



DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF CAMBODIA
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Quarterly Report:
January-March 2004**
www.dccam.org

This report describes the Documentation Center of Cambodia's (DC-Cam) activities for the first quarter of 2004 (January to March). It also cites challenges and constraints to our work, sets forth our strategies for improvement, and provides indicators of our performance and impact.

1. NARRATIVE REPORT

1.1 SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND IMPACTS

In addition to continuing our progress on all of our core projects, we made some organizational adjustments in the previous quarter to address the challenges and demands for our work in 2004. Until November 2003, we had conceptually and functionally organized our work into seven major areas: mapping (which was focused on forensics work for much of 2003), documentation, microfilming, historical research, translation, publication, and our monthly magazine, *Searching for the Truth*.

However, at our annual staff meeting held on November 14-15, 2003, we agreed that to proceed most effectively in 2004 and to present a clear picture of our work to donors, we needed to re-categorize our work. Certain projects (such as our Mapping Project) were nearing completion, while newer projects involving education, outreach, and efforts to promote accountability were growing rapidly. Our new conceptual structure reflects these changing work priorities. We now organize our work around five major areas: 1) documentation, 2) the promotion of accountability, 3) education and outreach, 4) research, translation and publication, and 5) *Searching for the Truth* magazine. Our progress in each area is summarized below.

1.1.1 Documentation

1(a). *Cataloguing and Database Management*

Our documentation work has entailed collecting and cataloguing documents and managing two major databases: the Cambodian Genocide Bibliographic Database (CBIB) and the Cambodian Genocide Biographical Database (CBIO), both of which are copyrighted property of the Cambodian Genocide Program (CGP). The CBIB and CBIO were set up by experts from Yale University and the University of New South Wales in collaboration with DC-Cam in 1995. They contain detailed information on former Khmer Rouge leaders and cadres, and offer an organized and Internet-accessible information resource about the Democratic Kampuchea (DK) regime and many of its victims. The databases also facilitate our program of family tracing, whereby survivors of the DK era can search for information on lost loved ones.

Last year, our documentation team finished work on 9,341 Khmer Rouge records from our “K” collection of documents and edited and crosschecked the data. This essentially completes our work on the CBIO database.

This quarter, our team continued to enter data into the CBIB database (the “D” and “R” collections). The “D” collection includes general Khmer Rouge documents ranging from notebooks to biographies, confessions, reports, and execution logs. Work on this collection began in late 2003. This quarter, we entered data from 5,095 of our 20,445 “D” collection documents, bringing the total number of completed documents to 7,734.

We have worked on cataloguing our *Renakse* (“R”) documents since mid-2003. These are petitions made in the 1980s to the successor government to oust the Khmer Rouge from their seat at the United Nations. Signed by millions of people, they include accounts of horrific crimes and describe mass burial pits, prisons, and other evidence of Khmer Rouge terror. Out of 2,700 “R” documents held at the Center, we entered 40 into our database worksheets this quarter (fewer entries were made because several of our staff were on assignment in the provinces).

Finally, in late 2003, our documentation team began a new initiative to prepare a printed index of biographical information on nearly 11,000 members of the Khmer Rouge contained in our CBIO database. The 3,000-page Khmer version was completed in 2003, and work continued on the English translation this quarter. We also devoted time to designing suitable formats (the index will be printed in both hard copy and published on-line this year).

1(b). *Photo Exhibitions*

Our photo exhibition of former Khmer Rouge cadres and leaders continues to be shown at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. This quarter, we mounted a forensic exhibition at Tuol Sleng. It contained photographs of 10 skulls excavated from Choeung Ek (the “killing fields” south of Phnom Penh where Tuol Sleng prisoners were executed) and other parts of Cambodia, accompanied by text explaining the type of trauma to each skull. This exhibit seeks to demonstrate the value of forensic evidence in documenting the Khmer Rouge’s crimes against humanity. It is also intended to educate the public about the types of information that can be scientifically gathered from victims’ remains in order

to prove and record evidence of murder/genocide. (Originally, we had intended to display the skulls themselves. However, there is controversy in Cambodian society over whether this is appropriate, as some Cambodians are uncomfortable with the idea of boxing human remains. Thus, we have housed them in a separate room at Tuol Sleng, which is open only to officials – e.g., prosecutors – at the Khmer Rouge tribunal. Their final disposition will be determined once the tribunal is over.)

1(c). *The Digital Photo Archiving Project*

In July 2003, we began a one-year project on digital photo archiving. The project involves digitally imaging a survey of Khmer Rouge photographs and posting them on the Internet for public view. To date, we have reviewed, scanned, and selected over 6,000 photographs from our archives and the Tuol Sleng Archives, and have obtained about 170 additional photos during our field research.

This quarter, we conducted 32 interviews with former cadre or their relatives, and collected over 70 additional photos in Kandal, Kampong Cham, and Kampong Thom provinces. The photos show the lives of Khmer Rouge and their families before, during, and in some cases, after the DK period. The interviews are now being translated into English (along with cadre biographies and confessions) for our lead author, and follow-up interviews are being scheduled. The interviews and photographs will be published as a book in the fourth quarter.

To present the photos powerfully and attractively for public view, three of our team members are seeking training in computer techniques for the presentation and layout of photos and other graphics in books. We are also planning on-the-job training for these staff with a news agency or magazine in Hong Kong or Singapore during the fourth quarter.

1(d). *Microfilming*

Our Microfilming Project, conducted with Yale University's Sterling Memorial Library, aims to preserve historical documents related to the Khmer Rouge through the use of microfilm. This process allows researchers and legal investigators to access our archival information without handling original documents, many of which have become fragile with age.

This quarter, our microfilming team continued to work on microfilming official Communist Party of Kampuchea documents from the DK era (our "D" collection.) Between January and March, the team microfilmed file numbers D23382-D23911. Those microfilmed records comprise 13 reels (10,459 pages). We also microfilmed Renakse documents R00001 to R00349, amounting to 3 reels (2,113 pages).

In the past, we have sent microfilm to the Sterling Library to be developed. One set of developed film was kept at Yale and another returned to us. We continued to microfilm Renakse R and D documents. As suggested by Sterling Library officials on a visit to DC-Cam, we will continue sending the remaining R negatives to Yale, which will

develop and duplicate them. We also plan to send copies of films we develop to Yale as a means to ensure the security of the information in our archives.

In 2003, we also decided that acquiring our own microfilm developer/duplicator would help us develop and copy microfilm in a cost-efficient, quick, and effective way. We ordered and received the machine this quarter. We are now determining an appropriate space for installation and testing.

1.1.2 Promoting Accountability

2(a). Supporting the Tribunal

As the United Nations and Cambodian government prepare for the Khmer Rouge tribunal, we began preparations this quarter to support the process. In order to provide the court and authorized officials with full access to copies of our documents, we worked with our legal advisors to develop and issue a set of rules and guidelines for viewing our documents as the tribunal process begins, and provided a copy of those procedures to the appropriate UN and Cambodian authorities.

We also devised a clear set of procedures for granting authorized persons access to original documents. Our new guidelines are designed to ensure that our documents remain both available for review and as secure as possible. As the tribunal process unfolds, we will develop an even more specific set of guidelines to ensure that we assist the proceedings as effectively as possible. These procedures have also been submitted to the Cambodian government and UN.

In late 2003 we began to plan for a tribunal response team comprising our legal advisors and staff members most familiar with our documentary holdings and Accountability Project. This team will be in a position to help the tribunal and authorized officials (and the public) carry out their research and documentary reviews as needed. In addition, the Center's translation team will translate additional documents into English in advance of the tribunal.

To meet the anticipated need for documentation materials at the tribunal, DC-Cam has launched a new project called the Public Information Room, and is seeking funding for it. This proposed project will dramatically increase access to our archival information (as well as that held in the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and National Archives) in advance of the tribunal, while at the same time preserving and protecting the original documents. Access will be given to legal personnel (representing both the defense and prosecution), scholars, reporters, and the general public. DC-Cam's Accountability Project, tribunal response team, translation staff, librarians, and others will be on hand to provide assistance in searching for and interpreting documents.

This project's aims are to disseminate knowledge about the regime, to promote fair trials through the provision of information, and to increase knowledge on and awareness of domestic and international legal proceedings, and the history of Democratic

Kampuchea. (There is a lack of both formal and informal education in Cambodia about the genocide – for example, the section on the country’s modern history, which includes the Khmer Rouge regime, has been deleted from high school textbooks owing to an inter-party dispute over the result of the 1993 election. Thus, this project will also serve to educate the public and to facilitate productive public discourse on the accountability process.)

DC-Cam has already acquired space that will house the Public Information Room (PIR) a few doors away from its current office. The Room will open by the end of April 2004.

Last, we continued to discuss options for a potential field office in the United States to support UN staff assigned to the tribunal.

2(b). The Accountability Project

Our Accountability Project (PA) focuses on fact-finding in advance of the prospective KR tribunal. It also seeks to build a better historical understanding of the workings of the DK regime. The recent logistic arrangements made by the United Nations and Cambodian government to convene a tribunal adds to the importance and urgency of the PA Project. Using information from our files and past interviews, accountability team members seek interviews with former cadres who served in the DK regime. They also identify and investigate all relevant biographies from a given geographic area.

Our four field offices in Kandal, Takeo, Kampong Thom, and Kampong Cham provinces continued to operate this quarter. From January through March, the project yielded 210 interviews (of which 51 are former cadre), totaling 1,558 transcribed pages in Khmer. We also continued to enter information on interviewees into our “Accountability Promotion Database,” which provides the names, whereabouts, and basic biographical information about each of the former Khmer Rouge cadres whom we interview. Two staff members manage this database, which is likely to be extremely important to prosecutors in the upcoming Khmer Rouge tribunal proceedings. To date, we have entered 1,502 individual records into the database. In this quarter, we completed our field investigations for Kampong Cham province.

DC-Cam also contracted with Dr. Stephen Heder and John Ciorciari to produce a manuscript analyzing the interviews we have collected so far. Specifically, these scholars will determine if the interviews provide an implications of criminal responsibility on the part of the former Khmer Rouge officials most likely to stand trial, including Ieng Sary, Ta Mok, Duch, Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea, Ieng Thirith, and Mam Nai. We expect their analysis to be completed in December 2004.

2(c). The Mapping Project

This project, which began in 1995, involves seeking out and mapping mass graves, former DK prisons, and genocide memorials using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. With the mapping of all accessible sites in Cambodia nearly complete, our

mapping team's activities this quarter were largely confined to trips made in conjunction with those of other projects.

To date, our mapping team has identified 19,521 mass graves in 391 different clusters, 194 Khmer Rouge security offices, and 81 memorials constructed by survivors of the DK regime. We are now translating a 450-page, 180-photograph report on the team's activities into English; it will be published this year in both English and Khmer. The report will demonstrate the widespread and systematic nature of the killing perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge regime.

In this quarter, we began collecting geographic data for our new mapping database, which we will post on our website this year. The database will be of use to scholars and members of the public who are interested in searching for details on mass graves, security offices, and memorials.

2(d). *The Forensics Study*

Based on existing mapping data, a team of three North American research and forensics experts and DC-Cam's mapping team conducted a detailed reconnaissance of mass graves and memorials to identify sites for a full-scale forensic exhumation. They also excavated and preserved a representative sample of human skeletal remains in and around Phnom Penh and six provinces in 2003.

In this quarter, DC-Cam produced a forensics exhibition at Tuol Sleng Museum (see section 1(b) above). The team will also publish a report and monograph on its study in the fourth quarter. It will examine the character and magnitude of Khmer Rouge crimes through the optics of forensic science, which should provide a much-needed interdisciplinary study of the terror of Democratic Kampuchea.

1.1.3 PUBLIC Education and Reconciliation Outreach

3(a). *The Legal Training Project*

A critical part of our work with the Cambodian government is to train Cambodian leaders about human rights law and related subjects. In 2003, we received support from the Swiss government for a revival of our Legal Training Project, which we began in 1995-96 with two successful courses in collaboration with Yale's Cambodian Genocide Program and Schell Center for International Human Rights.

From July 22-August 31, 2004, we will organize a six-week legal training course led by John D. Ciorciari, an international lawyer trained at Harvard and Oxford Universities. We will invite about 25 promising Cambodian participants to study the basic features of human rights law and related issues of accountability and reconciliation in Cambodia. We will also publish a short guide to the Khmer Rouge tribunal and a basic text introducing readers to the main features of human rights law relevant to development and transitional justice in Cambodia. This quarter, with the venue secured in the Cambodian Senate Library, we are in the process of advertising the course,

reviewing course materials, contacting experts and potential participants, and reviewing the applications of interested volunteers.

3(b). *The Victims of Torture Project*

In 2003, we completed a joint project with Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) in which we identified and treated 15 patients. Later in the year, we began the "Victims of Torture (VOT) Project." The project will last for two years and involve counseling for people who suffered abuse under the DK regime (both victims and perpetrators) and are traumatized today. The project will involve continued work with the TPO. Our primary roles will be to assist the TPO in its identification of subjects for care and to work with children of the traumatized individuals to assist them in coping with difficulties that may result from their parents' suffering.

In this quarter, we held planning sessions with TPO, developed questionnaires, conducted fieldtrips, prepared transcriptions, and received training from TPO. We made ten trips to Kandal Stung district (Kandal Province) and Tramkak district (Takeo Province). We have identified and interviewed 13 men and women who are prospective TPO patients. We have also transcribed interviews with 9 people (each interview is about 50 pages in length). As a result of the interviews, we estimate that each day, we can interview about two people, and plan to interview about 250 people in 2004. We had three training modules conducted by TPO professionals. Topics included an introduction to mental health and mental health problems, psychological problems, stress and stress management, concepts of trauma, and loss/adjustment.

3(c). *Film Projects*

Rachana Phat's "Message from the Dead" was shown at a conference organized by UNESCO and Pannasastra University in Phnom Penh on January 10, 2004. The conference, "Cinema of Cambodia: Look into the Past and into the Future," promoted women's role in film-making. Ms. Phat's film examines the Phchum Ben festival in Cambodia, a traditional celebration of the return of the souls of ancestors. It is the first film in our new "Silver Production Series." The film was accompanied by music and a discussion of the justice denied to many Cambodians.

This quarter, Ms. Phat continued work on a film project she began in mid-2003. The film will present the stories of women who suffered abuses in the DK era. Through documentary analysis and interviews, we identified women around whom to organize the film. In this quarter, she made two field trips to film the activities of our main character, who recently became a nun.

We have also begun to consider a new documentary film on the issues Cambodian youth are facing today and can possibly be attributed to the Khmer Rouge.

3(d). *Koh Sla Development and Reconciliation Project*

In late 2003, we began work on a social service project run by UNESCO that targets 12,000 participants in the Koh Sla commune in Kampot province, where a majority of the people over the age of 40 were Khmer Rouge cadres. The project began in December 2003 and provides villagers with literacy, small business, and other training. With our expertise on the Khmer Rouge and our staff's graduate-level training in peace and reconciliation, we believe that we are positioned to carry out the project effectively. The Koh Sla community has welcomed the UNESCO project and looks forward to our contribution to the commune's development and reconciliation process this year. This quarter we planned and made preparations for our trips; actual field work will begin next quarter.

3(e). *Web Site Development (www.dccam.org)*

Since late 2003, we have focused on ways to upgrade and improve our web page, which is one of our most important ways of disseminating our work, especially to an international audience. We purchased additional server space and technical support from a local company, Khmer Hosting, and began to test ways of displaying databases on our site. We have also expanded the number of photos, articles, and other materials on our site for our many Internet visitors. We are very conscious of the importance of protecting the intellectual property of the CGP and Yale University. This quarter, we continued discussions on how we can display new-structured databases in a manner that protects the copyrighted data. New databases have been completed and will be posted when we determine the best way to do so.

1.1.4 Research, Translation and Publication

4(a). *Historical Research and Writing*

Our Research Project aims to develop an historical understanding of the DK era and to build the capacity of young Cambodian scholars to produce quality writing and research. We have also begun to publish the work of international scholars who conducted extensive research at DC-Cam. Our main products are the short monographs in our "Documentation Series."

This quarter, we published *Seven Candidates for Prosecution: Accountability for the Khmer Rouge* by Stephen Heder with Brian Tittlemore as DC-Cam Documentation Series No. 4. Currently four monographs are being prepared. Two are in English:

Reconciliation in Cambodia by Suzannah Linton (in final editing)

The Chain of Terror: The Khmer Rouge Southwest Zone Security System by Meng-Try Ea (in editing)

Two others are in Khmer (they will be translated into English, edited, and then translated back into Khmer before being published):

The Cham Rebellion by Osman Ysa (in draft)

The Journey into Light (in draft).

We also serialized Meng-Try Ea's master's thesis from Coventry University – *Justice and Reconciliation* – in a local newspaper.

4(b). *Joint Project on Buddhism under the Khmer Communists*

In mid-2003, we began working with Dr. Ian Harris of Oxford and Lancaster Universities (UK) on a study of Buddhism under the Khmer Communists from 1970 to 1990. The project will result in a published manuscript in our Documentation Series. This quarter, We assisted Dr. Harris with his study, conducting additional interviews in Kandal and Kratie, and researching the D collection and other materials at the Buddhist Institute.

4(c). *The Role of China During the Khmer Rouge*

In 2003, John D. Ciorciari began work on a short book dealing with the relations between the People's Republic of China and the Khmer Rouge regime. Mr. Ciorciari is the Wai Seng Senior Research Scholar at the Asian Studies Centre, Oxford University. We assisted him in conducting field research. This quarter, Mr. Ciorciari drafted approximately 60 pages, and will continue to conduct research in the coming months. We plan to publish the text late this year.

4(d). *Translation and Publication of Foreign Books*

This quarter, our translation team continued to translate and publish books in English and Khmer. In local newspapers, we published translations of *Brother Enemy* by Nayan Chanda, *Anne Frank's Diary*, and a paper on Khmer Rouge policies on women by Zal Karkaria. We began also translating two new books, *Journey into Light* by Ronnie Yimsut and *Tum Teav: A Study of a Cambodian Literary Classic* by George Chigas III. We are now in the process of seeking further funds for our Translation and Publication Project, which helps us to disseminate both translated works and works written by our own researchers (see section 4(a) above).

4(e). *Research Forum: Preserving the History of the Khmer Rouge Regime*

Since summer 2003, we have worked with the Khmer Writers' Association on a project that aims to record a fuller history of the Khmer Rouge period for future generations and give voice to the survivors of the DK regime. Through a number of media, we solicited narrative essays from the public. Forty-three essays were submitted. On April 2, 2004, a ceremony was held to announce the four winning essays. The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Professor Ros Chantrabot of the Royal Academy of Cambodia. Also present were about 60 former S-21 prisoners, writers, researchers, members of the media and civil society. The event was covered by private and state media, including Rasmei Kampuchea, Koh Santepheap, Kampuchea Thmei, Yuvachun Khmer, Cambodia Daily and TV, including TV3, TV9, TVK and CTN (which can reach audiences in much of Asia and the United States.) The CTN also ran an interview with the

first award winner. The winning essays will be published in the April 2004 issue of DC-Cam's monthly magazine, *Searching for the Truth*. They and other essays will also be published in a forthcoming DC-Cam book on the experiences of victims of the Khmer Rouge. This project has proven so successful that we plan to hold a similar contest next year.

1.1.5 Magazine Project

Our monthly magazine, *Searching for the Truth*, disseminates our work to the public, facilitates public discourse on issues related to the Khmer Rouge, and otherwise promotes justice and reconciliation in Cambodia. The magazine contains five sections: documentary analysis, history, legal issues, public debate, and family tracing. This quarter, our documentation section contained several confessions of S-21 prisoners and articles on the trade economy of DK. Our history section ran historical research pieces on such topics as US relations with Cambodia during the Carter administration. In our legal section, we featured discussions of international and legal precedents in the former Yugoslavia, South Africa, Chechnya and Sierra Leone. The debate section included pieces discussing reconciliation approaches and recent denials of responsibility by Khmer Rouge leaders. Finally, our family tracing section featured six articles written by Cambodians from Kah Kong province and Phnom Penh and one man from China that focused on their personal experiences during DK and the cultural revolution. We also published two announcements from aggrieved individuals seeking information on lost relatives.

This quarter, we published issues 49-51 of our Khmer edition of the magazine. We published 7,000 copies of each issue (for a total of 21,000) and distributed 17,212 copies free of charge, mostly in Cambodia. We continued to work with LICADHO, PADEK, TPO, Partners for Development, and other organizations to distribute the magazine. Our field researchers also carried copies to Cambodia's villages and distributed them to local officials and interested villagers.

We have received roughly 361 letters to date. The four letters we published this quarter included questions about lost loved ones, views on reconciliation in Cambodia, and opinions on the upcoming tribunal.

5(a). *Special Quarterly English Editions of Searching for the Truth*

In 2003, we instituted a new practice of publishing special quarterly issues in English. That practice continues to be successful. This quarter as editor Bunsou Sour is preparing for academic leave to pursue a masters degree in the UK, Kok-Thay Eng is taking over translating and selecting the content of the English version of the magazine. The first quarter issue of 2004 highlights debates on the recent denials of genocide by KR leaders, legal and historical precedents set in Yugoslavia and Sierra Leone, the funding of the Khmer Rouge tribunal, and the recent visit of the U.N. assessment team.

5(b). *Radio Broadcasts*

To reach a broader audience, we also continued to read selected articles on a local radio station, Women's Media Center FM 102. So far, Rachana Phat and Ly Sophal of our staff have read 77 articles on the radio program, which reaches almost all of Cambodia's provinces and some areas abroad. This quarter, we read 18 articles on the radio.

1.2 CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

Although our progress was very strong again this quarter, we face a number of challenges and constraints related to our physical facilities, our need for fundraising and translation assistance, and our security.

1.2.1 Outgrowing Our Physical Facilities

Space constraints continue to exist, although we have taken active measures to deal with this issue. We completed an extension of our main office last quarter, alleviating some of our space problems. The annex, which is attached to the top floor of our Phnom Penh office, now serves as a meeting hall and houses our accounting department. Our reading room at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum also helps to accommodate some of our research visitors, who numbered approximately 60 this quarter. We also continue to operate four field offices, which help to relieve pressure on our crowded Phnom Penh facility.

New hires put even more pressure on our space. Demands from scholars and the public to access our materials are also high with the tribunal approaching. Therefore, this quarter we rented a building next door to the Center; when it opens as the end of April, it will serve as our Public Information Room for visitors, researchers, and journalists (see section 1.1.2).

1.2.2 Plans for a Permanent Center

We are committed to the creation of a permanent Center that will meet long-term demands for our work. Some time ago, we were given a plot of land by the Cambodian government adjacent to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, and we are seeking funds to build a permanent facility with better security, a library and exhibition hall, proper storage facilities, and increased office space. We have received some interest in the proposal. Unfortunately, the land given to us is occupied by hundreds of squatters. As an organization dedicated to the welfare of all Cambodians, we do not wish to initiate legal proceedings for eviction. A number of NGOs, most notably the UNDP-funded Urban Resource Center, have helped the squatter residents build structures on the land, making our situation difficult. We have tried – thus far without success – to negotiate a solution that will enable us to utilize the land given to us without causing undue hardship for the current residents. We are now considering other possible long-term solutions should our land issue remain unresolved.

1.2.3 Fundraising Needs

We continue to need assistance in fundraising. As the scope of our work grows and demand for it increases, we require additional resources. We do not have any fundraising experts at DC-Cam and are eager to have the assistance of a qualified fundraiser to help us meet our goals. Drafting reports and proposals consumes a sizable fraction of our external advisors' and staff members' time. In particular, time that our advisors could use for our research and legal projects is often diverted to working on

proposals and reports. Although Wynne Cougill is assisting the Center from January through October 2004, as we prepare for the creation of a permanent Center, we continue to seek professional fundraising expertise. We have discussed this matter with the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. State Department, and Network for Good Recruiting Volunteers Online, among others. We remain hopeful that a fundraising expert will soon be able to assist us.

1.2.4 Limited Translation Capacity

Translation capacity is also a continued challenge to our operations. This quarter, we selected one of the translation volunteers we recruited last quarter; he will soon begin a probation period at DC-Cam. The staff member is expected to join our Promoting Accountability team. Next quarter, we will make announcements and begin a new screening for additional qualified translators. We continue to seek ways to translate more of our work into English. This need will continue to be pressing throughout the year as we embark on an analysis of our Accountability Project transcripts by foreign experts and as our most experienced translator prepares to go abroad to study.

We are also planning to translate a glossar of Khmer Rouge terms that has been prepared in Khmer and is now being re-organized into topical sections. This 200-page document will be particularly useful in helping the public to understand the distinctive language used by the Khmer Rouge.

1.2.5 Security Issues

As the prospective Khmer Rouge tribunal approaches, we have reviewed and modestly enhanced the security of our staff and documentary holdings. Dr. Craig Etcheson and other of our advisors have helped build our awareness of possible security concerns. We have sent back-up copies of approximately 70 percent of our documents to the United States as a precaution against security threats that may come with the Khmer Rouge tribunal. Nevertheless, we have not taken all of the precautions that we will need to take in advance of the tribunal, and this remains a clear area for further reflection and resource allocation.

1.3 LESSONS LEARNED FROM PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS

This quarter, we learned two lessons from the experience we gained in our projects. Both relate to embracing a larger community of people interested in our work.

1.3.1 The Importance of Public Outreach

The most important lesson that we continue to learn from our program adjustments is that the fulfillment of our core missions of memory and justice requires us to engage the public as fully as possible. This means working on a grassroots level with the public – sharing our work, interviewing more survivors, and engaging in a variety of education and outreach activities. We have learned that the public views our role as

something akin to a “surrogate truth commission” in Cambodia.¹ Even if the planned KR tribunal materializes, it will be a relatively brief episode in history and will deal only with a selected group of surviving leaders. The reality of the DK experience for most Cambodians was local, familial, and personal. Our work needs to address the many needs that arise out of those experiences.

This quarter, we have prepared several proposals to enhance these roles. They involve 1) a project in which representatives from communes throughout Cambodia would attend a portion of the Khmer Rouge leaders’ trials and report back to their communities on their experiences at the trial and during the regime, 2) a proposal to help people traumatized by the regime to communicate their experiences and reactions to their children, and 3) a project to develop curricula and text on the regime for inclusion in high school textbooks. We are also considering running a radio station that would broadcast the trials, interviews, and other educational materials.

1.3.2 The Need for Cross-Border Cooperation

As we broaden our work, we have also learned that we have much to give to similar organizations outside of Cambodia and much to learn from them. We have tried to play a more active role in international conferences and reach out to share our work and learn from others in Southeast Asia and beyond. Last year, Sophearith Chuong and John D. Ciorciari attended a conference on regional history in Bangkok to share our mapping work. In addition, we worked with foreign organizations to strengthen cooperation. DC-Cam Director Youk Chhang spent a week in Baghdad helping Iraqi NGOs to begin the process of documenting serious human rights abuses in that country. Mr. Ciorciari worked with Patrick Pierce of the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (HREIB) and Natasa Kandic of the Humanitarian Law Center for the former Yugoslavia, as well as Louis Bickford of the International Center for Transitional Justice, to begin a program of more formal cooperation among documentation centers. A number of organizations have looked to us for leadership in developing similar programs abroad, which we see as a major way forward to develop our work and further increase our impact.

This quarter, we have submitted proposals to form an “affinity group” of similar NGOs to meet and assist one another on strategy and objectives, the technical aspects of documentation and archiving, and the preparation of manuals and guidelines. This 18-month project will combine conferences, seminars, and study visits (e.g., to a refugee camp on the Thai border). DC-Cam will take a leading role in this group. Other core members will likely include: the Humanitarian Law Center for the former Yugoslavia, the Iraq Memory Foundation (Baghdad), the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (Chiang Mai, Thailand), and the International Coalition for Justice (South Africa). We have identified several other institutions that might become members in the second stage of the project.

¹ The South African Ambassador has proposed holding a May 2004 conference in cooperation with DC-Cam on a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Cambodia.

2. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

2.1 DC-CAM IN THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Khmer Rouge issues and the work of DC-Cam continued to enjoy wide press coverage over the last 3 months through at least 65 articles published by international and local news agencies. The local news agencies included *Moneaksekar Khmer*, *Kampuchea Thmei*, *The Voices of Khmer Youth*, *Cambodia Daily*, *Cambodge Soir*, *Rasmei Kampuchea Daily*, *Oudomkate Khmer*, *Koh Santepheap*, *Indara Devi*, and *Phnom Penh Post*. The international media included *The Salt Lake Tribune*, *Christain Science Monitor*, *AsiaINC*, *Bangkok Post*, *The Nation*, *AP*, *Northwest Asian Weekly*, *FEER*, *Washington Times*, *AFP*, *Le Monde*, *The New York Times*, *Asialnc*, *The Slate*, *Mlive* (University of Michigan), and *Scotsman News*.

The important developments on the Khmer Rouge issue covered included the UN-Cambodia technical meeting, the choice of Chaktonouk Theatre as the venue for the tribunal, and the tribunal's estimated \$50 million budget. Others included Nuon Chea's statement about his readiness for the tribunal, Khieu Samphan's *apologia* about his role in the regime, and the conversion of former Khmer Rouge cadres to Christianity. In addition, the press covered a documentary film by a DC-Cam staff member at Cinema Cambodia (a film festival), the essay contest we sponsored with the Khmer Writers' Association, and the forensics exhibition at Tuol Sleng Museum. Below is a sampling of articles.

Samuel Bartholin, "Quels moyens pour reconstruire Le cinema cambodgien," *Cambodge Soir*, January 12, 2004

"La memoire, theme d'un concours litteraire," *Cambodge Soir*, March 23, 2004

"En vue du proces, le Centre de documentation se prepare a ouvrir ses portes," *Cambodge Soir*, March 21, 2004

"Group will open resource center to help Khmer Rouge tribunal," *AP*, March 16, 2004

"Exhibition of Skulls to Open at Tuol Sleng," *The Cambodia Daily*, February 20, 2004

Porter Barron, "UN: KR Tribunal to Cost About \$50 millions," *The Cambodia Daily*, March 19, 2004

Kom Somalai, "Expert group selects Chaktomouk for the KR tribunal," *The Voices of Khmer Youth*, March 17, 2004

"Ready and Willing says Chea," *The Nation*, January 19, 2004

"Senior Khmer Rouge Leader Claims Innocence in New Autobiography," *AFP*, February 13, 2004

Ker Munthit, "Ex-Khmer Rouge leader Says Infamous French Lawyer to Represent Him at Planned Genocidal Trial," AP, February 13, 2004

Miranda Leisinger, "Former Khmer Rouge soldiers find a new leader in Jesus Christ," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, March 6, 2004

James Brooke, "25 Years Later, Cambodia Proposes Trials of Khmer Leaders," *New York Times*, January 8, 2004.

Samantha Brown, "Cambodia Builds a Better Future by Piecing Together its Bloody Past," AFP, March 28, 2004

Phan Naro, "Youk Chhang Plans to Build a Permanent Center," *Indara Devi*, March 12-18, 2004.

Ben Jones, "Survivor of 'killing fields' campaigns against mines," Mlive.com, University of Michigan, March 24, 2004.

Rachel Syner, "Dispatches from Cambodia," *The Slate*, February 20, 2004.

"Movers and Shakers," *AsiaInc.*, January 2004.

2.2 ANALYTICAL PAPERS AND BRIEFING REPORTS

This quarter, in addition to the many newspaper and magazine articles referenced above, DC-Cam staff members continued to present our work at conferences, university seminars, and policy institutes.

In January, our researchers presented two papers at the Conference on Issues and Challenges for Peace and Reconciliation in Southeast Asia, organized by the Southeast Asia Conflict Study Network in Malaysia. Vannak Huy gave a paper on "Reconciliation: The Role of Arts" and Meng-Try Ea gave one on "Justice and Reconciliation in Cambodia."

From February 22-March 8, staff member Bunsou Sour participated in training on international investigations at the Institute for International Criminal Investigation in the Netherlands.

In March, researcher Vannak Huy spoke on the role of history in preventing the return of genocide in Cambodia at the international conference on Human Security: Strengthening Policy Networks organized by the UN Commission on Human Security and Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

From January-March, Sorya Sim and Vannak Huy conducted Saturday seminars at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in which they gave presentations on research methods and publications produced at DC-Cam.

In March, we hosted showings of Rithy Panh's documentary, *S-21: the Khmer Rouge Killing Machine*, followed by discussions about Khmer Rouge issues, history, justice and reconciliation with students from the US and Media Department at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. We also organized a genocide education study tour for a student group from the Khmer Youth Association, which visited our Center, Tuol Sleng Museum, and Cheung Ek.

In January, our advisor John Ciorciari presented a paper on "Political Transitions and Justice in Cambodia" at Danish Holocaust Institute in Denmark.

On March 26, Stephen Heder (author of *Seven Candidates for Prosecution* - see section 4(a) above) and DC-Cam staff participated in a Club of Cambodian Journalists roundtable on "Reply to Khieu Samphan: Building the Case against Senior Khmer Rouge Leaders" in Phnom Penh. Dr. Heder responded to Khieu Samphan's recent book denying his culpability in genocide, followed by a question and answer session. This roundtable drew over 100 journalists, government representatives, and members of the public.

End.