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LETTER DATED 8 AUGUST 1967 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CAMBODIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instructions of my Government I have the honour to inform you that in the afternoon of 27 June 1967, at about 2.20 p.m., a former member of the Khmer-Serei movement employed by the United States Embassy in Thailand, travelling from Bangkok on the Air Viet-Nam mail plane, gave himself up at the national police check-post at Pochentong airport. The person in question is a Khmer-Krom named Sournya Sarakhan, or Thach Chhum, born on 22 October 1931 at Hoa An, Srok of Kompong Spean (Cau-Ke), Khet of Preah Trapeang (Travinh), son of Dua Sournya and Thach Thi Ky.

In the course of a summary interrogation, this person stated that:

He studied at the Sisowath secondary school until 1952, when he joined the Royal Khmer armed forces. On completing his training at the Khmer Officer Training School, he was commissioned sub-lieutenant of the 10th Course (Preah Sihanouk Course). He was assigned in turn to Kampot, Svay Rieng, Battambang and the 1st Parachute Battalion at Pochentong.

In 1956, out of mere boredom with the monotony of army life, he deserted from his unit and returned to Kampuchea-Krom (Cochinchina), his native village, where he stayed a year.

On a visit to Saigon in 1957, he met some former comrades of the Royal Khmer armed forces (an artificer officer, an equipment officer and a navy officer) who were escorting a Cambodian warship transporting to Cambodia arms and munitions from the United States assistance authorities in Saigon. He returned to Phnom-Penh on this boat as a stowaway, without being discovered, and stayed temporarily for about a month with the late Mr. Son Sach, who agreed to receive him as he was a compatriot. Later, he made his way secretly by train to Bangkok via Poipet.

At Bangkok, Sournya Sarakhan he met a man named Lek Sam Oeun, and lived with him for about a week before going to Vientiane (Laos). There, they were both employed as accountants in the Samboun sawmill, Sihom district, for four months.

In 1959, the Khmer-Serei movement became more active, and Lek Sam Oeun was recalled urgently to Bangkok by his committee, and returned to Vientiane only a month later. Then Lek Sam Oeun and Sarakhan, together with four other associates (Ouk Mel, Phan, a former male nurse, Lok Bi and Achar Thang) went to Bangkok where, in a villa located near the house of a Thai major (now colonel) called Chhannak, they found the traitor Sam Sary. All these Khmer-Serei lived in the villa for seven months; but the Khmer-Serei committee did not function smoothly, as its members were divided into two factions. The first was composed of Thanhist elements who described themselves as genuine revolutionaries; and the second faction consisted of the Samsarists, who were accused by the first group of being opportunists.

As a result of this disagreement, the committee was transferred to Ouborn under escort by Major Chhannak. Sam Sary remained in the villa with a group of Khmer-Serei elements, and another group consisting of Sournya Sarakhan, Achar Thang and Lok Bi returned to Paksé (Laos). There, they met the late Sau Ngoy who made efforts to provide them with transport as far as Stung Treng. After passing a night in this town at the bus station, all three went back to Phnom-Penh (April 1960). Sarakhan returned to his aunt Thach Thi Vieng, who had previously been living in Tuk Laak, and later went to Moat Chrouk (Chaudoc) guided by a Khmer-Krom woman.

After staying for a week at Saigon, he went back to his native village, Kompong Spean (Preah Trapeang), to help his parents by working on the land (his father is a landowner in the region). From time to time he used to go to Saigon, where he was always accompanied by Mr. Yan, secretary of the Cambodian Mission in Saigon and now working at the Royal Cambodian Embassy in Rangoon.

In 1961, as conditions were insecure in his native province, his family decided to take refuge in Cambodia. He alone left for Saigon, where he applied for and obtained a post as monitor-translator in the United States Embassy. His duties included:

- Listening to broadcasts in Cambodian and French by Radio Phnom-Penh, Peking, Moscow, Hanoi and the National Liberation Front;
- Reviewing the Phnom-Penh Press.

On 26 April 1967, Sournya Sarakhan was assigned to the United States Embassy in Thailand. On the same day, he took the Thai Airways direct plane from Saigon to Bangkok.

At Bangkok he stayed at the Rex Hotel, on Sukumvith street. After he had worked for a month in this Embassy, performing the same duties as in Saigon, his director Mr. Mario di Paul invited him to see a senior United States official in the same Embassy; and he agreed to do this. During the interview, he noted that Colonel Chhannak and the First Secretary of the South Viet-Nameese Embassy were also present. These persons asked him to collaborate with the Khmer-Serei movement, but he refused. Later, Colonel Chhannak invited him three times to restaurants in the town in the hope of persuading him to change his mind, but - he claims - without any success. Later, the same Thai officer took him to the room of Lek Sam Oeun, who was in the Christian Hospital at Bangkok, and made the same proposals to him; but again he turned them down.

He added that it was after his refusal to collaborate with the Khmer-Serei that his chief decided to send him back to South Viet-Nam on a TWA aircraft; but he managed to have his air ticket changed for an Air Viet-Nam flight, so that he could give himself up at Phnom-Penh.

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Interrogated once again during the night of 27-28 June 1967, Sournya Sarakhan gave the following additional information:

As monitor-translator in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service of the United States Embassy, he was required to:

- Listen to broadcasts in Cambodian and French by Radio Phnom-Penh, Peking, Moscow, Hanoi and the South Viet-Nameese National Liberation Front;
- Translate articles from La Dépêche, Kambuja and other papers on the political, economic and financial situation in Cambodia.

During his stay at Bangkok (Thailand), he met the following members of the Khmer-Serei movement:

- (1) Lek Sam Oeun, one of the Khmer-Serei military leaders, previously operating in Sorin. He has recently been treated for malaria at the Christian Hospital in Bangkok.
- (2) Hieng, information and propaganda officer.
- (3) Lok Bi, same duties as Hieng.
- (4) Achar Noy, propagandist.

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- (5) Achar Thang, propagandist.
- (6) Vanno, " .
- (7) Phan, " .

Hieng and Lok Bi are engaged in tape-recording anti-Khmer propaganda statements or texts, to be broadcast by the Thai radio. Sarakhan states that the Khmer-Serei traitors do not have any radio station of their own. The four propagandists (Achar Noy, Achar Thang, Vanno, and Phan) are responsible for propaganda among Khmer nationals in the provinces of Sorin, Boreiram and Sisaket (Thailand), to induce them to join the Khmer-Serei movement.

Each member of the Khmer-Serei movement operating in Thailand is paid 400 bath per month.

He collaborated with Sam Sary and Lek Sam Oeun for about six or seven months, preparing anti-Khmer propaganda texts.

He knows nothing of the location of Khmer-Serei troops on Thailand territory, as he was not posted from Saigon to Bangkok until 26 April 1967; and in Bangkok, as in Saigon, he worked only in the United States Embassy.

About two weeks previously, Songsakd Kipanich had invited him to the "Café de Paris" cabaret in Bangkok, in the company of the Thai Colonel Chhannak, in order to persuade him to collaborate with the Khmer Serei movement in Thailand; but he still refused.

According to statements by Lek Sam Oeun, the traitor Songsakd has recently opened a bazaar and an import-export establishment, under the trade-name of Sarinthra, in Bangkok. But he does not know what functions this performs in the Khmer-Serei movement.

In Saigon, he had no political relations with the Khmer-Serei. He only knows that the leader of these traitors is Son Thai Nguyen - brother of Son Ngoc Thanh - who has his headquarters at the Chantaraingsei monastery in South Viet-Nam. On the other hand, he was often visited by Sau Ngoy, Chau Bory, and Mathura who came to him to ask for money.

He never met Son Ngoc Thanh during his stay in South Viet-Nam and Thailand; and Sam Sary, according to the late Chau Bory, is believed to have been assassinated by unknown persons.

Lastly, he states that he knows nothing at all of military preparations by Thailand and South Viet-Nam against Cambodia.

The above information provided by Sournya Sarakhan, also known as Thach Chhum, a member of the Khmer-Serei movement, confirms once again that it is in fact the Americans and the Thais together who have created and are maintaining the Khmer-Serei movement of mercenaries and traitors, for the obvious purpose of undermining the policy of peace and neutrality adopted by the Royal Government of Cambodia to protect its national independence and territorial integrity.

The Royal Cambodian Government wishes to draw the attention of the world public to this new evidence of flagrant and intolerable interference by the authorities of Washington and Bangkok in the affairs of Cambodia - interference which constitutes a direct violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and impugns the security and sovereignty of neutral and peace-loving Cambodia.

I should be obliged if you would have the text of this communication circulated as a Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) OR KOSALAK
Deputy Permanent Representative of Cambodia
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

