meeting was held in around October, early rainy season in October.

Dany: The meeting in October 1976. First, in the meeting with Ta Hoeng, [upper] Angkar asked you to build road?

Chhuong: Yes to build the road.

Dany: A road to Thailand?

Chhuong: To Thailand.

Dany: To build road from where to where?

Chhuong: The road was to be built from Samroang, Kam Nam, Nam Tav.

Dany: Samroang, Nam Tav at Trapeang Thma?

Chhuong: Yes, up to Daun Noy. When we reached Daun Noy, forces in Siem Reap would continue to Angkor Wat. They asked us to do this, continuing from one group to another.

Dany: Did he tell about [upper] Angkar who instructed these orders to build a road? Who was [upper] Angkar?

Chhuong: [Upper] Angkar was called...brother party's central committee.

Dany: Central committee means those from Phnom Penh?

Chhuong: Yes, Central Committee, Pol Pot, Central Committee.

Dany: He said brother central committee asked us to build the road?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: Asked us to build a road from Trapeang Tav?

Chhuong: Yes, from Nam Tav.

Dany: From Nam Tav to Daun Noy?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Where is Daun Noy?

Chhuong: Daun Noy is near the Thai border on the West border in Svay Chek district.

Dany: Yes, up to Svay Chek district. And from the Siem Reap side, they built from Daun Noy to Angkor Wat?

Chhuong: No, Siem Reap built from Nam Tav to Angkor Wat, a different region.

Dany: You built from Nam Tav to Daun Noy. And Siem Reap side built from Nam Tav to Angkor Wat.

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: This means that the road from Daun Noy is close to Thai border?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: This means that the construction was to have road from Thailand to Nam Tav and leading up to Angkor Wat?

Chhuong: Yes, crossing Daun Noy, you will reach Thailand.

Dany: In the meeting, did they have plan on how the width the road should be and so on?

Chhuong: At that time, I did not hear clearly enough. I just heard that they planned to build a railway.

Dany: They said they would be building a railway?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: Building a railway?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: Building a railway from Nam Tav?

Chhuong: Yes, that's right, building a railway.

Dany: Building a railway. Ta Hoeng told that the central committee...?

Chhuong: Central Committee.

Dany: The Central Committee instructed to do this?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: There was Pol Pot?  
Chhuong: Pol Pot was the central committee.  
Dany: Did you hear about Nuon Chea?  
Chhuong: No, I did not hear that.  
Dany: But he said central committee but did not mention the names?  
Chhuong: Right, there was no mention of names but I knew that the central committee must be Pol Pot. It was the biggest in the whole of Cambodia. But I didn't know who exactly. This is what I say.  
Dany: When they asked you to build the road, how did they want you to do it? As they asked you to build railway, did you need technical skills?  
Chhuong: They asked us to straighten the line; they asked us to make a road. They would work with steel things later; we didn't know about that.  
Dany: Doing so?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: How did they want you to straighten the line?  
Chhuong: To make sure the line was straight.  
Dany: Straighten the line?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Straighten the line from Nam Tav to Daun Noy?  
Chhuong: Oh, there were a lot; I forget how many kilometers. I straightened the line until [and] I slept in the forest for about half month.  
Dany: You straightened the line alone?  
Chhuong: Six people.  
Dany: 6 people. Who were the people to straighten the line?  
Chhuong: Ta Soeun, Oang, Soeum and Thuy.  
Dany: Those were the ones who straightened the line?  
Chhuong: That's right. My work was with our colleagues, our country.  
Dany: In the meeting, there were only three people, nobody else?  
Chhuong: Yes, only three people.  
Dany: How did they convene the meeting? Was it just to put in a plan to build a road and for how long? Something like that?  
Chhuong: No, they had not yet put in a plan or the duration. They just asked us to straighten the road... I straightened the road from Daun Chreng village toward Boeng Khleang. I asked Daun Chreng people to clear the forest for me up to the middle of the field. After Daun Chreng's people returned back, we asked people in Boeng Khleang to continue to clear the forest. I went there only to straighten the road and order the people to clear the forest. I did not do myself. When the night came, we slept right away at that place.  
Dany: At that time, what tools did you use to straighten the road?  
Chhuong: A compass.  
Dany: Compass?  
Chhuong: Yes.



Dany: I am a bit doubtful. How did you put the compass if you didn't know the technical skill?

Chhuong: The compass goes around to the North. We knew that it pointed to the North. Then we straightened West and East. As we saw it pointed to the North, we straightened West and East.

Dany: That's is the compass?

Chhuong: Yes, but that compass was like this. It had only one pointer.

Dany: It is West, East, North and South?

Chhuong: Yes, we made sure the pointer was straight to the North so we could straighten to the West and East.

Dany: How many kilometers did you use compass to straighten again?

Chhuong: We would look at the compass every one or half kilometer. If the pointer went to any trees, we would cut down those trees. If the pointers pointed to a big tree, too big to cut it down, we would retrace backward and straighten the line in order for it to curve along the tree, making sure the lines ran toward each other. One time, as we cut down the trees, we straightened the road and it pointed to a storehouse. We asked them to move the storehouse out.

Dany: Rice storehouse?

Chhuong: Rice storehouse in Thmei village, West of Trea [village].

Dany: How long did you work on straightening the road before the plan was changed?

Chhuong: I went there for about half a month. It was more than one month going back and forth. They he ordered forces to build the road for three days at a time. Then the plan was changed to build up the dam. So they withdrew all the forces.

Dany: This means that you gathered all the forces to deliver soil in order to build road from Daun Noy and you had worked for three days already?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: So you already cleared up the forest on the way to build road?

Chhuong: Already clear up the forest.

Dany: Already clear up the forest and straightened the way?

Chhuong: Yes, already straightened the way and gathered all forces to do it.

Dany: You had done this for three days already?

Chhuong: Yes, as we had done for three days. Then they said, "Oh, you need to withdraw forces to build the dam." So the soil that we elevated is still there today, North of Ta Bab pond, Kaun Khleung Mountain.

Dany: So you had another meeting?

Chhuong: There was no meeting; they decided to do it because the Siem Reap side had already elevated from their side on the same line. The Siem Reap side started to elevate the dam [road] from Sen Sok from Angkor straight to the old road, the ancient road, which was straight to Trapeang Thma dam. So they asked to build dam.

Dany: Did you have another meeting when they decided to change the plan from building the road to building the dam?

Chhuong: No, the high-ranking cadres already had a meeting.

Dany: Who? Which high-ranking cadres?

Chhuong: Ta Vall's group and others who did not go with me. I was in the forest, so I didn't know. When I arrived, I was ordered that, "Now, you Chhuong, gather your forces to build the dam. Now you have to prepare forces to build dam." So I prepared the forces.

Dany: So Ta Vall and Ta Hoeng had another meeting?

Chhuong: Yes, I didn't know how many times they had had meetings.

Dany: But was the plan changed to build dam from Central Committee or just from Ta Hoeng?

Chhuong: Hmm...the upper one changed the plan.

Dany: Who were the upper ones?

Chhuong: The Central Committee changed the plan.

Dany: Are you sure about that? May be Ta Hoeng was not the one who changed the plan on his own?

Chhuong: No, not Ta Hoeng. The Party's Central Committee ordered Ta Hoeng.

Dany: Ta Hoeng was the one who instructed the building of the road. He ordered this on his own. So Central Committee...?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Did you hear directly?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Ta Vall or Ta Hoeng, who told you to withdraw forces to build Trapeang Thma dam?

Chhuong: Ta Vall.

Dany: Ta Vall?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What did Ta Vall said at that time?

Chhuong: Asking us to withdraw forces to build Trapeang Thma dam.

Dany: Withdraw forces to build Trapeang Thma dam?

Chhuong: Yes, so I withdrew forces back.

Dany: Did you ask for reasons why the plan was changed from building the road to building the dam?

Chhuong: Broth Hoeng. I dared not ask.

Dany: Dare not ask?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: At that time, he just told you to withdraw forces back?

Chhuong: Yes

Dany: What day and month did you start building Trapeang Thma dam?

Chhuong: Oh, I could not find out the day.

Dany: What's about month?

Chhuong: After harvesting because we were at bank of the dam.

Dany: The banks left?

Chhuong: Yes, it was around February.

Dany: January or February 1977.

Chhuong: But they also recorded there.

Huy: Where?

Chhuong: In the dam, they recorded the date.

Dany: So they started building the dam on the 1st of February?

Chhuong: It was determined on the 1st of February.

Dany: Was the plan to build dam from Central Party?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What was the purpose of building the dam?

Chhuong: According to the instruction to the bottom, the building of this dam was to reserve water to produce dry-season rice.

Dany: Dry-season rice?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: At that time, did they say that they built the water basin in order to produce dry-season rice and what size in what communes and districts?

Chhuong: That dry-season rice fields for Phnom Srok district, Preah Neth Preah district up to Preah Netr Preah, Kambor and others. This was the plan because they had dug up to make a bridge, bridge number 1; they produced canals up to Prey Moan [area].

Dany: From what location did they dug up the canal?

Chhuong: Yes, from bridge number 1.

Dany: From bridge number 1 up to Prey Moan?

Chhuong: Yes, to Prey Moan in the present day, the present straight water way on the way to Phnom Srok.

Dany: So the purposes of building the water basin were to reserve the water to produce dry-season rice for Phnom Srok and Preah Neth Preah district?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Only two districts?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Thmor Puok and Svay Chek district did not get water from there?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: Only two?

Chhuong: Yes, only two districts.

Dany: Was the water able to cover the whole Phnom Srok district or only some parts?

Chhuong: It covered the whole lower part.

Dany: The whole part. What's about Preah Neth Preah district?

Chhuong: Preah Neth Preah got the whole upper part.

Dany: The whole upper part, from where?

Chhuong: Upper part from Rohal, the whole Rohal commune, except Preah Neth Preah commune.

Dany: When you started building that dam, you built from where to where?

Chhuong: From bridge 1st to bridge 3rd.

Dany: Bridge 1st to bridge 3rd?

Chhuong: Yes, there were old bridges from the past, the traditional bridges. There was an ancient water way which was also the old way from Angkor Wat to Spean Sraeng's bridge, Khmeng's bridge and until Trapeang Thma's bridge.

Dany: What was that place called?

Chhuong: In the past?

Dany: Yes.

Chhuong: It was called the ancient [Angkorian] road, first bridge, second bridge, third bridge.

Dany: Across what villages?

Chhuong: Across Trapeang Thma village.

Dany: Across Trapeang Thma village?

Chhuong: Across only one village.

Dany: What about the plan to build the basin? How many meters for the dam's embankment, bottom, height and width?

Chhuong: At first, there was the old road, the ancient road from Siem Reap. There was laterite everywhere. Later, we straightened that one and made a new one.

Dany: Yes, prepare a new one?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: How did you prepare? What was the height?

Chhuong: Yes, as for the preparation, the dam would have a three-meter height. That was the set direction, and the bottom was 25 meters.

Dany: The bottom was 25 meters. What was about the height?

Chhuong: The embankment was 10 meters.

Dany: What about the width?

Chhuong: I didn't know how many kilometers the width was. I forget. It was about 8 kilometers. If not 8 kilometers, it at least stretched to the third bridge. It was not done continuing from the third bridge.

Dany: You are not clear. It was about 8 kilometers?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: At that time, you put in a plan to finish it in what duration and with how many forces?

Chhuong: Oh, there were a lot of forces at that time. The forces came from two districts: Phnom Srok and Preah Neth Preah.

Dany: How many approximately at that time?

Chhuong: I knew only my forces. As far as I knew, there were more than 9,000 forces. These forces were incorporated from Phnom Srok district and other cooperatives. I didn't know how many from that side.

Dany: That was the district's cooperatives?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Cooperatives of Preah Neth Preah and Phnom Srok?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: You don't know how many?

Chhuong: No, I didn't understand clearly.

Dany: You supervised 9,000 forces?

Chhuong: Yes, more than 9,000 forces, but not all of them built the dam. These included those in the land areas, those who cooked rice and others.

Dany: How long did it take to finish the construction?

Chhuong: At that time, I was no longer there. I stayed there for about three months in which the dam was dug up to the height of the people. Then I was taken out and made responsible as chief of fishing in Region 5.

Dany: So you stayed there for three months?

Chhuong: Yes, as people were mobilized to build dam and did not have fish to eat, I was asked to find fish. I took the mobile forces to find fish.

Dany: As some people said, the depth of the dam was not just three meters. They said the dam was as deep as people raised their heads and until a hat would have fallen down from their head? It was not just three meters?

Chhuong: No, I didn't know how deep it was when it was finished. The plan said three meters.

Huy: Let's wait and ask the chief of Pouy Char commune. It had 15 kilometers in length and 11 kilometers in width. Maybe the width was from North to South.

Chhuong: Yes, that was the width. The length was smaller. The dam was dug from Pauy Pongror to the North.

Huy: Yes, from Trapeang Thma... from the first bridge to the North.

Chhuong: Yes, from there up to. We had to protect the water and not allow it to flow into the village.

Dany: So at that time, you stayed there for only three months?

Chhuong: Yes, staying there for three months, I was taken out to work on fishing.

Dany: As you remember, from January or February 1977 until when was the dam was completely finished? Possibly, in what year?

Chhuong: No, it was not completely finished, the Vietnamese came in. It was not yet completely finished.

Huy: It was not yet completely finished because the Vietnamese came in when the dam construction was not yet finished.

Chhuong: When the Vietnamese came in, we were divided.

Dany: Not yet completed?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: So the forces were about 9,000 with forces from Phnom Srok and Preah Neth Preah, so the total forces may be tens of thousands in building this dam?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: At that time, as you built the dam, what was your plan?

Chhuong: For the construction of the dam, the lower cadres developed the plan. I didn't know. But the direction was from Ta Val and from me who were called the chiefs of the division and battalions and regiments. The direction was that one person had to dig to finish three cubic meters. If you finished during the day time, you could rest in the day time. If you could not finish, you worked until you finished.

Dany: Was that something you decided or what? Or was it from Ta Vall? Were you the one who decided that one person had to dig up soil for three cubic meters? Or was it from Ta Hoeng or the central party?

Chhuong: From the upper, from the region committee.

Dany: From the region committee?

Chhuong: Yes because the region committee said that the plan was a hot measure to make sure each person finished three cubic meters.

Dany: So the three cubic meters plan came from the region committee?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: From Ta Hoeng?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: It was not you and Ta Val who decided that each person had to finish three cubic meters?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: Do you remember what Ta Hoeng said?

Chhuong: He said, "Now we have to finish the plan as soon as possible in order not to allow the A forces, which means we have to dig to finish three cubic meters."

Dany: Three cubic meters?

Chhuong: If those forces could finish at 10, you could sleep the whole evening. You could rest and not to be too tired. If we did it without a plan and carried soil the way it was, we would deliver the whole evening, so it would be too tiring, and the process was also slow. Moreover, for three cubic meters, people ate three times per day; there was no shortage of food.

Dany: He said like it that?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Did people eat three times?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What times did they eat?

Chhuong: One time in the morning.

Dany: What time was the breakfast?  
Chhuong: In the morning before we went to work, we ate one.  
Dany: Three times?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: What's about in the afternoon?  
Chhuong: After eating breakfast, we started going to work. After working, we ate again in the afternoon, and another one in the evening, three times.  
Dany: How was the eating? Was it sufficient or was it a ration?  
Chhuong: No, there was no food ration.  
Dany: There was no food ration?  
Chhuong: No, each person received three cans of rice each.  
Dany: For each person?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Where did this plan come from?  
Chhuong: From me and Ta Vall and also the economic [commerce] unit.  
Dany: Who was in charge of the economic unit at that time?  
Chhuong: Ta Yoeuk.  
Dany: Ta Yoeuk was in charge of the economic unit?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Ta Yoeuk, you and Ta Vall?  
Chhuong: Ta Yoeuk.  
Dany: Ta Yoeuk was in charge of the economics?  
Chhuong: Yes, economics and this was for each person.  
Dany: So the economics determined that each person received three cans of rice?  
Chhuong: Yes, three cans was not a shortage. If you didn't give them enough of a ration, the economics people would be punished because you hid the others' property and brought difficulty to the plan.  
Dany: Wasn't the plan of three cans of rice per person only from Ta Vall, you and Ta Yoeuk? Was it also from Ta Hoeng?  
Chhuong: From that, from Ta Hoeng, and we followed his instruction.  
Dany: As I met some people, they said that they were given only rice porridge. Sometimes they were given hard rice. They were given a bowl of rice and one chicken wing. Each person received one bowl of rice. This was the ration.  
Chhuong: No, that was the cooperative.  
Dany: The cooperative side?  
Chhuong: Yes, the mobile forces never lacked food.  
Dany: Your mobile forces never lacked food?  
Chhuong: Yes, never, please ask all the people in the mobile forces. They had enough food since the construction of Kambor dam. As long as the mobile forces were under direct supervision of the region, they would have enough food.

Dany: So there were three times per day?

Chhuong: Yes, each person received food three times per day.

Dany: Each person received three cans of rice?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: So the eating was different between regional mobile forces and cooperatives?

Chhuong: Yes, it was different because cooperatives received rice from their respective cooperative offices while the regional mobile forces received rice directly from the regional office. We received rice from the region and districts who also received rice from the region. The rice was taken to the district offices which would distribute it down to the cooperatives. We were the regional mobile forces, so we received rice directly from the region, we did not get from anywhere else.

Dany: The rice was not given to somewhere else before you could get it?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: When building the dam, each person dug up soil for three cubic meters from whatever time to whatever time, making sure the assignment was complete?

Chhuong: Yes, as long as the assignment was finished. Some people woke up and did it at night, and they finished at 9 and returned back to sleep lazily. They played in the water and caught fish.

Dany: In the regional mobile forces, were they all 17 April people or including old people?

Chhuong: There were old people which were called base people. Those who stayed there were 17 April people. But when they sent the new ones, the 17 April people became old people. Those who came from Phnom Penh were called the 17 April people including intellectuals and others.

Dany: Did they join the regional mobile forces?

Chhuong: Yes, they were delivered out from Phnom Penh by trains and all given to the regional mobile forces. They were not allowed to stay in the cooperatives.

Dany: In that, some people had compositions, for example, they were students or part of Lon Nol's former government officials. Did you divide them and put them categories? Where did you give these people to?

Chhuong: No, for this, we had investigations. These people had a lot of clusters. For example, some of those who stay directly with me were CIA teachers or military teachers. There were also intellectuals and film stars. I knew Kong Bunchhoeun, who stayed with me. I knew him.

Dany: Kong Bunthoeun, the author?

Chhuong: That's right. I saw a similar face to his. When I asked him, he said he was the younger brother of Kong Sam Oeun [Cambodia movis star from the 1960s, 1970s]. His name was Kong Bunchoeun. I told him that



he must keep that a secret so that he could survive. I just told him directly like that.

Dany: But he had a plan from the region or from the central party. Did he tell you about the division of those who had compositions such as?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Those who had compositions such as Lon Nol's soldiers, government's officials, students, intellectuals. Did he ask you to divide or put these people in a specific place or do something else on them? Were you instructed about that?

Chhuong: No, the forces had already been divided.

Dany: Already divided?

Chhuong: They were already divided. They already divided the forces. For example, students and the intellectuals were given to the regional mobile forces. The forces that were not soldiers were given to the cooperatives. It was already divided.

Dany: It was divided in advance?

Chhuong: Now we knew; we were responsible for the regional mobile forces. We knew that those who came down from the train were all students, intellectuals, teachers, soldiers and others. We knew all this and there was no need to spy on them.

Dany: It was not difficult to spy on them?

Chhuong: Yes, but spies had to go on within the groups and units to find out who instigating the division of forces. If there were no subversive forces, we would love them like brothers and sisters. But some people instigated this or that, events which caused danger to themselves. If they didn't do it, they would not face any danger.

Dany: What happened to those who instigated the events? How did you take measure as you were a leader?

Chhuong: For those who instigated the events, first, I called them to receive advice. If they did again for the second time, we stopped giving them advice. We provided advice only two times. For the third time, we stopped. We would give these people to others to advise. I didn't know where they took these people. As I stayed there, there was never anyone who made mistakes three times, only one time. After explanation, they changed because they wanted to survive. However, there was danger in my place, but not in Trapeang Thma basis. When we were building Kok Romchek dam, there was a danger because of wrong wording. One person talked about the US bombing in Siem Reap province [1976]. As people heard, he was arrested.

Dany: Where was he taken to?

Chhuong: He was taken to Svay, but I didn't know where he was taken to. There were a lot of students staying with me. I gave a lot of pardons to them. I knew these people would be taken to do this or that, but I didn't allow

anyone to take the forces who stayed with me. Even they got into the truck, I pulled them down from the truck. I didn't allow them to go because....

- Dany: So those who made mistakes would be sent to Svay not to...?
- Chhuong: Yes, to Svay.
- Dany: Was the security center in Svay?
- Chhuong: Yes.
- Dany: There wasn't a security center at Trepeang Thma or something more local?
- Chhuong: No because we were mobile and had no specific place. But those who supervised the mobile forces such as me and Ta Vall protected our forces to avoid danger. Some mobile forces stole potatoes from the cooperatives and the cooperative chiefs reported to me to arrest them. But I didn't. I guaranteed all; I didn't allow anyone to look down on the mobile forces because my mobile forces had enough food to eat; there was no shortage.
- Dany: I would like to turn back to Trapeang Thma dam a little bit. When you built the Trapeang Thma dam, you did it yourself, for example the design of the basin. Did you design it on your own or were there any engineers or technical experts coming to help?
- Chhuong: No, we worked among ourselves through orders. For example, I said this group of regiment worked at this place at the first bridge. Now you worked on the width of 25 meters. For the width of 25 meters, we should give up some cliff for about 20 meters before we started digging. We did not dig near the embankment to avoid a land slide into the hole. We asked people to deliver soil step by step like make the road.
- Dany: What about the bridge?
- Chhuong: For the bridges, they took engineers to work on it. It was not a group who did it.
- Dany: Where did those engineers come from?
- Chhuong: From Phnom Penh.
- Dany: How many bridges did the engineer build?
- Chhuong: They built the first bridge.
- Dany: First bridge?
- Chhuong: Yes.
- Dany: Only one bridge?
- Chhuong: This bridge was the biggest one.
- Dany: Were there any other bridges?
- Chhuong: And other small bridges such as bridge at Prey Moan, where the cars are running today. That bridge was also built by the engineers.
- Dany: So the bridge at Trapeang Thma dam was constructed by the engineers?

Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Didn't you know where those engineers came from?  
Chhuong: They walked through the cooperatives.  
Dany: No, when you were at Trapeang Thma dam?  
Chhuong: That's right. They came from the cooperatives.  
Dany: The engineers were chosen from among the 17 April people from Phnom Penh?  
Chhuong: Yes, right.  
Dany: To do what?  
Chhuong: Yes, they were chosen from the Phnom Penh people. As they arrived, we asked about their biographies. They were engineers of this and that. Therefore, we took all the engineers to do this work. We only had one chief to supervise them.  
Dany: Who was the supervisor?  
Chhuong: Ta Moang.  
Dany: Ta Moang?  
Chhuong: Yes, Ta Moang was the chief of engineers. All engineers from anywhere had to be under his supervision.  
Dany: Where was Ta Moang working as a chief?  
Chhuong: Hmm....  
Dany: Where did he come from?  
Chhuong: He was the chief of constructing workers in region 5. He was called chief Moang.  
Dany: Was he under your supervision?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Under the supervision of Ta Vall?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: What's about the Chinese? Didn't they give technical support?  
Chhuong: No, I never saw Chinese faces.  
Dany: Never had any Chinese faces?  
Chhuong: No.  
Dany: Hadn't you ever seen the Chinese visitors?  
Chhuong: No, since I worked there, I saw Samdech [The King] only once.  
Dany: Samdech came?  
Chhuong: Yes, Samdech came with Khieu Samphan.  
Dany: Khieu Samphan and Samdech came to visit Trapeang Thma dam?  
Chhuong: No, he came to visit the Kok Romchek dam that I built.  
Dany: Kok Romchek dam?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: What's about Trapeang Thma dam?  
Chhuong: He never visited Trapeang Thma dam.  
Dany: Never came?  
Chhuong: Yes [no].

Dany: At that time, who did Samdech come with?  
Chhuong: Samdech came with his wife and Samdech Pen Nuth.  
Dany: Princess and Samdech?  
Chhuong: That's right, Samdech Pen Nuth.  
Dany: There were three people. Later, Khieu Samphan came on his own?  
Chhuong: Yes, later Khieu Samphan came with two or three people. I knew clearly Khieu Samphan.  
Dany: What year did Samdech come to visit Kok Romchek dam?  
Chhuong: Samdech came in 1976.  
Dany: In 1976 and what month?  
Chhuong: It was the month that people started plowing the field. There was no rice crop yet. It was between April and May.  
Dany: April or May?  
Chhuong: That's right.  
Dany: At that time, Trapeang Thma dam was not yet constructed?  
Chhuong: Oh, not yet, we had built only Kok Romchek and Kambor dams.  
Dany: When Samdech came to visit, did he talk to the people or you? Did you say anything to Samdech?  
Chhuong: No, when Samdech visited, the plan was so suspicious. I will talk through what I saw. I didn't know whether it is right or wrong. When Samdech visited there, they sent the people who were skinny, sick or swollen away from the national road. They sent all people out, not allowing anyone to stay there, not to allow Samdech to see them. He was allowed to see only the women in the camps and units, those who had shoes and black clothes, namely those who were beautiful. They asked people from the Ministries and Munty [offices] to do plowing which was ready ahead of Samdech's visit. When Samdech arrived, we just delivered soil to build the dam and canals to show to him. We prepared a place for Samdech to stay. We prepared the red cloths and flowers. When Samdech arrived, I was at one corner of the hall. When Samdech arrived and saw, Samdech did not come into the hall. Samdech walked down to a school near Prey Moan.  
Dany: He walked to the school instead?  
Chhuong: He went to the school to sit and relax. He was thankful that the children were happy and healthy. They had good clothes. It was really good what Samdech saw. They were all good. But they did not allow Samdech to see the skinny ones because the cooperative chiefs sent them all out. They did not allow him to see this.  
Dany: At that time, those who were swollen were living in the cooperatives?  
Chhuong: In the cooperatives.  
Dany: They were not the mobile forces in the villages?

Chhuong: No, they were not mobile forces. All the mobile forces were healthy. The mobile forces who were good looking and strong were asked to put on black clothes and stand in rows, so straight.

Dany: Where did the order come from that the swollen and skinny had to be taken away?

Chhuong: I didn't know where the order came from. I didn't know. It could be the commune and district offices, cooperatives in the districts.

Dany: Was it also from Ta Hoeng?

Chhuong: I don't know.

Dany: You don't know?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: But you knew that the swollen were sent out?

Chhuong: Yes, because the upper ordered me to prepare the mobile forces to receive [welcome] Samdech.

Dany: At that time, did you talk to Samdech?

Chhuong: No, even the secretary of the regions and districts could not get close to the King.

Dany: Who took Samdech there?

Chhuong: I saw three cars. I didn't know where they came from. I didn't know.

Dany: Did Ta Hoeng come along as well?

Chhuong: Ta Hoeng also came, but he also could not get close to the King.

Dany: What's about Ta Nhim, Moul Sambath?

Chhuong: Yes, Moul Sambath also came.

Dany: He also came?

Chhuong: Yes, Moul Sambath carried Samdech Pen Nuth out of the car because Samdech Pen Nuth was very old.

Dany: Very old?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What's about Khieu Samphan? What year did he come?

Chhuong: Khieu Samphan came in the year that Samdech came. He came about two months later. I didn't know who he was because I was building Kok Romchek dam. As I was walking, I saw a car. He stood with his hands on his waist looking West and East. And I walked close to him. As I walked closer, I stood and looked at him. He stood and looked at me. I didn't say anything. Then the car left to Phnom Srok. When Ta Vall arrived back, he said, "Chhuong! Didn't you see Khieu Samphan, who just arrived here a moment ago? Oh, I saw the car stopped here, but I didn't know who he was." He said, "Kheiu Samphan goes to Phnom Srok."

Dany: He had only one car?

Chhuong: Only one car.

Dany: Didn't he ask anything?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: Did you prepare anything to receive him?

Chhuong: No, no one knew he was coming.

Dany: You didn't know. Didn't you prepare people to receive him?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: Did he see the people clearly, including the skinny?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: No one waited to receive him?

Chhuong: No, there was no one to receive him.

Dany: What kind of car did he drive at that time?

Chhuong: It was like a Landcruiser car. I am not sure.

Neighbor: Military car?

Chhuong: No, a very beautiful car. It was like the [NGO] car, this tall.

Dany: What color was it?

Chhuong: White.

Dany: White?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: How many people came with him?

Chhuong: I saw only him coming out of the car. There were two people in the car.

Dany: Two people in the car?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What time did he come when you looked at him and he looked at you?

Chhuong: He arrived at around 10:30 or 11.

Dany: 10:30 or 11 during the day time?

Chhuong: That's right, day time.

Dany: And he went on to Phnom Srok?

Chhuong: Phnom Srok.

Dany: Which way did he go?

Chhuong: Prey Moan.

Dany: Prey Moan?

Chhuong: Yes, Prey Moan, Phnom Srok

Dany: Did he stand on the road?

Chhuong: Yes, the newly built road at Kok Romchek. He stood there.

Dany: Is it the national road to Kralanh [district] or not the national road?

Chhuong: No, the road to Phnom Srok. He went on the red road to Kok Romchek. As we were building the Kok Romchek dam, he stood on the dam's embankment and watched.

Dany: Did he stand there for long?

Chhuong: Relatively long. I walked toward him because I saw him standing there for so long. I thought he was Ta Vall or Ta Hoeng. I thought that the high-ranking cadre had arrived and I had to receive them. As I approached him, I didn't know him.

Dany: At that time, didn't Ta Hoeng go with him?

Chhuong: No, they didn't accompany him.

Dany: When you were building the dam, the Chinese did not come?

Chhuong: No, I never saw anyone come.  
Dany: During the dam construction, were there any meetings with the mobile forces, meetings that you led?  
Chhuong: When there was plan, I would hold a meeting to inform them.  
Dany: A meeting to inform them?  
Chhuong: Yes, I informed them that we had to prepare to build a dam. I asked the chiefs of each regiments or battalions to gather forces. They had to gather all those who asked permission to go home. I told them the date.  
Dany: So you held meetings with chiefs of regiments or divisions?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: What about with the whole mobile forces, with all 9,000 forces?  
Chhuong: The meeting with all forces was called the opening ceremony.  
Dany: Congress?  
Chhuong: Open the battle field.  
Dany: Open the battle field?  
Chhuong: Yes, open the battle field. They would all attend the meeting. But Ta Vall was the one who spoke, giving the remarks.  
Dany: Ta Vall?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: At that time, those who attended included Ta Vall?  
Chhuong: Only Ta Vall.  
Dany: What's about Ta Hoeng? Didn't he come?  
Chhuong: No.  
Dany: How did you give remarks to inform them...?  
Chhuong: Ta Vall always talked about the results. He said that, "We are all students and intellectuals. You should not demand for certificates or the opening of schools. This will bring danger to you. If you want to see certificate, please comrades produce Trapeang Thma dam with me. This is your [diploma] certificate." He said it like that.  
Dany: He said it like that?  
Chhuong: Yes, when I listened to him and considered it, what he said was right. Those who demanded for the reopening of schools were taken by trucks and disappeared.  
Dany: Were there people who demanded like that?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: After demanding, they were taken away by trucks?  
Chhuong: That's right. Anyone who demanded to open the schools, we were required to report, and then they were taken away. Some...  
Dany: Who did you report to?  
Chhuong: To the region secretary.  
Dany: To the region secretary?

Chhuong: That's right. When the region secretary saw the report, they would ask those people to attend the congress meeting. As they were told to attend the congress meeting, they took those students and intellectuals to the congress meeting, and we didn't know until afterward. They got trucks to take the students and intellectuals. We also told the students and intellectuals that tomorrow a truck would come to pick you up to go to the congress meeting. Those who wanted to go could get onto the truck. Those didn't want to go stayed with me. I also wanted to tell them not to request for schools and certificates. As long as they could produce dams and canals, they would get a certificate. Some went; some didn't go. For some who became good friends with me, I pulled them down from the trucks. If they went, they would die for sure. So I pulled them down.

Dany: You used to pull them down?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: What were their names? Did you know?

Chhuong: One's name was Thoeun.

Dany: Thoeun?

Chhuong: Thoeun and Phally. Now, they have disappeared. I don't know where they have been.

Dany: Thoeun and Phally?

Chhuong: Right.

Dany: Where did they come from?

Chhuong: They came from Phnom Penh, Arei Kha-sat [district – across current Cambodiana hotel today].

Dany: What did Thoeun and Phally do at that time? What did he study before the Lon Nol's regime?

Chhuong: I didn't know what they studied, but they came in the category of students and intellectuals.

Dany: After 1979, have you ever met them?

Chhuong: Never.

Dany: Never?

Chhuong: They were separated from me. Since I became the chief of fishing, I did not stay with them. I didn't know about their well-being. I didn't know.

Dany: What month and year did you become the fishing chief?

Chhuong: In April.

Dany: April?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: April 1977?

Chhuong: 1977.

Dany: To do fishing?

Chhuong: Yes.



Dany: In April 1977, was there any chaos? I heard that the Southwest zone cadres came here?

Chhuong: No, they had not yet entered at that time?

Dany: Not yet entered here?

Chhuong: Yes, I went there for about two months, then the West zone [group] came.

Dany: It was the West not Southwest?

Chhuong: Yes, the West

Dany: The West came?

Chhuong: Yes, the West came. The West didn't come to supervise us. They came to live among the mobile forces and the village cooperatives. They assigned three people per village and four people for the mobile forces, five for a regiment. But we still supervised them.

Dany: So when you went to the fishing unit to be the fishing chief of region 5, it was not the Southwest cadres who assigned you there?

Chhuong: Let me tell. At that time, Ta Vall assigned me there. Ta Vall was the people of the Northwest zone. He said that the mobile forces from Siem Reap did not have enough to eat. Therefore, he asked to pull out some forces to find fish. He asked me to make it into one group. So I prepared to go to fishing to find fish to solve the problem. I went there for about two months, then the Southwest zone people came to the Northwest. Two months after they arrived in the Northwest zone, the Southwest arrested Ta Vall.

Dany: [So] Ta Vall assigned you to the finishing unit because the fish from Siem Reap could not be delivered...?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: At that time, when you went there the cadres from the West and Southwest...?

Chhuong: The West cadres came first.

Dany: The West came first?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Come?

Chhuong: They came to live in the cooperatives and mobile units.

Dany: What month did the West cadres come?

Chhuong: They arrived on the transplanting season.

Dany: Transplanting month?

Chhuong: The transplanting month, July.

Dany: July 1977?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: When the West came, you went in April and for about two months, the West came. What was about the Southwest who arrested Ta Vall?

Chhuong: The West came for about two months before Ta Vall was arrested. The Southwest came to arrest Ta Vall.

Dany: Those who came included the West and the Southwest?  
 Chhuong: Yes, the West came earlier.  
 Dany: The West came earlier?  
 Chhuong: Yes.  
 Dany: What's about Ta Yoeuk?  
 Chhuong: Ta Yoeuk took care of the rice ration from then on. They had already arrested Ta Vall. They changed the chief of the regional mobile unit. As they changed the chief of regional mobile unit, Ta Cheng was made chief of regional mobile forces with Ta Pal. When I got fish, I gave to these to people at the office.

Dany: What month was Ta Vall arrested?  
 Chhuong: I don't remember.  
 Dany: You were at the regional fishing unit in April?  
 Chhuong: Yes, April, July, August, October, Ta Vall was arrested in November.  
 Dany: October, November 1977?  
 Chhuong: Yes.  
 Dany: So he was there for considerably long?  
 Chhuong: Yes.  
 Dany: You also went there for considerably long?  
 Chhuong: Yes.  
 Dany: October, November. Before the arrest, did they come to stay with Ta Vall, for example the Southwest cadres?  
 Chhuong: No, they did not stay with him.  
 Dany: No?  
 Chhuong: No.  
 Dany: The West came in about July 1977?  
 Chhuong: Yes.  
 Dany: July 1977, two months later, the Southwest came?  
 Chhuong: Yes, the Southwest came.  
 Dany: Yes, when the Southwest came, on what conditions did they come? You mentioned earlier that the two or three people from West came to live in the cooperative?  
 Chhuong: Yes, they came to live in the cooperatives. They came to live as normal people. They did not become any chiefs.

Dany: What about the arrival of the Southwest?  
 Chhuong: When the Southwest arrived, they appointed the West to be chiefs of cooperatives and other chiefs. The Southwest appointed the West cadres.  
 Dany: The Southwest cadres made the appointment?  
 Chhuong: Yes.  
 Dany: What's about them? What did they do?  
 Chhuong: They were bigger than that.  
 Dany: Bigger than that?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: They were bigger. What positions did they have?

Chhuong: They were chief of regional mobile forces. As they arrived, they supervised the regional mobile forces. They arrested all the former chiefs of regional mobile forces. Then they assigned this or that person from the West to be chiefs and they supervised over it all.

Dany: They didn't show that they were chiefs of regional mobile forces, but they could supervise over them?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: So in the regional mobile forces, they arrested only Ta Vall?

Chhuong: No, they arrested Ta Vall and people in the same cluster. But some people escaped. People such as chiefs of regiments and others under me ran away. They died here and there. I didn't know where they went.

Dany: What did they accuse Ta Vall of when the Southwest arrested him?

Chhuong: They said he was a traitor.

Dany: They said traitor?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: At that time, did you know any traitorous acts?

Chhuong: No, I didn't know.

Dany: You didn't know?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: Was he really a traitor or were they just accusing him?

Chhuong: As far as I knew, they did not get along with each other.

Dany: Not get along well?

Chhuong: Yes, they didn't get along well. If I talked, it could affect something.

Dany: No, you can talk about what you know. Nothing is affected.

Chhuong: Ta Hoeng and Ta Vall got along well with each other. They were in same party. Ta Chiel and Ta Nhim were in another party. The reason that I knew that they were in a different party because Ta Hoeng and Ta Val pointed out to me once that, "All mobile forces, when they went to cut down cotton in Kang Va Mountain, planted cotton farms, and he would arm all of them. We would run to Thailand." I was asked to observe the road to Thailand. As Moul Sambath aka Ta Nhim and Ta Chiel knew the plan, they looking beyond us. These people wanted to arrest Ta Vall.

Dany: Oh, really?

Chhuong: Yes, it was not the Southwest cadres.

Dany: Not the Southwest cadres?

Chhuong: No, it was their own group.

Dany: When did Chiel come to the region?

Chhuong: Chiel came from the region....

Dany: From Region 5.

Chhuong: Yes, he was not really the region secretary. He was the son of the big person, so he was not afraid of the region secretary.

Dany: He was the deputy of Ta Hoeng?

Chhuong: That's right, but we had to be afraid of him.

Dany: What year did he come?

Chhuong: He came in 1977.

Dany: He came in 1977?

Chhuong: Yes, in 1977, they came freely, those from the West.

Dany: So since the beginning, there was only Ta Hoeng?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Chiel came in 1977?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: He came in 1977. But you mentioned earlier that Ta Vall was about to arm the mobile forces and prepared to run to Thailand? What year was it?

Chhuong: That was in the year that we finished Kambor dam. It was in late 1976; it was about November or December because in November or December, the water was about to dry up.

Dany: So it was before the building of Trapeang Thma dam?

Chhuong: Before that. We had not prepared to build the Trapeang Thma dam yet.

Dany: So he said he was about to arm his forces and run to Thailand?

Chhuong: Before the construction of Trapeang Thma dam.

Dany: Late 1976?

Chhuong: Yes, when the plan did not work, he stopped.

Dany: Why didn't the plan work? Was it known?

Chhuong: May be we did not prepare the forces properly, and it was known. Ta Prum ran ahead.

Dany: Which one?

Chhuong: Ta Prum.

Dany: What did Ta Prum do?

Chhuong: Ta Prum was the zone committee in charge of the military. He was in charge of the military for the whole Northwest zone.

Dany: His name?

Chhuong: Ta Prum.

Dany: Ta Prum?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Not Ta Khleung?

Chhuong: No, Ta Prum.

Dany: Do you know Ta Khleung?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: Ta Khleung was in charge of the military, the whole zone military.

Chhuong: No, may be Ta Khleung, but I knew only Ta Prum.

Dany: Ta Prum?

Chhuong: That's right. He drove a car and escaped through Poy Pet [Khmer-Thai border].

Dany: He escaped earlier?

Chhuong: He went first.

Dany: He survived?

Chhuong: He brought along with him [Mr. Yor], the businessman.

Dany: Oh, he brought a businessman named Yor with him?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Where was merchant Yor?

Chhuong: Merchant Yor was in Mongkul Borei [district].

Dany: Mongkul Borei?

Chhuong: Right

Dany: Merchant Yor in the past owned the forest....?

Chhuong: Yes, forests and others all were belong to him.

Dany: The forest from where to where?

Chhuong: At Kut Tasort, Malai and Mak Heun.

Dany: All these were his forest?

Chhuong: All were his forests.

Dany: The forest in Mak Heun and Malai was all merchant Yor's forest?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: So merchant Yor ran to Thailand. He was not killed?

Chhuong: He ran to Thailand with Ta Prum. Ta Prum took him there.

Dany: What year?

Chhuong: It was in 1977.

Dany: 1977?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: So Chiel came to be the regional chief in that year?

Chhuong: Yes, he came later.

Dany: How old was Ta Chiel?

Chhuong: He was young. He was single, not yet had wife.

Dany: He did not have wife at that time?

Chhuong: Let me tell. Ta Moul Sambath and Ta Soa Phim, the Secretary of Eastern Zone, had a daughter. He was friend of Ta Nhim. So he wanted their children to get married.

Dany: Did they get married?

Chhuong: I didn't know about that. They were big people [VIP].

Dany: But at the time Chiel coming here, he was not married?

Chhuong: No, he didn't have a wife yet.

Dany: So he was younger than you?

Chhuong: Yes, younger.

Dany: Younger, so those who arrested Ta Vall were from Ta Chiel's group, the group of Ta Nhim, Moul Sambath?

Chhuong: Yes, not the Southwest people. Maybe the Southwest cadres could not help on time.

Dany: Could not help on time?

Chhuong: That's right. As I understood, I did not take their side. As was the situation, I lived with him and he talked very convincingly to the people. He even asked students and intellectuals to do secret things. That was Ta Hoeng. They were all educated women; he called them to do secret jobs. After that, they returned back to work in the mobile unit with me.

Dany: Oh, really?

Chhuong: Yes, as they were seen as bad people and their activities were not good, the situation was not good, [so] they smashed them.

Dany: Where was Ta Vall taken to?

Chhuong: I didn't know where he was taken to.

Dany: Didn't know?

Chhuong: They arrested even the district secretaries and others, not just Ta Vall.

Dany: Who did they arrest?

Chhuong: They arrested Ta Moang, Ta Sam-at, Ta Vall. Later, they arrested the village chiefs. These village chiefs were arrested later by the Southwest.

Dany: So Ta Nhim arrested the district chiefs, Ta Moang, Ta Sam-at and Ta Hoeng.

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: As people like Ta Moang were arrested, who replaced them?

Chhuong: After the arrest, Chiel's group wanted to appoint themselves to regional secretary. Later they wanted to appoint the district chiefs. But they could not do so because the Southwest came in and withdrew all the chiefs of districts and regions.

Dany: Oh, who was the regional chief after Ta Hoeng was arrested?

Chhuong: After Ta Hoeng, Chiel was the regional chief. As he had not finished the leadership in the districts properly, the Southwest came. So the Southwest prepared the district leadership, and Yeay [Im] Chaem became the district chief. Yeay [Im] Chaem was the chief of Phnom Srok district, oh, the chief of Preah Neth Preah district.

Dany: [Yeay] [Im] Chaem was the chief of Preah Neth Preah district?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: What's about the chief of the region?

Chhuong: Ta Rin was the chief of the region.

Dany: Rin?

Chhuong: Rin from the Southwest zone.

Dany: Name Rin from the Southwest zone?

Chhuong: Yes Rin.

Dany: Name Rin, what was Rin's surname?

Chhuong: I didn't know his surname. I don't remember.

Dany: So during the arrest, Ta Vall and Ta Hoeng were arrested together?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Date?

Chhuong: Ta Hoeng was arrested first.

Dany: When was Ta Hoeng arrested?

Chhuong: He was arrested a few days earlier, not months.

Dany: Oh, it was around October?

Chhuong: Yes, around the same month.

Dany: When they were arrested, Chiel became the chief of the region for a while?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: They had not established chiefs of districts?

Chhuong: Not yet prepared.

Dany: Not yet prepared?

Chhuong: That's right, not yet prepared until the Southwest arrived.

Dany: The Southwest arrived?

Chhuong: Right, when they arrived, they arranged by themselves.

Dany: Then they prepared Ta Rin to be the chief?

Chhuong: Region chief.

Dany: Did you know Ta Rin?

Chhuong: I did not remember Ta Rin. At that time, I was not close to him. I met him whenever I returned back. I slept with him for a night and then went back. He was the one who appointed me to be the fishing chief of region 5.

Dany: Oh, but you had gone there even before that?

Chhuong: Before that, but I had not yet become the fishing chief of region 5. I was just fishing cadre of the regional mobile forces.

Dany: Regional mobile?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Regional fishing mobile?

Chhuong: The fishing chief of region 5, Ta Chin, committed a moral mistake. So the Southwest arrested him and appointed me to fishing chief of region 5 with Ta Cheng. Ta Cheng was the chief and I was the deputy chief. Ta Cheng came from the Southwest; he lost one thumb. As he came from Southwest, he said that, "Chhuong, you are responsible I am from the lower area, so everything is up to me. I dare not touch boats because I am so afraid of water." He volunteered to stay in Svay on the land. If I lacked anything, I reported to him. He would solve all the problems from there. I was responsible for all the things at the lower level.

Dany: So he dared not get into the water; he was afraid of water?

Chhuong: Yes, he was afraid of water.

Dany: Did he know how to swim?

Chhuong: He was possibly from the land area, Ta Cheng, who lost one thumb.

Dany: So he allowed you to be the chief?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: He was responsible for the economics?

Chhuong: Yes, that's right, at the upper land.

Dany: I wanted to know the arrest related to Chiel. How long after Ta Hoeng was arrested before Chiel became the region chief?

Chhuong: Chiel became region chief. When he came to be the chief, he did not arrest Ta Hoeng. As he came, Ta Hoeng was the chief and he was the deputy chief. After about two months, he arrested Ta Hoeng.

Dany: He arrested Ta Hoeng?

Chhuong: Yes, he arrested Ta Hoeng.

Dany: After arresting Ta Hoeng for about...?

Chhuong: He arrested Ta Hoeng for about one week and then he arrested Ta Vall, Ta Moang and Ta Sam-at.

Dany: So the arrest happened in that interval before the Southwest Zone, Ta Rin, came to take over as the region chief?

Chhuong: Yes, before that.

Dany: Was it long before Ta Rin came to take over the position as region chief?

Chhuong: Ta Rin became region chief for about...Chiel had worked for about three months. A white car was driving around to arrest people at this time.

Dany: Arresting people?

Chhuong: Yes, they arrested the mobile forces; both cruel and gentle people. They even arrested people in my place. They arrested Ta Man, who lived with me. About Ta Man, let me tell. The more I talk, the longer the story is. Ta Hat was chief of Phnom Srok district. Chiel arrested Ta Hat. Ta Man was the older brother of Ta Hat, so they wanted to arrest Ta Man. Ta Man was frightened and ran to stay with me. As he stayed with me, they knew that Ta Man stayed with me. Therefore, they asked Ta Yoeuk to ask me and Ta Man to attend the education meeting. Ta Yoeuk knew that they were going to arrest Ta Man but he did not tell me. As we were asked to attend the education meeting, I rode by bicycle with him. Arriving at Phnom Srok, the female Southwest Zone cadres were guarding at the bridge. They had put a control post there. Ta Yoeuk rode on a bicycle ahead of us. Ta Man was the last one; I was after Ta Yoeuk. Arriving there, the Southwest asked us, "uncle, where was the person I asked you to arrest," and Ta Yoeuk told them, "don't say." "Don't say," meant that he was afraid that I would hear, but I already heard. As I heard, I realized that: "oh, I must be dead." I realized that I would die. Ta Man did not hear. I could not sleep for the whole night. I knew that I would die for sure. I was with Ta Man and did not know where to escape if we were so faithful to Angkar. We didn't know where to run to in order to survive. We thought that Angkar did not



trust us even though we were so faithful. I volunteered to die. I would not run. In the morning, Ta Man said that, "Let go. Before we die, we should drink palm juice until we are so full." We walked to drink at Pauy Ta Ong and slept at Trapeang Thmor basis. After drinking palm juice at Pauy Ta Ong and walking back, we saw Chiel's car, a white car. I walked with Ta Man but a bit ahead of him. He walked behind me. The car was parked close to us. They opened the door and requested us to get onto the car. I began to climb up into the car. They pushed my chest out and pulled Ta Man in and then closed the car's door. I was unconscious and was delivered to the hospital. It wasn't until 4 PM that I recovered my consciousness.

Dany: Why?

Chhuong: I lost consciousness.

Dany: Why did you lose consciousness? They pushed you and fell from the car?

Chhuong: No, they pushed me out of the car, and I was too frightened.

Dany: Frightened?

Chhuong: I was frightened until my body became empty. I did not realize anything. My body became like a big hole inside. I was so shocked because of the arrest. But they did not arrest me; they arrested the others. I thought they had arrested me. When I woke up, the medical staff told me, "Please don't be frightened because they did not arrest you. If they arrested you, you would be gone." So I went to meet Ta Rin. He asked me to meet the region chief. He said that, "Now if you Chhuong did not believe me, you Chhuong can look at the list of arrested names. There are only two names not in the arrest list. They are you and Ta Yoeuk." The rest would be arrested. I saw all the names.

Dany: What were the names?

Chhuong: I saw the names of Vet and Sres because I knew them and my other subordinates that I assigned to work.

Dany: Why didn't they arrest you and Ta Yoeuk?

Chhuong: I didn't know why. I was also doubtful. So I told Vet and Sres. When I knew, I told them that, "You should not stay. Go fishing with me. If you stay, you will die for sure because your names are in the arrest list." When they knew, they did not go with me; they ran away. Because they ran away, I don't know where they died. They have disappeared until today, including my younger brother and two of my cousins.

Dany: If they knew that you told this story, they would question you?

Chhuong: No, they didn't know because he assigned me to be the fishing chief. He assigned me together with Ta Cheng.

Dany: So they knew you in a short time?

Chhuong: Yes in a short time. Later, he knew that I was an honest person because I did not bring harm to anyone within that period. I was not in the

arrested names. During Ta Vall's time, all mobile forces were called to the party's office. They said that, "Now, the party opens the door to gather forces. The party opens the door in order to prepare the Youth League of Communist Party of Kampuchea." When I went to fishing, Ta Yoeuk was far away. When they called for the mobile forces, they all came and got onto the truck. I arrived later as the truck had already gone. As I arrived later, Ta Vall said, "You wait for the next phase." So they got those names. When the arrests started, they screened the names in the list. Just two names were not in the list.

- Dany: This is your luck?
- Chhuong: Yes, that's right.
- Dany: Those who attended the youth league of the communist party of Kampuchea had their names on the arrest list. As you didn't have your name, you were not a part of the league?
- Chhuong: Yes, that's right. I was not in their league.
- Dany: Actually, it was not like that, but because you didn't go there?
- Chhuong: Yes, I didn't catch the truck as I was far away.
- Dany: At that time, you had gone fishing?
- Chhuong: Yes, was fishing.
- Dany: What's about Ta Yoeuk? Where did he go at that time?
- Chhuong: Ta Yoeuk was at Trapeang Thmor dam. He distributed rice for people. He was in rice economic unit. He distributed rice for the forces who built the dam.
- Dany: But?
- Chhuong: As to get on to the car, people got on the car at Chup.
- Dany: Were the names to be arrested registered by others or Chiel?
- Chhuong: It was Chiel.
- Dany: So Chiel gave the name list to the Southwest people so that Ta Rin had the names?
- Chhuong: Chiel prepared the names for the Southwest cadres, and he himself implemented the arrest.
- Dany: Chiel implemented the arrest on his own?
- Chhuong: He did on his own with a white car. Everyone was so frightened whenever they saw the white car, even the chiefs of the cooperatives.
- Dany: This means that Chiel was in the car?
- Chhuong: That's right. Chiel was in that car with the military. The Southwest had already come, but we waited to see. There was no action from the Southwest yet.
- Dany: Waiting to see Chiel?
- Chhuong: That's right.
- Dany: So after the arrest of Ta Hoeng, Chiel was not yet the region chief?
- Chhuong: Yes
- Dany: However, the idea was that Chiel wanted to be the region chief?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: But when the Southwest arrived, they appointed Ta Rin to be the chief?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: And Chiel was still the deputy?

Chhuong: That's right. He was just the assistant, not really the deputy.

Dany: Assistant of whom?

Chhuong: It was that one.

Dany: It was only Ta Rin?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: Was there anyone else from the Southwest beside Ta Rin?

Chhuong: Ta Pal was in charge of the mobile forces. Ta Cheng was also in charge of the mobile forces. Later, Ta Cheng was assigned to do fishing with me.

Dany: But in a region committee, there were three members: Chief and Deputies?

Chhuong: I didn't know the other two; I only knew the chief.

Dany: You knew the chief named Ta Rin?

Chhuong: Yes, I only knew Ta Rin, who appointed me.

Dany: What was the name of Ta Rin's wife?

Chhuong: I didn't know; I never met his wife.

Dany: Was he old or young?

Chhuong: He was older than me.

Dany: Was he much older than you?

Chhuong: No, not much, he was about four or five years older than me.

Dany: Four or five years older?

Chhuong: Yes, he was also one kind of person.

Dany: Was Ta Rin the one who appointed the district chiefs or the names already existed?

Chhuong: Yes, Ta Rin was the one who appointed the district chiefs.

Dany: After Ta Moang was arrested, the chief of Preah Neth Preah district was appointed?

Chhuong: No, he was not yet appointed. Chiel was working for a while. It was not until the arrest of Chiel that they started the appointments.

Dany: When was Chiel arrested?

Chhuong: He was arrested when the Southwest arrived. When the West came, Chiel was arresting the Northwest cadres, so the Southwest waited to see Chiel's actions. As they saw Chiel arrested all kinds of people, they arrested Chiel.

Dany: Do you remember about the arrest of Chiel?

Chhuong: No

Dany: Was he arrested in 1977 or 1978?

Chhuong: 1977, oh 1978

Dany: What month was it in 1978?

Chhuong: I didn't know what month. I could not remember clearly. Let see; when I was at fishing unit, I returned back at around August, September or October because at that time, I drove a boat.

Dany: It was October 1978, nearly of the end of the regime?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: Was it early January?

Chhuong: No, that was wrong. He was arrested long before the Vietnamese fought in.

Dany: Was it true that Chiel arrested Ta Hoeng and Ta Vall long before he was arrested?

Chhuong: No, not so long before. It was about two or three months different.

Dany: Two to three months different?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Was it about early 1978 or late 1978?

Chhuong: Yes, early 1978

Dany: Early 1978?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: Were the appointment of the district chiefs done before the arrest of Chiel?

Chhuong: No, they were appointed later. They arrested Chiel and then prepared the district chiefs.

Dany: District chiefs?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What about the chief of Preah Neth Preah district?

Chhuong: Yeay [Im] Chaem.

Dany: Yeay [Im] Chaem?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Do you know Yeay [Im] Chaem?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Where did Yeay [Im] Chaem come from?

Chhuong: Yeay [Im] Chaem came from the Southwest.

Dany: From the Southwest, what's about Phnom Srok district?

Chhuong: Ta Oeun was chief of Phnom Srok district.

Dany: Ta Oeun was also from the Southwest?

Chhuong: Yes, also Southwest.

Dany: What's about Thmor Pouk?

Chhuong: I didn't know. I knew only those two.

Dany: Yeay [Im] Chaem was in charge of Preah Neth Preah district?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Wasn't she part of the region committee?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: Did she have any role at the region level?

Chhuong: No, Ta Rin was in charge of the region.

Dany: Ta Rin?  
Chhuong: That's right.  
Dany: Could she be member of the region?  
Chhuong: No, she may not be or may be a member; I was not sure about that.  
Dany: What's about at the Trapeang Thma dam? After the arrest of Ta Vall, who next?  
Chhuong: Ta Cheng.  
Dany: Ta Cheng?  
Chhuong: Yes, Ta Cheng was in charge.  
Dany: Was it Ta Cheng, who was the fishing chief?  
Chhuong: Yes, Ta Cheng was assigned to take charge there and I was in charge of the fishing.  
Dany: What group was Ta Cheng part of?  
Chhuong: The West group  
Dany: From the West?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Ta Cheng supervised you at the fishing unit?  
Chhuong: Yes, I was at the fishing unit.  
Dany: Ta Cheng and then who was the one after Ta Cheng?  
Chhuong: Ta Cheng, Ta Pal.  
Dany: Ta Cheng, Ta Pal?  
Chhuong: Yes, at the fishing unit, the chief of the fishing unit committed a moral mistake and he was arrested. So they appointed Ta Chiel's messenger to be the fishing chief.  
Dany: What was the name of Ta Chiel's messenger?  
Chhuong: His name was...messenger of Ta Chiel, messenger of Ta Hoeng. Oh, Ta Chiel's messenger...hmm, I forgot his name. He lived in Ruong. He was Ponh together with Pak; they were appointed to take charge of the fishing. The Southwest arrested Ponh and Pak, and they appointed me chief of fishing and also Ta Cheng.  
Dany: Who was in charge of the fishing when Ta Cheng was gone?  
Chhuong: Ta Pal.  
Dany: What did Ta Pal do?  
Chhuong: Ta Pal was in charge of the whole regional mobile forces, and Ta Rin was the region chief.  
Dany: Ta Rin was the region chief who was in charge of Trapeang Thma?  
Chhuong: Still working...  
Dany: Was it still built?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Why did they continue to build the dam as it was first constructed by the Northwest people?  
Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Was it because the central party ordered to continue the construction or what?

Chhuong: I was not sure about that. I was frightened at that time. If we were called, it meant death. Even our parents died, we dared not stay to perform the ceremony. As we were called, we were frightened that we ourselves would die too.

Dany: Had you ever attended the meeting in Battambang, the Zone office?

Chhuong: No, never.

Dany: Never?

Chhuong: I only attended the meeting at Svay, our region.

Dany: Had Ta Nhim or Ta Moul Sambath ever attended the meeting at Svay?

Chhuong: They only met the big people.

Dany: You never attended the meeting?

Chhuong: Never.

Dany: What about Ta Rin? Where was his house when he arrived?

Chhuong: Ta Rin did not have house. He stayed at the mobile force office, the place where rice ration was distributed.

Dany: The economic office where rice ration was distributed?

Chhuong: At Trapeang Thma.

Dany: Oh, he settled down at Trapeang Thma dam?

Chhuong: Yes, he stayed for about four or five days and he went to Svay for about four or five days because he was mobile. Sometimes, he planted rice with the people. No one knew he was the region chief.

Dany: Do you know the birthplace of Ta Rin?

Chhuong: I don't know; I just know that he came from the Southwest.

Dany: You know that he was from the Southwest?

Chhuong: Right.

Dany: Do you know his full name?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: You just knew that he was close to you because he dared...?

Chhuong: Yes, we were close.

Dany: Why did he like you? Was it because you were here for a long time? He just arrived and felt good about you?

Chhuong: I was not also sure about that.

Dany: You were not sure?

Chhuong: Right, he was a good person. Since I knew him, he appointed me chief of the fishing unit until Chiel was arrested. I mentioned that I lost consciousness. As I recovered, he showed me the names of the people to be arrested. I didn't know. Possibly he had good fate with me. He was not only good to me but also with others.

Dany: What was his color?

Chhuong: Ta Rin was black.

Dany: Ta Rin was black?

Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Was he tall or short?  
Chhuong: He had a big body.  
Dany: Big?  
Chhuong: Yes, but he was not really big, just big and short.  
Dany: Big and short?  
Chhuong: That's right.  
Dany: How was his speaking?  
Chhuong: He spoke one by one.  
Dany: One by one?  
Chhuong: His speaking was hard to listen to. He spoke one by one. I could not listen to him clearly as his voice was small.  
Dany: A small voice?  
Chhuong: That's right.  
Dany: What was his hair color?  
Chhuong: His hair was brown, the old style.  
Dany: Old hair style and small voice?  
Chhuong: Right  
Dany: As you observed, he was older?  
Chhuong: He was about five or six years older than me.  
Dany: Five to six years, how old would be now?  
Chhuong: He may be 70 now.  
Dany: About 70?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: But he was a kind person?  
Chhuong: Yes, he was kind. He was not only kind to me but also to the villagers. He was also kind to them.  
Dany: When you supervised the fishing unit of the region 5, where did you get the fish from?  
Chhuong: The fish from Tonle Sab River  
Dany: Fish from Tonle Sab River?  
Chhuong: Yes, we used a certain kind of fishing net.  
Dany: Did the fishing unit consist of a lot of people?  
Chhuong: 300 people.  
Dany: 300 people?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: These 300 people did fishing at Tonle Sab River?  
Chhuong: No, let me tell. I assigned some to Kambeo, some to Peam Bampong Krasiang, some to Kien Sbov, some to Khbal Krabei, some to Steung Kambut. We put some of them at creeks and another group to the river. As I was the chief, I stayed here for one night and there for one night, back and forth.  
Dany: How many tons of fish could you find per day?

Chhuong: We could catch about one ton of fish per day. For some days, we could find only 700 to 800 kilograms. If we could not get enough fish, we requested from the zone.

Dany: From the zone?

Chhuong: Yes because we couldn't find enough for our forces to eat, so we would request from zone. For example, we could ask them for about 150 kg or 200 kg to fill in the shortage.

Dany: Did the zone give it to you?

Chhuong: They did. If we needed to deliver fish paste through truck and had shortage, we could request it from them. For example, one ton for the mobile forces.

Dany: So you could not find enough fish for the whole region 5?

Chhuong: Not enough.

Dany: As it was not enough, how much did you request from them per day?

Chhuong: We did not request them every day. For example, we asked them at the time we delivered fish to the zone. We had to deliver it within a half month. If it was within the half month, we could find enough for one delivery, for example two or three tons, we would go. If we could not find enough, we had to ask them to fill in the gap.

Dany: So you delivered within half or one month?

Chhuong: Yes within half a month.

Dany: You delivered within half a month?

Chhuong: Yes, within half a month.

Dany: Would the fish you got be spoiled?

Chhuong: No, we fomented the fish to be fish paste or dry salty fish so as not to allow it to be spoiled.

Dany: You made it into dry salty fish?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: How many tons of fish did you deliver each month according to the demand?

Chhuong: Three tons of fish per month.

Dany: Three tons per month?

Chhuong: Three tons included salty fish and fish paste.

Dany: Salty fish and fish paste?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Three tons, but you had to deliver within a half month period?

Chhuong: Yes, half month.

Dany: One and a half tons per half month?

Chhuong: We delivered it to Svay at Se-Sen.

Dany: Svay at Se-Sen?

Chhuong: That's right, the Se-Sen bridge

Dany: You delivered to Svay and then it was distributed further down?



Chhuong: Yes, they distributed it to the hospital and ministries. They distributed to each destination and camp as well as the mobile forces. The district office did not distribute?

Dany: Where was the zone office, the place where you requested extra?

Chhuong: In the middle of the river.

Dany: In the middle of the river?

Chhuong: Yes, they built a hall in the middle of the river.

Dany: Who was the fishing chief of the zone?

Chhuong: I didn't know the first fishing chief of the zone. I knew the later one; his name was Phan.

Dany: Where did Phan come from?

Chhuong: I didn't know where he came from.

Dany: Phan?

Chhuong: That's right. He was thin like me.

Dany: What about Ta Nhim, Ta Moul Sambath? When was he arrested?

Chhuong: Ta Nhim aka Ta Moul Sambath was arrested when Chiel was arrested, before the arrest of Chiel.

Dany: Before the arrest of Chiel?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: When Ta Nhim, Ta Moul Sambath, was arrested, who replaced him at that time?

Chhuong: I didn't know who the later chief of the zone was. I didn't know.

Dany: You didn't know?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: You never met them?

Chhuong: Never seen, never known.

Dany: What was about Ta Mok? Had he arrived here?

Chhuong: Ta Mok never came here.

Dany: Never came?

Chhuong: Yes, I used to meet Ta Mok at Dangrek Mountain.

Dany: You met him at Dangrek Mountain?

Chhuong: Yes, it was when the Vietnamese entered Cambodia.

Dany: What was about Pol Pot and Nuon Chea? Did he come to see the Trapeang Thma dam?

Chhuong: No, they did not come. We didn't know them. But they never came. No one came to visit.

Dany: You were the fishing chief of region 5. Didn't you have proper office to stand by?

Chhuong: Our office was at Se-Sen.

Dany: At Se-Sen?

Chhuong: Ta Cheng was there.

Dany: Oh, Ta Cheng was there.

Chhuong: I went to the lower area at Tonle Sab. The region office where I stayed was at Kha-ek Island.

Dany: Kha-ek Island?

Chhuong: Yes, I worked at Koh Kha-ek camp.

Dany: The 300 people here both caught the fish and made the fish into salty fish or fish paste?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: At that time, did you have enough fish to eat?

Chhuong: No, I never ate fish when I went there because it had a bad smell.

Dany: Bad smell?

Chhuong: I could eat only two kinds of fish. Besides these, I only ate meat.

Dany: You ate meat instead?

Chhuong: Yes, I ate meat such as water chicken.

Dany: As you ate too much fish, you felt fed up with it?

Chhuong: Yes, I could no longer eat it. Let me tell. I became chief since the early phase. I said to myself, I must have died. When I went to Koh Kha-ek, it smelled so strongly the fish paste. The water became like soil. As I stayed for a relatively long time, I became accustomed to the smell.

Dany: So you didn't really like fish?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Do you eat fish normally now?

Chhuong: I eat fish as usual like others. As we are poor, we are hungry for everything.

Dany: Later when Ta Rin arrived, how many meetings did you have? For example, how many meetings at the regional level did you have? For example, meetings with the regional fishing chiefs, district chiefs and others?

Chhuong: I never attended those meetings.

Dany: Never had a meeting?

Chhuong: Yes, I wanted to have a meeting with the fishing workers so I called them to attend the meeting. The meetings for the districts, villages and cooperatives were different ones. We did not gather together.

Dany: Did you ever work with Yeay [Im] Chaem?

Chhuong: I used to stay with Yeay [Im] Chaem when the Vietnamese arrived. I stayed with Yeay [Im] Chaem at Dangrek Mountain.

Dany: Oh, when the Vietnamese entered the country?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What about when you did the fishing and she was the district chief?

Chhuong: I never contacted her.

Dany: Did you know her at that time?

Chhuong: I knew her, but I never contacted her because I was with the mobile forces. I only took care of the regional mobile forces. She was the district chief, so she took care of the district and cooperatives.

Dany: You never met her and worked with her?

Chhuong: Never.

Dany: Did you know that she was the district chief?

Chhuong: Yes, when the Vietnamese entered the country, she called for a meeting once.

Dany: Who called?

Chhuong: The region chief Ta Rin and Yeay [Im] Chaem. They called for a meeting with all.

Dany: Before the Vietnamese entered?

Chhuong: Before the Vietnamese entered.

Dany: Where did the meeting take place?

Chhuong: The meeting was at Svay.

Dany: Meeting at Svay?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: At that time, Ta Rin was the chairperson of the meeting?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: What about Yeay [Im] Chaem?

Chhuong: Yeay Chem was the district chief.

Dany: But in the meeting, all district chiefs came together?

Chhuong: Yes, all district chiefs came together. In the meeting, they had a plan. They did not believe us. As for the plan, we knew that the Vietnamese had fought into Svay Rieng province. They confirmed this to us. I talked on what they told me. They confirmed that the Vietnamese entered on the radio. There was no Vietnamese. But they talked about the Vietnamese coming in because we had a history with Vietnam; it was about "master tea." As the Vietnamese entered the country, some Cambodians betrayed the country such as Soa Phim, Moul Sambath, Heng Samrin, and others by joining the Vietnamese. Soa Phim was arrested, and Heng Samrin was able to escape. He fled with 1,500 soldiers. As he escaped for seven days, the Vietnamese fought into Svay Rieng. We realized that we would fail for sure. As we would lose the war, we began to prepare at the cooperatives, districts and other camps. We dug up the ground to bury salt and rice at all the cooperatives.

Dany: You dug up the ground to bury salt and rice?

Chhuong: That's right. When we lost the war, we escaped to the forest. At night, we planned to come back to take the staple food. That was the plan. So all the cooperatives dug up the ground. Just as the dig up was all prepared and we had not yet put anything in it, the Vietnamese arrived. As the Vietnamese arrived, the movement at the other side said that the Vietnamese liberated on time and we would all be killed because each cooperative had already dug up the hole to bury all of us. It was the opposite.

Dany: At that time, they asked people to dig up the ground. How big were the holes?

Chhuong: They were big. They were like rice storehouse which could be used to store hundreds of tons of rice. As people saw the holes, they had a different view.

Dany: These were different propaganda?

Chhuong: Yes, and as they said that I lost the war, I ran into the forest. I didn't know anything and I could not speak. If I said the truth, they would accuse me of betraying.

Dany: At that time, how did you know that you lost the war? Was it because at that time they said that Khmer had only a few thousands fighting troops. How did you know that you lost?

Chhuong: The tank forces that came to help us also shot us. Commanders of the tanks joined the Vietnamese.

Dany: Who were they?

Chhuong: I didn't know them. I just knew that they were tank commanders. Therefore, our forces were defeated. We knew that we would be defeated so they asked us to prepare. I didn't know. I was at the Tonle Sap river. I didn't know about the preparation. As they said that the Vietnamese entered Phnom Penh, Khieu Samphan and I came ashore from the Tonle Sap.

Dany: What about the meeting? Ta Rin talked. What did he tell?

Chhuong: Yes, Ta Rin.

Dany: Ta Rin was the one who talked?

Chhuong: Yes, Ta Rin was the one who talked.

Dany: Ta Rin at that time moved to Svay and also to Trapeang Thma?

Chhuong: Yes

Dany: What's about Yeay [Im] Chaem's forces? Did she work at Trapeang Thma?

Chhuong: No, Yeay [Im] Chem was in charge of the cooperatives.

Dany: At cooperatives not Trapeang Thma?

Chhuong: No.

Dany: The cooperative people were all sent to work at Trapeang Thma?

Chhuong: Hmmm.

Dany: Let talk about your earlier mentioning. The regional mobile forces worked at Trapeang Thma dam and the people at the cooperatives worked at Preah Neth Preah and Phnom Srok?

Chhuong: Yes, they went to work there but Yeay [Im] Chaem was not yet in charge of that?

Dany: So later, the people in the cooperatives were not allowed to work at Trapeang Thma dam?

Chhuong: No, those who were already there continued to work. We did not think about those who worked there. They thought of only those who were here.

Dany: When the Vietnamese entered, did you run with Ta Rin, Yeay [Im] Chaem and the other district chiefs?

Chhuong: No, we ran dispersedly.

Dany: Ran dispersedly?

Chhuong: Yes, I didn't know where the region chief went. The region chief escaped earlier.

Dany: He ran earlier?

Chhuong: Yes, but I didn't know where they went. Yeay [Im] Chaem ran later and I didn't know where she went. For me, I was with Ta Pal; he was in charge of regional mobile forces. I was also with regional mobile forces at Tonle Sap. Then Ta Pal called me to come ashore and said that, "Chhuong, please come ashore. Our comrades have run into the west. Please follow them." Then I came ashore. As I arrived, Ta Om kept the boat. As I came ashore, the Vietnamese had already entered Ta Pon [area]. They reached Ta Pon's bridge, so I turned back. I held a meeting with the comrades at Anlong Sar, "No, comrades, the Vietnamese entered Cambodia. Anyone who wanted to return back to the village to meet your parents, please go ahead. Please share the things that you have on hand with each other. Don't make tenseness. Anyone who wants anything, please take it. Those who are strongly determined and want to go with me, please follow me. I dared not stay. I am already strongly determined to follow Angkar." There were 90 people who followed me. They went with me. As we arrived at Ta Pon's bridge, the Vietnamese came in. We could not go further. I went to sleep at Kambor mountain. Then we connected with others and reached Kaun Khleung mountain. I met Yeay [Im] Chaem and Ta Pal for about 7 to 8 months. Leaving Kaun Khleung mountain, we went to Dangrek mountain. We lost all contacts; we did not know where Angkar was. We stayed together without food and water. We could not find rice to eat. We lost all contacts and ate only tree roots. It was not until Yeay [Im] Chaem came to connect with us that we had rice that they transported with them. We knew information about Angkar. She brought us to Anlong Veng [district]. As we arrived at Anlong Veng, we were determined not to go with Yeay [Im] Chaem.

Dany: Why?

Chhuong: We decided to go to Chhat's mountain [umbrella's mountain] because the Foreigners [NGO] distributed rice. Over there, it was totally communist. Now, we had stopped doing the revolution and stopped working for the communist.

Dany: You went to Chhat's mountain?

Chhuong: Yes, we went to Chhat's mountain.  
Dany: Who was in charge of Chhat's mountain?  
Chhuong: They were also Khmer Rouge, but they deserted the Khmer Rouge nature and became national troops.  
Dany: Who were the leaders at Chhat's mountain?  
Chhuong: Ta Yorn.  
Dany: Ta Yorn?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Was Ta Yorn chief of division?  
Chhuong: He was the chief of division, chief of the zone. Ta Yorn was chief of the whole Northwest zone.  
Dany: Who was Ta Yorn's deputy?  
Chhuong: Ta Sou, Ta Voeun.  
Dany: Meas Voeun?  
Chhuong: I didn't know his surname. Ta Voeun had already left.  
Dany: Ta Voeun is now living at Thma Dek Kes [area]. He was the chief of Christians [group]?  
Chhuong: I don't know. I have never met him. We were separated.  
Dany: Yes, what is next?  
Chhuong: As Ta Voeun left, Ta Sou, who lost one arm....I went to work and stay with Ta Sou. I receive a rice ration from the French. Later, Ta Yorn assigned the work....  
Dany: How did you work inside?  
Chhuong: I was assigned to work inside to propagandize the people that we changed from Khmer Rouge. We were not the black people, no longer the Khmer Rouge. We were national troops. We explained to the people about the way of the national troops so that the people were not afraid of us until these people dared to receive a rice ration from our place.  
Dany: At that time, you were assigned to stay in the village?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Which village was it?  
Chhuong: In Preah Neth Preah, my home village.  
Dany: At Pauy Samroang?  
Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: At that time, what was your position?  
Chhuong: When I was....  
Dany: When you penetrated into the inside?  
Chhuong: It was called...the more I talk, the longer it is. First in the forest, they prepared into district chiefs. As they prepared the district chiefs, they held an election and I was elected to be the chief of Preah Neth Preah. As I was elected as the chief of Preah Neth Preah district, Khieu Samphan came to live at Tab Pha-sa. He said that each district chief

had to liberate their own respective district. We had 150 soldiers. They had a regiment and I had a battalion. They asked us to recruit soldiers by ourselves. We liberated the districts on our own. I had a boss who was the chief political commissioner and I was his deputy.

Dany: Who was the chief?

Chhuong: Ta Nonh, who was the political commissioner, led the soldiers. I was deputy, so I worked closely with the people.

Dany: You stayed with the people?

Chhuong: Yes, I stayed with the people and distributed rice to them.

Dany: What about inside the government, the People's Republic of Kampuchea?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: At that time, they controlled over there too?

Chhuong: Yes, they controlled over there too.

Dany: But they did not know?

Chhuong: They knew.

Dany: They also knew?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: They knew that you were at the KR side?

Chhuong: Yes, they knew but they were our people.

Dany: It means that they were all the villagers living near each other?

Chhuong: Yes, they were the villagers who knew each other. I was also assigned to do that work to spy for information. They did not ask me to spy on the fighting. They asked me to propagandize that the Vietnamese did not harm people so that people at the camps would return back to the country.

Dany: Did you go?

Chhuong: Yes, I did.

Dany: But you still worked for that side?

Chhuong: Yes, I still worked for that side.

Dany: If the inside told you to do anything, you would report that?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: They didn't say anything?

Chhuong: Yes, I also told that side; it was not about the fighting; it was just about the dissemination.

Dany: What happened next?

Chhuong: For a while later, I had a wife, and there was a repatriation, so I returned back to the same place.

Dany: Who asked you to go back?

Chhuong: The Khmer Rouge, the national army, the struggle movement

Dany: They asked you to return back?

Chhuong: Yes, they asked me to go back, so I returned back to work. Until the year I got sick, so I stopped.

Dany: When they called you back, what position did you have?

Chhuong: I was in office number 5.

Dany: Number 5?

Chhuong: At the division office

Dany: What division?

Chhuong: Division 42

Dany: The Division 42 joined with the government?

Chhuong: Yes, they joined. Now it is division 81.

Dany: Today 81?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Division number?

Chhuong: Division 42 of the office 5

Dany: When did you stop?

Chhuong: I stopped for about 10 years.

Dany: 10 years, at that time, did you receive any rank?

Chhuong: When I was not yet with the office, I received four and a half ranks.

Dany: What was about when you entered the bureau office?

Chhuong: When I entered the bureau office, I got two ranks.

Dany: You have stopped for 10 years?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: Do you still receive pension fund?

Chhuong: No, I never received that fund. At that time, when they prepared the pension fund, I was sick at the hospital. I could not go. As I could not go, I gave it to my boss. I told him he could do anything with my name. He could move me to any place and withdraw my salary.

Dany: Really?

Chhuong: Yes.

Dany: You don't want it?

Chhuong: I don't want it. Later, within the last few days, they asked me to go back.

Dany: Really?

Chhuong: That's right.

Dany: When you go, your name is still there?

Chhuong: No, if I go, there would be a new name. UN has replaced my old name.

Dany: Will you go?

Chhuong: I have been for one or two days, I returned back. I am not well. I went that day just to gather old soldiers to help because I thought that we all struggled together. As our country is busy with war, we have to help each other.

Dany: I have interviewed you for about two hours and a half. It is very long.

Chhuong: That's alright.

Dany: I don't have any more questions to ask you. Do you want to add anything that I did not ask you?



Chhuong: Yes.  
Dany: Do you want to add anything?  
Chhuong: I don't have anything to add. That's all.  
Dany: Yes, I thank you very much for spending time to allow me to do interview about your stories and experiences since childhood up to the three-year period. I thank you so much.  
Chhuong: Yes

"END"