



SLEUK RITH INSTITUTE  
A Permanent Documentation  
Center of Cambodia

## HISTORY OF THE SITE FOR SLEUK RITH INSTITUTE

Consultation Paper

**Munti K-17**

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### **I. Introduction**

Munti<sup>1</sup> K-17 was part of Ministry S-71 (or “Munti S-71”). Munti S-71 was the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK)’s administration Munti, which was in charge of administration work and logistics. This Munti facilitated the work of CPK’s Party Centre. Ministry S-71 also had a number of subsidiary Muntis whose codenames began with “K.” These subsidiary Muntis included, amongst others, Munti K-1 and Munti K-3, which were known to be the place where Pol Pot, Nuon Chea, and a number of other members of CPK’s Standing Committee lived and worked.<sup>2</sup>

Intellectuals and a number of Cambodians returning from overseas prior to and after the Khmer Rouge came to power in April 1975 were sent to live and work in Munti K-17. In

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<sup>1</sup> Literally, Munti means office or department. The Khmer Rouge, however, referred to Munti for different purposes. For them, Munti could mean, *inter alia*, a ministry, an office, a subordinate office within the ministry, a subordinate office of office, unit and security office.

<sup>2</sup> ECCC, (2010) “Closing Order,” Case 002, pp. 20-22, URL: <http://www.eccc.gov.kh/sites/default/files/documents/courtdoc/D427Eng.pdf> (13 November 2012).

1978, K-17 was placed under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose minister was Ieng Sary.<sup>3</sup>

## II. Location and Premises of Munti K-17

After their victory on 17 April 1975, the Khmer Rouge chose Boeng Trabek to be the location for Munti K-17. Dy Kimsan, alias Sen, who was assigned by the Khmer Rouge's Angkar to work at Munti K-17, said that, when he first arrived at Boeng Trabek, it was quiet and there were no people along the road. Houses and schools were closed; and, at the time, there were only three or four Khmer Rouge cadres who were cleaning and tidying up houses and school premises within the Boeng Trabek area. Munti K-17 also consisted of separate Muntis. The Khmer Rouge did not permit people to move around from Munti to Munti; in other words, one could only move within the parameter of their own Munti. Each Munti was surrounded by barbed wire and fenced off by 2-meter-high metal barriers, which completely blocked off one's view.<sup>4</sup>

The premises, located to the right of Phsa Daem Thkov's round about, were called Boeng Trabek Khang Tbaung (Southern Boeng Trabek). This area was used to house intellectuals, diplomats of National United Front of Kampuchea, and a number of Khmers Khang Cheung (northern Khmer)<sup>5</sup> who had returned from overseas before and after the Khmer Rouge's victory in 1975.<sup>6</sup> Within the area of Boeng Trabek Khang Tbaung, there were plenty of coconut and banana trees. The Khmer Rouge assigned people to grow vegetables within the area such as eggplant, tomato, Nonoung (an edible plant similar to gourd or eggplant), lettuce, chili, sweet potato, and other types of vegetables to support subsidiary Muntis of Ministry S-71. On various parts of the Boeng Trabek Lake, the Khmer Rouge grew morning glory, water lily, and water hyacinth. They also caught fish and collected crabs and snails.<sup>7</sup> Houses and other places within the Boeng Trabek area were used as kitchens, living quarters,

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<sup>3</sup> DC-Cam interview with Phy Phuon aka Chiem, 19 October 2010

<sup>4</sup> DC-Cam interview with Dy Kimsan, March 2004 and August 2012

<sup>5</sup> According to Kamboly Dy (2007), Khmer Khang Cheung, also known as Khmer-Hanoi, were Cambodian communists (members of the Khmer Issarak movement) living in exile in North Vietnam after the 1954 Geneva Conference.

<sup>6</sup> DC-Cam Document J00518, confession of Lean Sereyvuth; DC-Cam Document, Confession of Vann Piny; VOA interview with Neou Sarem, December 2008.

<sup>7</sup> VOA Interview with Neou Sarem, December 2008. "I was very happy when I rowed the boat in the lake at dawn, viewing sunrise, while collecting duckweed, water hyacinth, and crab and snails in order to make food for ducks. Alone in the lake, I had the freedom to sing French and Khmer songs and chant poetry," said Neou Sarem, who was an intellectual at Munti Boeng Trabek and made leader of a group raising ducks and rabbits in 1978, URL: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-8.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-8.mp3) (13 November 2012).

and animal-husbandry areas.<sup>8</sup> Nearby, Chhiv Neang Neang Primary School<sup>9</sup> was used as a common meeting place. A number of buildings within the school complex and the surrounding area were used as houses and schools for Khmer Rouge children, who were being prepared for overseas study. These children were trained to speak English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Khmer. Dy Kimsan, who later became a language trainer at the school, said, “Buildings within the premises of Chhiv Neang Neang Primary School were used as classrooms for English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Khmer. Unlike the other languages, Khmer was taught in a common classroom. On the outside walls of each classroom, there were sayings such as “*Committed to studying*,” “*Committed to respecting Angkar*,” and “*Committed to being disciplined*.” In addition to classrooms, there was also a meeting hall and a kitchen. Trainers and children stayed in houses located on or near the Primary School grounds.”<sup>10</sup>

### III. The State of Intellectuals Prior to Being Transferred to Munti K-17

A large number of intellectuals, who were civil servants, diplomats of National United Front of Kampuchea, former students and civilians residing and studying overseas were called to return and volunteered to return to Cambodia after the Khmer Rouge’s victory over the Khmer Republic regime on 17 April 1975.<sup>11</sup> As soon as they arrived in Phnom Penh, the intellectuals were sent to Munti K-15, located within the compound of the Khmer-Soviet Poly Technic Institute. On this compound, the Khmer Rouge ordered the group to provide their revolutionary biography and undertake a three-day training on CPK policies, provided by Khieu Samphan and Mao Khemnoeun, alias Phum, who was head of Munti K-15. After completing the training, the intellectuals and their families, were sent, without adequate food, to various work projects. These work projects included a variety of assignments such as factories in Phnom Penh, state farms<sup>12</sup> in the Phnom Penh suburb, and North, Northwest, and Eastern zones.

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<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*; See also VOA Interview with Neou Sarem, December 2008, URL: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-6.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-6.mp3) (13 November 2012); See also, VOA Interview with Neou Sarem, December 2008, URL: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/010\\_04/81231-Sarem-Complete-Part-7.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/010_04/81231-Sarem-Complete-Part-7.mp3) (13 November 2012).

<sup>9</sup> During the Lon Nol regime, Phsar Daem Thkov Primary School was renamed Chhiv Neang Neang Primary School. The school was again renamed Phsar Daem Thkov Primary School after the Khmer Rouge collapsed in 1979.

<sup>10</sup> DC-Cam Interview with Dy Kimsan, March 2004 and August 2012.

<sup>11</sup> DC-Cam, “[Partial] List of Cambodians Repatriated from Foreign Countries to Democratic Kampuchea (DK) between 1975-1976,” URL: [http://www.dccam.org/Archives/Documents/Confessions/pdf/List's\\_Cambodians\\_Repatriated\\_from\\_foreign\\_countries\\_to\\_DK\\_1975-1976.pdf](http://www.dccam.org/Archives/Documents/Confessions/pdf/List's_Cambodians_Repatriated_from_foreign_countries_to_DK_1975-1976.pdf) (13 November 2012).

<sup>12</sup> ‘State farm’ was referred to by the Khmer Rouge as a unit tasked with growing rice and other agricultural works.

Vann Piny, former Cambodian diplomat posted to France and deputy minister for foreign affairs of the [exiled] National United Front of Kampuchea in Beijing, was called to Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge's Angkar in September 1975. As soon as he arrived, Vann Piny and his families were placed in the Khmer-Soviet Poly Technic Institute for the purpose of undergoing training by Khieu Samphan. After completing the training, participants were sent to labour projects throughout the country. Vann Piny was sent to Thmar Kaul district in the Northwest zone where he worked in the state farm Office in Phnom Sampeou. Later, Piny was assigned to construct rice-field dykes at the state-owned rice paddies in Phnom Sampeou. In March 1976, Chhaim, head of the state farm, ordered Piny to construct rice-field dykes at Boeng Trao. Thereafter, Piny was sent to construct dykes and large canals in Region 5 of the Northwest zone. In August 1976, Piny, together with a number of former officials and diplomats of the National United Front of Kampuchea, were returned to Phnom Penh and placed in Munti M-1 (Chraing Chamres), while continuing their farm works. In February 1977, Piny and many former diplomats were sent on to Munti K-17.<sup>13</sup>

Neou Sarem was a former teacher from Phnom Penh who was awarded a scholarship in September 1974 to study in France. Sarem returned from France, by way of Beijing, in January 1976. As soon as she had arrived at Po Chentong Airport, she was sent by the Khmer Rouge, along with a number of intellectuals and their families, to the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Poly Technic Institute. In the Poly Technic Institute, the Khmer Rouge required her to provide her revolutionary biography and read it in a collective meeting. Sarem and other intellectuals received training on CPK's political views—as provided by Khieu Samphan and Phum, the leader of the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Poly Technic Institute. After completing the training, Sarem was assigned to farm rice, make No. 1 fertilizer, and perform other work projects. In May 1976, Sarem and a group of about 100 intellectuals were transferred to live and perform agricultural work on a state farm in Talei village,<sup>14</sup> which is located near Boeng Cheung Ek. Sarem performed hard physical labour without adequate food. It was in Talei village that she also met two groups of the Cambodian royal family – those of Princess Norodom Botum Bopha and Princess Norodom Sorya Raingsei, aka, Princess Pang. In September 1976, Sarem was sent from Talei village to perform agricultural work on the state farm at Angkor Chey in Kien Svay district. She performed this work until the end of 1976 when she was sent on to Munti K-17.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> DC-Cam, Searching for the Truth, Issue #17, May 2001, pp. 2-6

<sup>14</sup> Today, Talei village is located in Boeng Cheung Ek Commune, Dangkao District, Phnom Penh.

<sup>15</sup> VOA Interview with Neou Sarem, December 2008: URL:

Part 1: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-1.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-1.mp3)  
(13 November 2012).

Ong Thong Hoeung was born on 7 August 1945. Thong Hoeung was a former student in political economy from France, and, he was a former member of the National United Front of Kampuchea since the coup against King Norodom Sihanouk in March 1970. Thong Hoeung voluntarily returned to the country in July 1976 following the departure of his wife, Chhuor Bunny, a former professor who had returned to Cambodia six months earlier. On the flight to Phnom Penh, Thong Hoeung was accompanied by Hai Kimsean and his family. (Hai Kimsean was a former member of the National United Front of Kampuchea in Cuba.) In addition, on this same flight, there were seven members of Ieng Thirith's family (including her mother, elder sister, nephews and nieces) and ten former soldiers of the Khmer Republic regime who were on their way from the United States. As soon as Thong Hoeung had landed at Po Chentong airport, his passport was confiscated and he was transported to the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Poly Technic Institute. Thong Hoeung, then, realized that the situation in Cambodia was tense. As such, he did not ask for an explanation as to why his passport taken. At the Institute, he was permitted by the Khmer Rouge to have a day off. But thereafter, the Khmer Rouge ordered him to farm rice, fix and demolish houses, break and haul rocks, and prepare the land for farming. Thong Hoeung found his wife at this Institute but, on the first day of their reunion, his wife did not approach or speak to him. His wife told him later that he should submit himself to the Khmer Rouge and not be friendly and close to those intellectuals he previously associated with. Moreover, she informed him that he should not share things such as sweets with his former colleagues. He would be in trouble if the Khmer Rouge were ever informed on these activities. The Khmer Rouge later allowed Thong Hoeung and his wife to share a room on the third floor of the Khmer-Soviet Poly Technic Institute; however, because he was sent to perform labour for prolonged periods of time, he could only stay with his wife once a week or every ten days.

Thong Hoeung described how the Khmer-Soviet Poly Technic Institute was Munti K-15 as well as a re-education centre for intellectuals returning from overseas. The plan was to have intellectuals re-educate themselves by way of performing heavy labour with minimal food

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Part 2: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-2.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-2.mp3)  
(13 November 2012).

Part 3: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-3.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-3.mp3)  
(13 November 2012).

Part 4: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-4.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-4.mp3)  
(13 November 2012).

Part 5: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-5.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-5.mp3)  
(13 November 2012).

Part 6: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-6.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-6.mp3)  
(13 November 2012).



rations. Meals at K-15 consisted of watery rice soup and little morning glory soup that came with fish. Intellectuals were ordered to criticize each other and themselves after work in the evening. Chief of Munti K-15 was comrade Phum. Thong Hoeung had spent three months at Munti K-15 before becoming transferred as a chief of the tree-trunk-cutting unit at Factory D-2, located near Prek Pnœou. In October or November 1976, Thong Hoeung was sent to perform labour at Ta Kmao. After just one month, however, he was transferred again to Munti K-17.<sup>16</sup>

#### **IV. Works and Eating in Munti K-17**

During the period of Democratic Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979, intellectuals and those living in Munti K-17, as well as the general Cambodians, were evacuated by the Khmer Rouge to the countryside of Cambodia. Without adequate food, they were forced to perform heavy labour within the perimeters of Boeng Trabek area or other places. On the other hand, the children undertaking foreign language training and the Khmer Rouge cadres at Munti K-17 were provided with adequate food and there was no heavy labour.

Tep Vutha, a former student from France and Romania, returned to Cambodia via Beijing. At the end of 1976, the Khmer Rouge sent Vutha and hundreds of former officials, diplomats, and their families of the National United Front of Kampuchea to Munti K-17. Each meal consisted of only a bowl of watery rice soup. According to Vutha, this soup often contained corn or salt or fish, snail, or crab (if he could find these). Each day, Vutha received only two rations: lunch and dinner. The Khmer Rouge assigned intellectuals to perform work in groups—for instance, house-construction, rice-cultivation, rice-harvesting or threshing, sickle-making, and machine repair were all performed in groups. After dinner, each intellectual was ordered to attend livelihood meetings where they were instructed to offer criticisms of their groups and themselves.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Ong Thong Hoeung gave testimony at the ECCC in August 2012, URL:

1. <http://www.cambodiatribunal.org/blog/2012/08/defense-teams-take-center-stage-witness-testimony-resumes> (13 November 2012).

2. <http://www.cambodiatribunal.org/blog/2012/08/%E2%80%9CIt-ruined-my-happiness%E2%80%9D-witness-provides-emotional-testimony-life-democratic-kampuchea> (13 November 2012).

3. <http://www.cambodiatribunal.org/blog/2012/08/court-hears-another-day-split-testimony> (13 November 2012).

4. <http://www.cambodiatribunal.org/blog/2012/08/court-hears-testimony-two-intellectuals-who-returned-cambodia-during-democratic> (13 November 2012).

<sup>17</sup> DC-Cam, “Mapping Report of Boeng Trabek High School,” August 1999.

Hem Vanna, a former student who returned from France (together with Tep Vutha), said that sometimes intellectuals at Munti K-17 were transported to grow and harvest rice, clear away water hyacinth, and construct rice-field dykes at various places. These labour projects often lasted for a period of one or two months before they were brought back to Munti K-17.<sup>18</sup>

Neou Sarem was sent to Munti K-17 at the end of 1976. Sarem was placed in a women's unit headed by Yunn. In 1977, Sarem, together with some twenty other women, were sent to a worksite at Wat Sleng.<sup>19</sup> Daughters of Chaem Snguon, Hor Nam Hong, and Iengkun Saki, who was a former diplomat of the National United Front of Kampuchea, were also amongst those in the women's unit. The Khmer Rouge assigned the women's unit to harvest and transport rice and dig and carry earth [at the worksite] for a period of four months before allowing them to return to Munti K-17 at Boeng Trabek. In 1978, Sarem was appointed the head of a group that was tasked with raising ducks and rabbits as well as looking after some twenty children of the intellectuals. As for eating, the only food that was provided was watery rice soup with morning glory soup. On some occasions, she could also have the soup with fish, crabs, and snails (if she could find these). The only exceptions to this daily diet were those anniversaries and weddings that occurred on 17 April. On these occasions, cooked rice was available.<sup>20</sup>

According to Nhem Sophat, her husband Chin Sea, alias Han, was a former Khmer Khang Cheung, who had returned to Cambodia during the civil war of the 1970s. In September 1975, Han's family and four to five other Khmers Khang Cheung families were sent to Boeng Trabek from Munti K-92, located in Kampong Thom province of the Northern Zone. Han and his wife were placed in a house within the parameters of Boeng Trabek. Han was assigned to perform clerical work such as typewriting and cut water hyacinth and morning glory for feeding pigs. Sophat, on the other hand, was assigned to look after the children within the Munti.<sup>21</sup>

Dy Kimsan was a former Khmer Rouge cadre and a Khmer language teacher for children within Munti K-17. These children had a good standard of living, with two cooked meals and desserts such as fruit on a daily basis. The children performed a little work such as growing banana, eggplant, and morning glory within the school compound.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Today, Wat Sleng is located in Wat Sleng village, Paung Tirk commune, Dangkao District, Phnom Penh.

<sup>20</sup> VOA Interview with Neou Sarem, December 2008: URL: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-7.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-7.mp3) (13 November 2012).

<sup>21</sup> DC-Cam interview with Nhem Sophat, 2010

<sup>22</sup> DC-Cam interview with Dy Kimsan, March 2004 and August 2012

Sen said that “at the time, I was teaching Khmer, there was also a female teacher named Yanin who taught English.<sup>23</sup> Two other teachers, Maing and Mean, taught Chinese, and there was another teacher who taught Vietnamese. There were almost a hundred students, many of whom were children of high-ranking Khmer Rouge cadres. There were also a small number of children of workers and peasants. Hu Nim’s son was among this latter group. Munti K-17’s children generally fell between the ages of 10 and 15. Students were grouped based on their language choice—i.e., English, Chinese, and Vietnamese—and everyone was required to study Khmer in one-shared classroom. Students began their class at 7:00 a.m. and broke for lunch around 11:00 a.m. They were then required to attend class from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the evening.”<sup>24</sup>

All foreign language teachers, but Sen, were former Khmer students returning from overseas; Sen was a Khmer Rouge cadre selected from the Zone level.

Both students and teachers were forbidden from leaving the area or visiting Muntis within the Boeng Trabek area. Students were placed in smaller or bigger groups, living in houses close to the school, while teachers were living in separate houses. Sen was living in a villa by himself with water and electricity and a fridge for fruits. He did, however, have any means of cooking food. Ut Savan, chief of K-17, directly controlled this Munti Child.<sup>25</sup> Savan also had a house, where he stayed once in a while, located within the perimeter of the school.<sup>26</sup>

According to Sen, Khieu Samphan came in a jeep with a few bodyguards to see the students in their classes at least once a week or sometimes every two weeks. Sometimes, Khieu Samphan would encourage the students to work harder.<sup>27</sup>

## **V. Arrests and Detention at Munti K-17**

Many intellectuals, diplomats of the National United Front of Kampuchea, and Khmers Khang Cheung had been arrested and sent to Munti S-21 for interrogation, torture, and execution. They had been accused of being agents of the US CIA, the Soviet KGB, and the Workers’ Party of Vietnam. A number of children and Khmer Rouge cadres at Munti K-17 had also been accused of disloyalty and sent to Munti S-21.

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<sup>23</sup> DC-Cam Document I05176, a biography of Pok Yanin.

<sup>24</sup> DC-Cam interview with Dy Kimsan, March 2004 and August 2012

<sup>25</sup> DC-Cam Document K04324, S-21 prisoner biography of Ut Savan; DC-Cam Interview with Dy Kimsan, March 2004 and August 2012

<sup>26</sup> DC-Cam Interview with Dy Kimsan, March 2004 and August 2012

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

Lean Sereyvuth, a former French language student and member of the government of the National United Front of Kampuchea in France, returned to Cambodia in October 1975. The Khmer Rouge sent Sereyvuth to Munti K-17 at the beginning of 1977. He was placed in a handicraft group of Munti K-15<sup>28</sup> of Southern Boeng Trabek. According to his confession, Sereyvuth was accused of being a CIA agent who acted against the Front since his time outside of the country. In 1974, Sereyvuth was ordered to go to Beijing, spy on, and persuade King Sihanouk to leave the Front. In 1975, Sereyvuth returned to Cambodia from Beijing and was assigned to mobilize a force to spy on the revolution in the hopes of destroying it. Lean Sereyvuth was arrested by the Khmer Rouge and sent to Munti S-21 on 12 November 1977.<sup>29</sup>

Vann Piny, chief of Munti K-17 (Southern Boeng Trabek), was forced to give a confession, on 3 February 1978, in which he said he had been disloyal to the revolution since 1962. In 1962 he joined France's SDECE [Service de Documentation Extérieure et de Contre-Espionnage] to perform espionage activities in Cambodia for the French. Vann Piny went on to describe his membership of the CIA and his traitorous activities at Munti M-1 at Chraing Chamres and his acts of destruction to Angkar. He also confessed to the crime of mobilizing forces to topple the Khmer Rouge's Angkar at Munti K-17 at Boeng Trabek. Many former diplomats of the National United Front of Kampuchea, who were colleagues of Vann Piny (while at Munti M-1 and Munti K-17) had been arrested and sent to Munti S-21. Chaem Snguon, Hor Nam Hong, and a number of diplomats escaped these arrests because the Khmer Rouge collapsed on 7 January 1979. Vann Piny was arrested on 20 November 1977 and smashed in February 1978.

According to a 2008 interview with Neou Sarem by Voice of America (VOA), In 2008 Neou Sarem was interviewed by the Voice of America, where he related a story about an electrical engineer, Khin Vanchhan. Khin Vanchhan was a son of Sarin Chhark and an electric engineer from France who was ordered by Savan, chief of K-17, to fix a radio at a meeting where many intellectuals were present. Khin Vanchhan was unsuccessful in fixing the radio and, as a result, he was criticized by Savan. Savan said, "What is an engineer from France who can't even fix a radio."<sup>30</sup> According to Sarem, one of those in the meeting said that it was probably due to inadequate tools that Khin Vanchhan was unsuccessful in fixing the

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<sup>28</sup> Munti K-15 (mentioned here) is different from the earlier-mentioned Munti K-15 headed by Mao Khamneoun, alias Phum. The former was headed by Tunn Chautsirin alias Kaet. Munti K-15 headed by Mao Khamneoun was located inside the Khmer-Soviet Poly Technic Institute; intellectuals and diplomats returning from overseas were first kept in Khamneoun's Munti K-15 before being dispersed to different places. Chautsirin's K-15 was a subsidiary of Munti K-17 and located inside Boeng Trabek area.

<sup>29</sup> DC-Cam Document J00518, Confession of Lean Sereyvuth

<sup>30</sup> VOA Interview with Neou Sarem, December 2008: URL: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-8.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-8.mp3) (13 November 2012).

radio. Khin Vanchhan was then arrested and sent to S-21. In his confession at Munti S-21, Khin Vanchhan, was 32 year-old Khmer male and an electrical engineer in France. At Munti K-17, section K-15, [Khin Vanchhan] was arrested by the Khmer Rouge's Angkar on 3 March 1978.<sup>31</sup>

Every evening, Nhem Sophat saw Khmers Khang Cheung carrying notebooks as they came to her house to meet her husband Han. They often communicated in Vietnamese. In January 1976, Han engaged in tree-cutting labour for the purpose of building houses. Together with other Khmers Khang Cheung, he would get on a truck that would take him to a mountainous area. Before departure, Han left a watch and letter for Sophat. “[You] must work hard and we’ll reunite soon. [You] must adjust yourself to fit with their revolution,” said the letter. A day after the Khmer Rouge took her husband out of Boeng Trabek, Sophat was transferred to another Munti located in front of the royal palace on the other side of the river.<sup>32</sup> In his prisoner biography at Munti S-21, Chin Sea, alias Han, stated that he was born in Svay Rieng province. Han’s wife was Nhem Phat, and he was arrested and sent to Munti S-21 on 15 January 1976.<sup>33</sup>

Ong Thong Hoeung, who testified at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia from 7 to 9 August 2012, said that, amongst some 1700 officials (diplomats of the National United Front of Kampuchea, soldiers, and civilians returning from overseas during the period of 1975-1978), only about 200 of them survived the Democratic Kampuchea regime.

In 1977, two of Hun Nim’s sons named Vin and Rin, (both of whom were studying in the Child Unit) were put on a jeep by the Khmer Rouge and never returned.<sup>34</sup> In 1978, a number of Khmer Rouge cadres in charge of Munti K-17 were arrested and sent to S-21 for accusation of being involved in the Vietnamese spy network and making plans to assassinate Pol Pot and Nuon Chea.<sup>35</sup>

## **VI. Munti K-17 Organizational Chart**

Munti K-17 was subordinate to Ministry S-71 or Munti S-71. Chhim Sam Aok, alias Pang, alias 010, was the head of Ministry S-71. Senior cadres in charge of Munti K-17 were

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<sup>31</sup> DC-Cam Document K07686, S-21 prisoner biography of Khin Vanchhan

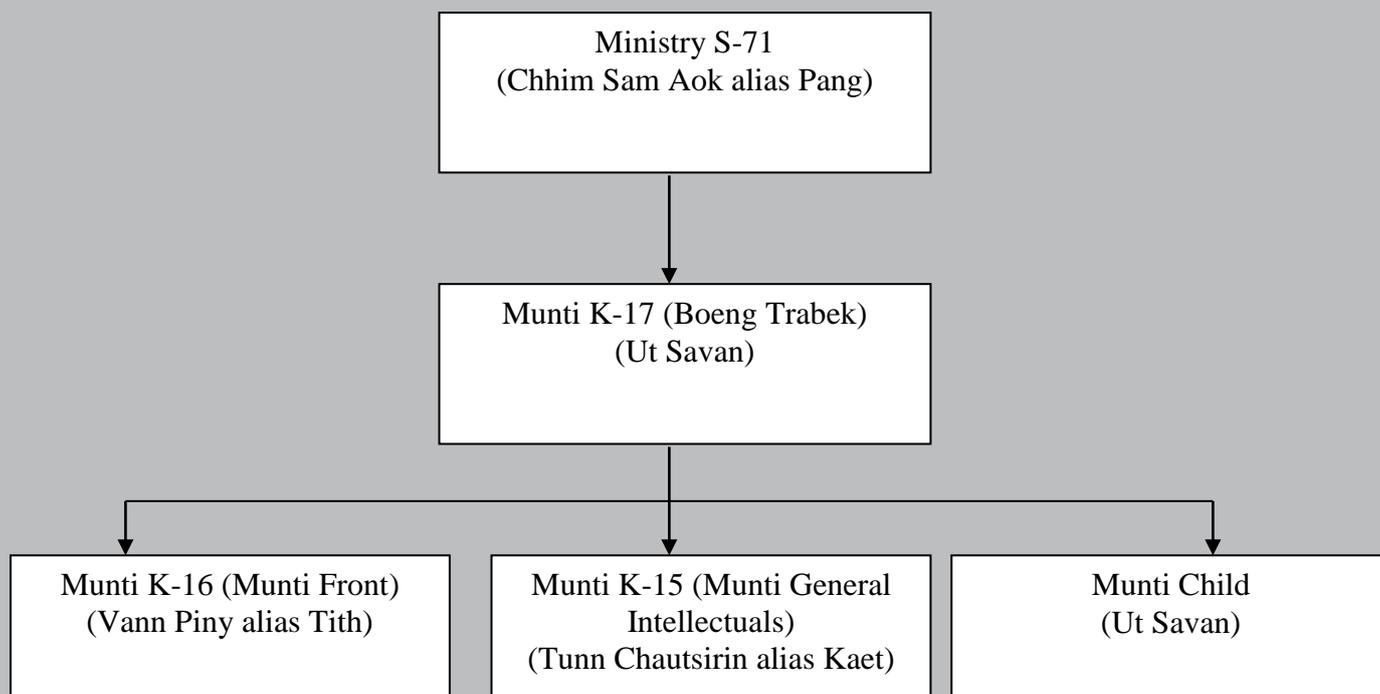
<sup>32</sup> DC-Cam Interview with Nhem Sophat, 2010

<sup>33</sup> DC-Cam Document I09635, S-21 prisoner biography of Chin Sea aka Han

<sup>34</sup> DC-Cam Interview with Dy Kimsan, March 2004 and August 2012.

<sup>35</sup> DC-Cam Document D58979, Confession of Ut Savan; also, DC-Cam Document K01372, S-21 prisoner biography of Luon Sao aka Sin

composed of Ut Savan, chairman of Munti's chairing committee;<sup>36</sup> Thin, deputy chairman of Munti's chairing committee; and Luon Sao, alias Sin, member of Munti's chairing committee<sup>37</sup>. Luon Sao, alias Sin, became chairman of Munti 17's chairing committee after Ut Savan was arrested and sent to Munti S-21 on 24 May 1978.<sup>38</sup> Luon Sao, alias Sin, was also accused of being connected to the traitorous network of Ut Savan and of Chhim Sam Aok and was arrested and sent to Munti S-21 on 5 July 1978.<sup>39</sup>



Munti K-17 was divided into three sections:

**Munti K-16 or Munti Front:** Members were all diplomats of the National United Front of Kampuchea and their family members. There were approximately 50 people. These diplomats were not trusted or made party members of the Communist Party of Kampuchea or entrusted with any significant duties or roles during Democratic Kampuchea from 1975 to

<sup>36</sup> DC-Cam Document D58979, Ut Savan confession, July 1978.

<sup>37</sup> DC-Cam Document D58979, Confession of Ut Savan, July 1978; Savan was made chairman of Munti K-17 in December 1975.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> DC-Cam Document K01372, S-21 prisoner biography of Luon Sao aka Sin.

1979. On the contrary, they were forced to perform hard labour at various places.<sup>40</sup> In Munti Front, the Khmer Rouge selected three former diplomats to be in charge of other diplomats. Representatives of the Munti Front included: Vann Piny, head of the committee;<sup>41</sup> Chao Seng, alias Chen Suon, alias San,<sup>42</sup> deputy head of the committee;<sup>43</sup> and Hor Nam Hong, member of the committee.<sup>44</sup> Aside from this, four to five other former diplomats were appointed leaders of groups. In November 1977, Chao Seng was removed from Munti K-17, and there was a small reshuffle in the committee where Vann Piny remained head, Hor Nam Hong was made deputy head, and Sov Kim Hong became a member of the committee<sup>45</sup>. At the time that Vann Piny was arrested at the end of 1977, he asked that Hor Nam Hong look after the Munti Front<sup>46</sup>.

**Munti K-15 or Munti General Intellectuals:** This Munit was composed of officials of the National United Front of Kampuchea, and former students and civilians returning from overseas prior to and after April 1975. A number of Khmers Khang Cheung surviving from the 1970-1975 civil war were also placed under this Munti. Similar to the Munti Front, the Khmer Rouge appointed a certain number of intellectuals to be in charge of others. In the beginning, an official of the National United Front of Kampuchea named Tunn Chautsirin, alias Kaet, was made head of the committee, while Try Meng Huot, a Chemistry student from France, was made the deputy head. A short time later, Savan made Try Meng Huot head of the committee and Tunn Chautsirin, alias Kaet, was made his deputy.<sup>47</sup> In this Munti, conflicts often arose between supporters of Try Meng Huot and Tunn Chautsirin, alias Kaet, over personal interests. Try Meng Huot often offered criticism of Kaet to Savan, who had then made the arrest of Tunn Chautsirin, alias Kaet, and his wife (Plaek Vipha). He subsequently had them sent to Munti S-21. The head of Munti K-15 was always in flux. The following individuals appointed as head of Munti K-15: Hao, Tunn Chautsirin, alias Kaet; Try Meng Huot; Man; To Thy Pheak,<sup>48</sup> Hing Un, alias Ek; and, finally, Ham Huy.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> DC-Cam Document, Confession of Vann Piny

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> DC-Cam Document D41685, Confession of Chin Suon, aka San. According to Suong Sikoeun, Chin Suon, aka San, is Chao Seng.

<sup>43</sup> DC-Cam Document D41685, Confession of Chin Suon aka San

<sup>44</sup> DC-Cam Document, Confession of Vann Piny

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> DC-Cam Document J00518, Confession of Lean Sereivuth

<sup>48</sup> DC-Cam Document D25540, Confession of To Thy Peak

<sup>49</sup> VOA Interview with Neou Sarem, December 2008, URL: [http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010\\_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-7.mp3](http://www.voanews.com/MediaAssets2/khmer/2010_04/081231-Sarem-Complete-Part-7.mp3) (13 November 2012).

**Munti Child:** Munti Child was headed by Ut Savan, who was also chairman of Munti K-17.<sup>50</sup> Savan was later arrested and sent to Munti S-21, which forced the school's closure. Children and their teachers were sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 3 July 1978.<sup>51</sup>

In July 1978, Ieng Sary held a meeting in Boeng Trabek and announced the liquidation of the chairing committee of Munti K-17. Ieng Sary divided intellectuals at Boeng Trabek into three Muntis and, that is, B-30, B-31, and B-32. At the time, Ieng Sary appointed Ham Huy to be in charge of the whole Boeng Trabek.<sup>52</sup> The situation at Boeng Trabek was less intense because there was no forced labour, and there were individuals were arrested or sent to S-21.

**Munti B-30** was a Munti for general intellectuals who survived various arrests made in Munti K-15 (Boeng Trabek). It was also a Munti for those people who were sent from Dei Kraham<sup>53</sup> in Kampong Cham province. Ham Huy was made Chairman of Munti B-30.<sup>54</sup>

**Munti B-31** was a new Munti established by Ieng Sary for intellectuals selected by him out of Munti B-30 and B-32. These intellectuals were directed to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Munti B-31 was located within the perimeter of Chhiv Neang Neang Primary School. Hing Unn, alias Ek, was chairman of the chairing committee of Munti B-31.<sup>55</sup>

**Munti B-32** was a Munti for diplomats of the National United Front of Kampuchea and intellectuals deemed untrustworthy by the Khmer Rouge. In this Munti, there were some forty surviving diplomats and their families as well as some twenty intellectuals transferred from Munti B-30.<sup>56</sup> Hor Nam Hong was chairman of the chairing committee of Munti B-32,<sup>57</sup> and Peh Bun Tong was chosen to be the deputy chairman of the chairing committee.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> DC-Cam Interview with Dy Kimsan, March 2004 and August 2012.

<sup>51</sup> DC-Cam Document I05176, biography of Pok Yanin, an English teacher at K-17.

<sup>52</sup> Ong Thong Hoeung, *Return to a Tragic Story or I Believed in the Khmer Rouge*, (Khmer version), Phnom Penh: Angkor Bookstore, 2006, pp. 169-86.

<sup>53</sup> Dei Kraham was a certain place in Stung Trang district of Kampong Cham province.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid*, p. 177

<sup>55</sup> DC-Cam, Promoting Accountability Project, Long Dany's informal interview with Peh Bun Tong, 21 September 2012; Tong is a former FUNK's officer in Beijing, China. Tong was transferred from Dei Kraham to Boeng Trabek in 1978.

<sup>56</sup> See fn 47, pp. 183-84

<sup>57</sup> H. E. Hor Nam Hong, "A Personal reflection: life during the Khmer Rouge," Phnom Penh Post, Issue 14/7, April 8-21, 2005, p. 8.

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