



DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF CAMBODIA  
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

## Annual Report 2000

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the achievements of the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) during the year 2000 and the challenges facing us as we move forward. To place our progress in context, this report also summarizes some of our work in previous years, especially in 1999, as we spent much of 2000 moving toward the completion of several major multi-year projects.

**The Documentation Project.** DC-Cam has been working for more than three years on a major upgrade of the Cambodian Biographical Database (CBIO), which contains detailed information on Khmer Rouge leaders and cadres. The upgrade consists of incorporating information from the *Santebal* archives into the CBIO. The vast *Santebal* documents are some of the most important archives dating from the Khmer Rouge period. They were produced within the secret police organization of the Democratic Kampuchea (DK) regime, and contain a mass of non-standardized biographical material. They also have great importance as potential evidence in a legal accounting. The complex and lengthy task of upgrading the CBIO is scheduled for completion in June 2001. Upon its completion, the CBIO will contain biographical entries on some 10,692 individuals and be available in both English and Khmer. Our work during 2000 focused on organizing the biographical data, eliminating redundancies and otherwise preparing the CBIO for full and open public access.

During 1999, DC-Cam also focused upon cataloguing archival materials for the Cambodian Genocide Bibliographical Database (CBIB). This project comprised cataloguing the *Santebal* documents into the CBIB, which is the world’s most comprehensive bibliographic resource relating to the Khmer Rouge. After the CBIO is completed, data entry for the upgrade of the CBIB with respect to other documentary collections will commence.

**The Research Project.** This project reflects our mandate to compile important historical evidence about the Khmer Rouge regime. Three research papers have been completed thus far: a paper discussing the treatment of Chams at Tuol Sleng Prison (S-21), entitled “Oukoubah” (based on a term from the Koran meaning “justice”); a paper analyzing the testimony of young Khmer Rouge comrades at S-21, entitled “Victims and Perpetrators?”; and a paper on the treatment of women under the regime, entitled “Women as Instruments

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Searching for the Truth

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for Social Change.” Two of these are currently being translated, and the third will be translated shortly. Additional studies are underway relating to the Vietnamese under the DK government, Northeastern hill-tribes, a pre-DK study, and research on genocide memorials in Cambodia. The first two of these projects are nearing completion.

**The Mapping Project.** This was the sixth year of DC-Cam’s Mass Grave Mapping Project, and in 2000 DC-Cam mapping teams completed missions to 18 of Cambodia’s 21 provinces. Since 1995, the teams have visited 150 of the country’s 170 districts, and mapped 462 genocide sites, prisons and memorials. Prisons, execution centers and mass graves from the Khmer Rouge era are being systematically surveyed and entered into a digital mapping database.

**The Project to Promote Accountability.** With the likelihood that a Khmer Rouge tribunal will be convened in the near future, DC-Cam has redoubled its efforts in 2000 to compile and organize information that represents potential evidence for a legal accounting. In particular, we have been attempting to identify documents and other information that may bear on the criminal responsibility of certain individuals for offenses such as war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. In 2000, we organized information relating to former Khmer Rouge leaders including Duch and Mok.

**The Magazine Project.** DC-Cam launched a magazine, *Searching for the Truth*, on January 22, 2000. The magazine is designed to help inform both the Cambodians and people abroad about life under the Khmer Rouge regime. *Searching for the Truth* also educates its readers about the justice process and ongoing preparations for a prospective Khmer Rouge criminal tribunal. We produced from 3,000 to 5,000 copies each of the first 12 Khmer-language issues.

**Preservation of Materials.** DC-Cam has been aggressively pursuing strategies to preserve its materials, including microfilming, photocopying and digital scanning. During 2000, 60 reels of negatives were produced and over 96,000 pages of documents were photocopied.

**Translation.** DC-Cam has been devoting increasing resources to translating various materials to and from the Khmer language, producing more than 2,000 pages of translations during 1999 and 2000. These materials include primary documents from our archives, research studies, and scholarly works such as David Chandler’s recent book, *Voices from S-21: Terror and History in Pol Pot’s Secret Prison*.

**Acquisition of New Materials.** DC-Cam continues to acquire a wide variety of materials from sources inside and outside Cambodia. As has been the case for the last six years, new caches of documents relevant to the Cambodian genocide are regularly donated to DC-Cam’s archives by concerned Cambodians. DC-Cam investigators also continue to discover and acquire new documentary materials.

**Cooperation with Other Organizations.** DC-Cam maintains close ties with the Cambodian Genocide Program (CGP) at Yale University; the School of Information, Library, and Archive Studies at the University of New South Wales, Australia; and the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh. As Yale’s CGP plans to cease operations in 2001, DC-

Cam has been developing a program of cooperation with Yale University's Sterling Library which will replace some of the resources previously available through our collaboration with the CGP.

**Facilities Development.** In 1999 and 2000, DC-Cam initiated several new projects to upgrade our physical facilities and office building. One major addition to the building was the construction of a new top-level floor, which contains a pavilion for meetings and training sessions. We also converted our ground floor microfilm room into a storage area for fireproof filing cabinets. We then relocated the microfilm facility to the first floor, converting the first-floor bathroom for this purpose. In addition, we converted a corridor and kitchen on the first floor into additional microfilm workspace.

**Plans for a Permanent Center.** DC-Cam aims to be a permanent resource for research, training and public service. We have acquired a plot of land in Phnom Penh to construct a dedicated research facility and library that will house DC-Cam in perpetuity. We will soon launch a capital campaign to support construction of the facility, which is expected to cost on the order of US \$5 million for the physical plant alone.

## 1. STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND VOLUNTEERS

This year, DC-Cam's staff reached 35 people (we began the Center in 1995 with only 3 staff members). Even at this staff level, however, DC-Cam still cannot adequately cope with the demands placed on the organization by sponsors and governments. We continue to recruit additional staff and expand our office space as financial support becomes available. For example, in May 1999, we advertised in the newspaper *Rasmei Kampuchea* for candidates to apply to the DC-Cam Research Department. This year, six candidates were selected for probationary review.

### Advanced Degree

In August 2000, DC-Cam's Deputy Director, Kosal Phat, began studies at the University of Southern California, where he won a graduate fellowship at the School of International Relations.

### Overseas Training

In mid-2000, with support from the Canadian International Development Agency, we sent Vichea S. Tieng to participate in the International Human Rights Training Program at John Abbott College in Montreal. In July, Sampeou Ros completed an Internet training program in Ottawa, Canada. We had planned to send Sam Oeun Ouch and Putheara Lay for training in web site and financial management at the University of Melbourne in Australia. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend due to a shortfall in DC-Cam's resources.

In October, Sorya Sim, Deputy Director for Research, won a prestigious award from the Rockefeller Foundation for a one-month residential fellowship at the Bellagio Study Center in Italy. During this sabbatical, Mr. Sim conducted research on "Unaccounted U.S. Incidents in Cambodia," a project he is undertaking in collaboration with DC-Cam Director Youk

Chhang.

Next year, we plan to send Sopheak Sim to attend a computer training course. Office Manager Dara P. Vanthan will be sent to participate in the International Human Rights Training Program in Canada in June. Nean Yin, whose work focuses on microfilming, will attend a seminar in Chicago during March, and then travel to Yale University for an orientation by the Curator of Yale's Sterling Library Southeast Asia collection.

To help accelerate the progress of the Mapping Project, DC-Cam needs to enhance staff skills in Internet technologies and the ArcInfo Geographic Information System. We thus plan to send two staff members abroad to attend a course next year. At present, DC-Cam depends on a local NGO internet service to maintain its website. Given the high level of technical sophistication of many of the tasks carried out at DC-Cam, it is only through the steady and continuous upgrading of staff skills that we are able to carry out our work.

### **Local Training**

On September 6, DC-Cam researchers participated in a workshop on research results. On November 15, Meng Try Ea and Osman Ysa presented papers to the Conference on Society and Culture in Cambodia held at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

### **Internal Training**

To increase our staff's capabilities, Deputy Director Sorya Sim conducted weekly in-house research seminars focusing on scientific research techniques. Sampeou Ros, a linguistic and computing specialist trained at the University of New South Wales, Australia, led a class on Roman transliteration of Khmer words. He also provided in-house training on the cataloguing of Khmer Rouge biographical materials as well as on the data entry process required to input information into the databases.

Eliza Romey from Monash University in Australia is preparing to conduct an English class each Thursday at the Center. In addition, from January 2001 onward, English classes for pre-intermediate and advanced students will be conducted every weekday from 6:30 am to 7:30. To help develop reading skills and train the staff in document abstracting, each week all the researchers are asked to read an article, and then present a review of this article. In so doing, the researchers also teach each other substantive material.

In July 2000, Dr. Craig Etcheson trained DC-Cam researchers in research methodologies and assisted in editing a research paper on child cadres at Tuol Sleng Prison. He also executed several small-scale research projects so that the staff could observe the professional research process. Additional internal research seminars were given by Dr. Steve Heder, Professor David Chandler and Mr. Philip Short.

### **Student Internships**

Five local undergraduates served as interns at DC-Cam this year. They included Sayana Ser, an undergraduate accounting student at the National International Management School, and Chhayrann Ra, an undergraduate at the Royal University of Phnom Penh studying

information systems.

### **International Volunteers and Advisors**

The volunteers and expert DC-Cam hosted in 2000 included:

- Kalyanee Mam spent the 1999-2000 academic year at DC-Cam researching the treatment of women under DK. She holds a BA in history from Yale University, and her research was funded by a Yale graduate fellowship. She completed a research paper entitled "Women as Instruments of Social Change."
- From July through September, Jan Van Der Grinten, an attorney from the law firm Stibbe Simont Momahan Duhot, volunteered as a legal advisor, assisting in the analysis of crimes of genocide and contributing articles to *Searching for the Truth*. He continues to serve as a volunteer after returning home to The Netherlands. He is currently working on organizational legal issues including the DC-Cam bylaws and the delineation of roles for the Center's international Associate Advisors.
- Nereida Cross of the University of New South Wales and Chip Lay of the University of Texas at Arlington gave our staff important guidance in information technology and documentation methods.

## **2. DC-CAM IN THE PUBLIC EYE**

DC-Cam has become well known as an international hub of learning about the Khmer Rouge regime and broader Cambodian history. In 2000, many of the world's leading scholars in such areas as Khmer Rouge history, modern Cambodia and genocide studies were hosted as guest scholars to pursue advanced studies in DC-Cam archives. In addition, students, visitors from the general public, and representatives from the government and media were frequent guests at the Center.

### **Access to DC-Cam Archives**

As a research institution, DC-Cam endeavors to offer the most open access to its archives possible. At the current stage of collecting and cataloguing documents, however, DC-Cam does not yet function fully as a library or a public archive. The reasons for this include a lack of office space, staff, and other resources, as well as certain security concerns. Accordingly, the number of researchers and/or readers able to visit DC-Cam at any given time must be limited, as is the amount of staff time which can be allocated to DC-Cam visitors. We plan to become a fully functioning library housed in a larger permanent building by 2005.

### **Visitors and Media Coverage**

Because there is great public interest in the Center's work, DC-Cam attracts journalists, political leaders, activists and other guests nearly every day. We continue to make every effort to explain our work and describe our holdings to make their visits as fruitful as possible. During 2000, some of our visitors included:

- On July 13, 2000, a group of East Timorese human rights workers led by Jose Luis visited DC-Cam. The Yayasan Hak Human Rights Foundation was established in 1996 to investigate human rights violations in East Timor. As a result of this visit, Youk Chhang was invited to give a presentation on DC-Cam's work in East Timor.
- Dutch Ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, Laetitia van den Assum, visited DC-Cam several times. During her visits, we took the opportunity to thank The Royal Netherlands Government for its generous support of DC-Cam. In July 2000, she came to say goodbye to DC-Cam as she prepared for her new posting as Ambassador to South Africa.
- In August, Alexander L. Hinton, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Rutgers University, worked for three weeks at DC-Cam. He focused on Tuol Sleng confessions, Khmer Rouge notebooks, the Biographical Database and other DC-Cam archives, as part of his research for a book he is writing.
- On August 17, a Dutch journalist from NRC Handelsblad, Robert Giebels, came to DC-Cam. He accompanied a DC-Cam Mapping Team to Romeas Hek and Kampong Ro districts in Svay Rieng province, attempting to trace a missing Dutch citizen who is believed to have vanished there.
- On August 28, a team of CNN reporters interviewed Youk Chhang while working on a story about Ta Mok, his health, and his sister Phou. The story aired on CNN.
- In August Dr. Susan Cook and John Bullock of Yale University visited the Center for eleven days. They discussed intellectual property rights, database development and other issues.
- Rithy Panh, a documentary film producer based in Paris, came to DC-Cam regularly to consult with the Director about a new film he is producing on the Khmer Rouge. Our staff accompanied him to Kampong Chhnang province to film former Khmer Rouge S-21 cadre, and to Takeo province to film a former interrogator at S-21 and other former Khmer Rouge cadres. In return, Mr. Rithy Panh gave us some films that show the consequences of chronic civil war in Cambodia.

During 2000, media coverage of DC-Cam was frequent across Asia, Europe, North America and Australia. The Center was regularly featured in leading television and radio programs, newspapers, magazines, academic journals and Internet pages throughout the world.

### 3. THE DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

In line with our ambition to serve as a permanent resource on the history of the Cambodian genocide, DC-Cam constantly seeks out primary and secondary documents related to the Khmer Rouge regime. We work with the offices of local agencies such as the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Ministry of Interior, and search for additional sources of

material among private and public archives in Asia, the United States and Europe. Every month, DC-Cam acquires new documents for inclusion in its archives. As the new documents arrive, first we copy them for preservation purposes, and then the documents are catalogued and filed in the different collections of the archive. To date, we have catalogued 7,248 files (out of a total of 8,272 files on hand) of materials deemed relevant to the biographical collection. We have also gathered 9,884 files of bibliographical materials.

### **The Cambodian Biographical Data Base (CBIO)**

DC-Cam has been working for more than two years on a major upgrade of the CBIO. This task is scheduled for completion in June 2001, and will conclude with biographical entries on some 10,692 individuals in a dual English- and Khmer-language database. The series of steps required to carry out this process includes:

- Step 1: Compile all information from biographies onto worksheets (completed January 1998)
- Step 2: Key Khmer data into database, delete duplicate records (completed December 1998)
- Step 3: Print out the entire 1998 version of the database (completed April 1998)
- Step 4: Data entry of English for eleven key fields (completed February 2000)
- Step 5: Edit Khmer spelling in hardcopy (completed July 1999)
- Step 6: Check worksheets against original documents (completed July 1999)
- Step 7: Edit Khmer spelling in database (completed February 2000)
- Step 8: Translate remaining data for incomplete fields (target December 2000)
- Step 9: Finalize Khmer data entry from worksheets (completed September 2000)
- Step 10: Finalize English data entry from worksheets (target December 2000)
- Step 11: Final editing of entire database (target June 2001).

Steps 1 through 7 were completed at the end of 1999, step 9 was finished in late September 2000, and all the completed records have been sent to the University of New South Wales (UNSW) for update. For steps 8 and 10, we have completed 5,273 out of 10,692 records, and sent the completed records to UNSW to be updated. Steps 8 and 9 were scheduled to be completed in December 2000, but we missed that deadline because of a labor shortage. Nonetheless, we were able to complete 500 records a month in the second quarter, 400 in the third, and 600 in the last quarter.

The Khmer editing team completed 5,071 records out of 10,692. As of the end of the year, work on step 11 had not begun because steps 8 and 10 had not been completed.

In the course of data entry, we encountered some challenges. Consequently, we requested that Yale University assign Mrs. Nereida Cross of UNSW in Sydney to visit DC-Cam in order to address some technical shortcomings in the database application. In August, she

arrived at DC-Cam. With her help, Sampeou Ros created a Khmer language format for searching Khmer names in the database. They also discussed several data entry errors during the keying of Khmer text in step 9.

Previously, our convention was to transliterate the names of provinces and districts into English using designations from the official UN geographical gazetteer, but we did not transliterate the names of sub-districts and villages. For future work, in consultation with Dr. Susan Cook, Dr. Helen Jarvis, and Ms. Nereida Cross, DC-Cam management decided to continue following the UN conventions, but for other names that do not exist in the UN gazetteer, we will use the DC-Cam standardized transliteration rules to render the names into English. This will provide an increased consistency in our database transliterations.

### **The Cambodian Genocide Bibliographic Data Base (CBIB)**

This year, we catalogued and completed Khmer and English data entry for 207 out of 383 Khmer Rouge notebooks. After the anticipated June 2001 completion of the CBIO upgrade, data entry for the upgrade of the CBIB can commence. Priority in this area was given to reducing the data for inclusion in the CBIO, rather than preparing materials for the CBIB.

Because of the intense focus of DC-Cam's documentalists over the last two years on the major upgrade of the CBIO, not as much attention has been devoted to the CBIB as it deserves. Currently standing at approximately 3,300 records, it was originally intended to catalogue all known existing primary and secondary documentation concerning the Khmer Rouge. DC-Cam's discovery of very large collections of previously unknown primary documents rendered this impossible in the short term. Eventually, DC-Cam aspires to create a computer database encompassing all of the materials in its archives. This would entail a database with tens of thousands of records. However, we do not have sufficient trained staff, computing equipment, work space or funding to do all of these things simultaneously.

There were additional complications. Yale University informed DC-Cam that it regards the existing version of the CBIB as a copyrighted, proprietary product, and that this product is the exclusive property of Yale University. Because the Cambodian Genocide Program is scheduled to be phased out sometime in 2001, DC-Cam found it necessary to engage in a protracted negotiation with Yale concerning the conditions under which it would be possible for DC-Cam to incorporate the information in the existing version of the Bibliographic Database into a larger, longer-term project that would comprehensively catalogue DC-Cam holdings. We reached agreement in principle with Yale on this issue, and now await approval of the final text by the Yale General Counsel. DC-Cam will continue to pursue this matter to find a solution that will best serve the interests of justice and history for the Cambodian people.

### **Future Documentation Work at DC-Cam**

As discussed above, DC-Cam has catalogued vast archival materials and entered many into the CBIB and CBIO databases. However, the bulk of our archives must still be catalogued, including nearly 30,000 more photographs, over 400,000 additional pages of documents, and numerous additional items of historical and legal interest. A very rough estimate of the as-yet uncatalogued items currently on hand is:

|                                               |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Photographs                                   | 28,600 items    |
| Negatives and Slides                          | 7,000 items     |
| Videotapes                                    | 157 items       |
| Audio tapes                                   | 202 items       |
| Maps                                          | 150 items       |
| S-21 Primary Documents                        | 6,000 pages     |
| Miscellaneous Primary Documents (mostly KR)   | 330,000 pages   |
| Oral History Collection (Buddhists and Chams) | 11,500 pages    |
| CDC Collection Secondary Documents            | 42,800 pages    |
| Miscellaneous Secondary Documents             | 1,750 documents |

This backlog continues to grow as newly uncovered material is acquired.

DC-Cam is devising a work plan for the next five years, during which we intend to complete the cataloguing of this backlog of materials, and to prepare for a substantial level of new acquisitions. We aim to prioritize materials that potentially have greater relevance to an accountability process for leaders of the Khmer Rouge, and process those materials on an expedited basis so as to assist that process.

The roughly 400,000 pages of uncatalogued materials in our archives include some 91,500 pages of new biographical materials on Khmer Rouge cadres; these materials must be incorporated into the Biographic Database. In addition, we have some 137,000 pages of Khmer Rouge bibliographical materials as well as 70,000 pages from the work of the PRK's Research Committee on the Genocide from 1979-1983 to be incorporated into this database. In the course of this work, the existing databases will be increased by a factor of three to five. We believe that this expansion should be undertaken in the context of a major redesign of our existing database systems, migrating the data to a new platform that is both more programmer- and user-friendly.

The outcome of our negotiations with the CGP will be significant for our planning. But should Yale elect to strictly interpret its rights under intellectual property law and decline to permit the merger of the existing databases with the results of future DC-Cam efforts, we can still achieve our goals. In this event, the best option would be to reassemble the data currently in the databases from original primary sources, thus avoiding copyright issues.

Meanwhile, we will continue to catalogue primary documents and other data based on our existing documentation strategy and information systems architecture. At the same time, we will continue to study our options for moving to a new post-CGP era, when many of the services Yale University has provided for us in the past will no longer be available. These

have included cultivating international research partners at other academic institutions around the world, and developing access to services and expertise from other organizations.

#### 4. THE RESEARCH PROJECT

It is a goal of DC-Cam to train a generation of young Cambodians to produce valuable research, and ultimately to publish books on par with international scholarly standards. During 2000, we made meaningful progress toward that goal, and our research documentation series has given us an excellent start. DC-Cam's Research Project aims to:

- Serve as a resource on the history of the Democratic Kampuchea regime
- Provide information that promotes accountability by serving as potential evidence for a future Khmer Rouge criminal tribunal
- Produce scholarly publications, generate scholarly exchange, catalyze training, and create internships
- Provide a cross-check on and confirmation of Khmer Rouge primary documents
- Provide a broader overall understanding of the Democratic Kampuchea regime.

#### DC-Cam's Research Methodology

Given the experience levels of DC-Cam researchers, we do not strictly apply the standard social science research hypothetical-deductive methodology. Rather, our research strategy is to comb secondary sources, primary sources, and interviews with victims and perpetrators, aiming to assemble a thorough empirical record that can then be analyzed by more experienced scholars. It takes a great deal of time, training and experience to produce sophisticated theoretical analyses, but we hope that over time, our own researchers increasingly will be able to carry out studies of the more analytical variety.

Cambodian schools as yet do not inculcate a culture of learning that respects individual critical thinking and writing. Aspiring Cambodian scholars also face a severe lack of library resources, both in quantity and quality. The kind of liberal education and broad curricula that routinely encourage academic excellence is therefore presently out of reach in Cambodia. We thus understand why scholars such as Dr. Craig Etcheson conclude that under present circumstances, it is impossible to expect our researchers to produce publishable studies in a mere one-year timeframe. Dr. Steve Heder has likewise concluded that the efforts of our researchers would be most wisely engaged in producing field reports. We humbly wish to challenge these conclusions. We thank the British Embassy, especially Ambassador H.M. George Edgar, for giving us support and understanding in our efforts to demand the most from our young researchers. The documentation research series has required more time than originally anticipated, and our funders have been patient in allowing our researchers a chance to mature. ReddBarna Norway has also given us greatly appreciated support.

All researchers are free to write as their fancy dictates, as long as they cite all of their sources and produce papers free from plagiarism. They are asked to observe the way renowned Cambodia scholars have written their books, while a modern research primer is also

available (*Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide*, Lester, 1993). Numerous leading Western scholars are on DC-Cam's Board of Associate Advisors, and are available for consultation when questions arise. Dr. Craig Etcheson, Dr. Steve Heder and Prof. David Chandler all have generously tutored our research staff.

DC-Cam began carrying out a broad program of oral history in 2000. All interviews are structured to begin with very general questions, such as "what happened to you before and during the Pol Pot time?" The DC-Cam field research policy is based firmly upon experience that has demonstrated the importance of avoiding leading questions. We seek to uncover individual responsibility and command responsibility for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the first elements of these crimes are revealed in the survivors' stories. Our interview methodology attempts to penetrate every possible detail that an interviewee can remember concerning what that person observed in the locale where they were situated during the DK regime. However, our researchers are discouraged from asking such questions until an interviewee has told all he or she is able to remember without being prompted. Our researchers are cautioned to confirm how an interviewee knows what he or she asserts, whether it is through first-hand experience or through rumor, but to ask such questions in a way that is not threatening to the interviewee. We also pay due care with respect to the way researchers dress and conduct themselves, because this can affect the extent and reliability of the responses. A foreign look or socially inappropriate talk invites exaggeration, distortion, or even lies. DC-Cam researchers are not permitted to tip or compensate interviewees in any way. Both a tape player and manual note-taking are used to record interviews, and the interviewees are made aware that they are being recorded. The vital task of transcribing interviews is usually begun immediately.

For purposes of security, logistics and reporting, researchers fill out a research trip checklist and a result form, entries of which include the number of interviews, names of interviewees, time, place, tapes used, photos, negatives, materials obtained, and a content summary. A small camera is used to take photos. Trips during the rainy season are discouraged. DC-Cam possesses a research trip authorization from the Ministry of Interior, which is helpful when researchers require local police escorts to travel in remote areas. Village chiefs usually are the best sources for local information and contact data.

### **Research Project Results**

This section briefly describes the progress of our Research Project from 1996 to 2000:

Phase 1: Prior to December 1996, DC-Cam produced seven research papers on the Khmer Rouge leadership in the Western, Northwest, Northeast and Southwest Zones, and on the Cham minority, women and Buddhist monks.

Phase 2: Since January 1997, DC-Cam has been working on additional research papers, three of which have been completed. Two of these are being translated, and the third will be translated shortly. Four additional studies are underway.

- "Oukoubah: Chams at S-21," by Osman Ysa (completed).
- "Women in Democratic Kampuchea: Women as Instruments for Social

- Change,” by Kalyanee Mam (completed).
- “Victims and Perpetrators? The Testimony of Young Khmer Rouge Comrades at S-21,” by Meng Try Ea (completed).
- “Genocide Memorials in Cambodia,” by Rachel Hughes with Kosal Phat.
- “The Vietnamese in Democratic Kampuchea,” by Sorya Sim with Dany Long.
- “The Northeastern Hill-tribes under the DK Regime,” by Sorya Sim with Vichea S. Tieng and Dara P. Vanthan.
- “A Pre-DK study,” by Sorya Sim with Youk Chhang.

Phase 3: In late 2000, we began work on several new projects, which are scheduled for completion by November 2001. The authors and titles of our newest research projects are:

- “Khmer Kampuchea Krom in Democratic Kampuchea,” by Vichea S. Tieng.
- “The DK Military Structure,” by Vannak Huy.
- “The Khmer Rouge Prison System,” by Meng Try Ea.
- “Chams in the Krouch Chhma District,” by Osman Ysa.
- “Nurses and Health Care in Democratic Kampuchea,” by Sokhym Em.
- “Children under the DK Regime,” by Kannitha Keo Kim.

The following synopses contain additional information about recently completed and ongoing research projects at DC-Cam.

*Oukoubah: Chams at S-21:* This study investigates cases in which Chams were arrested and killed at Tuol Sleng. Confessions and follow-up interviews have been used to describe human rights violations against this particular group. 13 cases have been assembled from Tuol Sleng Prison.

*Women as Instruments for Social Change Women in Democratic Kampuchea:* This research focuses on Khmer Rouge policies aimed to liberalize and equalize the position of women in society, but which in reality offered women only the illusion of equality. A 196-page compilation of sexual abuse cases was also produced. 80 people were interviewed for this study.

*Victims and Perpetrators?: The Testimony of Young Khmer Rouge Comrades at S-21:* This study focuses on how the Khmer Rouge indoctrinated the young, how related programs were enforced on children, and how these programs affected and violated the rights of the child. Region 31 (Kampong Chhnang province) is where many young cadres were recruited to serve as S-21 prison guards, catchers and husbandry workers. Internal Khmer Rouge biographies and those who knew the cadres were used for this study.

*Genocide Memorials in Cambodia:* This project studies the generation, functions, and consumption of bone collection sites. Permission was obtained from the Ministry of Interior to carry out this work. Interviews and document collection are continuing. The project focuses on the Choeung Ek Memorial site and the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide, as well as various village memorials. DC-Cam is providing documentation and institutional support to the author, Rachel Hughes. This project has already resulted in a 6-page article,

“Remember May 20, Day of Anger.” Work on the full research monograph is in progress.

*The Vietnamese in Democratic Kampuchea:* This study is focusing on Po Chen Dam village, Prey Veng province, where the Khmer Rouge killed only the Vietnamese half of ethnically-mixed couples (the Khmer Rouge also killed the children when the wife was Vietnamese). 48 people connected with this village have been interviewed.

*The Northeastern Hill Tribes under the DK Regime:* This paper focuses on how the Khmer Rouge mobilized and recruited the hill tribes, how they worked together, how the tribes were subject to Khmer Rouge recruitment, conflicts that emerged, and how non-recruited tribes resisted the Khmer Rouge. An initial compilation of tribal prisoner cases has been written and is being assessed to identify subjects for further interviews.

*A Pre-DK Study:* This project is in the initial data collection phase. The author has produced about ten pages of annotated bibliography on U.S. unaccounted incidents in Cambodia. He has investigated events during 1964 and 1970 in Chantrea village, Prey Veng province.

*Khmer Kampuchea Krom in Democratic Kampuchea* These ethnic Khmer live in the former southern territories of the Angkor Empire which are now under the sovereignty of Vietnam. This research will show that this group has not been trusted by the Vietnamese government or by the Khmer Rouge, even though they share the same ancestors. As a result of this mistrust, they were mistreated, arrested, manipulated and killed by both nations.

*The DK Military Structure:* This project began in August. It focuses on combatants in Division 703. The author’s study of Tuol Sleng confessions found that 85 Khmer Rouge combatants of Division 703 were arrested and killed at Tuol Sleng Prison. The paper will focus on how the Khmer Rouge recruited soldiers, and on how soldiers accused of wrongdoing were punished.

*Chams in Krauch Chhmar District.* This project is a follow-up to “Oukabah,” It will investigate two Cham revolts against the Khmer Rouge in Kampong Chhnang Province, and the subsequent deportation of the villages where the revolts occurred.

*Nurses and Health Care in Democratic Kampuchea:* This project began in December. It is a follow-up to an earlier research paper, “Women as Instruments for Social Change.” The author is studying documents in the DC-Cam archives and formulating a field-trip plan.

*Children under the DK Regime:* This project started in December 2000, and we expect to finish it by November 2001. This author has been using materials from both the biographic and bibliographic collections of the archives, and is exploring the Khmer Rouge notebooks for ideas to assemble a project outline.

## 5. THE MAPPING PROJECT

This was the sixth year of DC-Cam’s Mass Grave Mapping Project. The 2000 mapping report

details missions by DC-Cam mapping teams to 18 of Cambodia's 21 provinces: Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Thom, Kandal, Kratie, Prey Veng, Siem Reap, Takeo, Mondulhiri, Ratanakiri, Stung Treng, Svay Rieng, Pursat, Battambang, Kampong Cham, and Kampot provinces, as well as Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh city. The three provinces that remain to be investigated are Koh Kong, Udon Meanchey and Preah Vihear.

Since 1995, DC-Cam mapping teams have visited 150 of Cambodia's 170 districts, and mapped 462 genocide sites, prisons and memorials. Prisons, execution centers and mass graves from the Khmer Rouge era are being systematically surveyed and entered into a digital mapping database. The data include not only geographical coordinates obtained using the Global Positioning System (GPS), but also statistics on the number of mass grave pits, bodies and memorials, as well as witness accounts, photographic documentation and other information. Some of the digital maps constructed with the GPS data are available through the DC-Cam web-site <http://welcome.to/dccam> via links to the mapping databases hosted at <http://www.yale.edu/cgp/cgdb/cgdbmain.htm> and <http://www-cgp.sistm.unsw.edu.au>.

Last year, we also worked with a GIS expert from the University of New South Wales on the ArcView Geographic Information System software, downloading a new map that consolidates data from 1995 to 1999. There are still more details to be added to the new consolidated map, including legends. We also need to create a new tool to enable multiple displays of different map versions.

### **2000 Mapping Project Activities**

We updated our witness questionnaire in 2000. Mapping teams visited 11 districts in 7 provinces that remained from the mapping plan in 1999. Thirty-two new genocide sites were mapped, including 9 sites in Prey Chhor district, 3 in Batheay district, and 2 in Chamkar Leu district of Kampong Cham province; 7 in Kampong Leng district and 1 in Chul Kiri district of Kampong Chhnang province; 5 in Bati district of Takeo province; 1 in Prey Nob district of Sihanoukville; 1 in Romeas Hek district and 1 in Kampong Ro district of Svay Rieng province; 1 in Takhmao district of Kandal province; and 1 at Tuol Sleng (graves behind the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum). Thirty-two GPS readings were recorded. In the last quarter of 2000, mapping team activities included transcription, mapping photo archiving, and report editing.

Our teams failed to reach genocide sites in Preah Vihear and Uddar Meanchey provinces, and several districts of Siem Reap province due to land mines. We have contacted a CMAC team working in Preah Vihear province and are now waiting the proper time to carry out field trips to these areas. During 2000, we also led a Belgian documentary film team to Koh Khyang village, Sihanoukville, to record a DC-Cam mapping expedition at that site, which also required support from CMAC.

The transcription of all mapping interview cassettes from 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1999 has just been completed, and the transcription of tapes from 1998 and 2000 is in progress. We also translated the original 1999 Khmer mapping reports into English. With financial support

from the UK, the 1999 Khmer and English mapping reports were recently sent to a printing house for publication. We anticipate that this publication will be ready early in 2001.

### **Continuation of the Mapping Project**

In 2001, we plan to visit 65 districts in 18 provinces, including parts of the provinces and districts that we failed to reach in year 2000. These field trips will not commence until the remaining administrative mapping work from previous years is completed.

A great deal of work remains to be done before the mapping of Cambodia's Killing Fields is complete. Many sub-districts remain to be mapped, but they are remote, inaccessible, and also quite dangerous, due to a variety of hazards including malarial jungles, unmarked minefields, bandits and armed "former" Khmer Rouge who sometimes appear unenthusiastic about this type of research.

Once the mapping data have been compiled, DC-Cam plans to conduct a forensic examination of a sample of the mass grave sites. This will be necessary to add scientific confirmation concerning the identity and causes of death of the victims in these graves, in order to augment the evidence already collected.

An important recent development in the Mapping Project involves DC-Cam's production, in cooperation with Yale University, of a large scientific map that demonstrates the locations of all mass burial sites discovered to date. The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (the TSL Museum) has requested that we produce a large version of that map for prominent display in the museum. Our large-scale map of mass burial sites will replace an exhibit containing the remains of Khmer Rouge victims. King Norodom Sihanouk recently issued a request to the Cambodian government that those remains be given a proper burial. The TSL Museum identified DC-Cam as the organization best suited to furnish a similarly important and powerful replacement exhibit. DC-Cam is proud to assist in that initiative.

## **6. PROJECT TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY**

After lengthy negotiations between the Royal Government of Kingdom of Cambodia and the United Nations, a draft law for a Khmer Rouge tribunal was finally prepared by the Royal Government. After review by the National Assembly's Legislative Commission, on December 29, 2000, the "Law on the Establishment of Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the Prosecution of Crimes committed during the period of Democratic Kampuchea" was presented to the Assembly for consideration. The law comprises 19 chapters and 48 articles. The National Assembly spent only two days debating the draft and adopted the law unanimously.

With the likelihood that a Khmer Rouge tribunal will be convened, DC-Cam has redoubled its efforts to compile and organize information that represents potential evidence for a legal accounting. In particular, DC-Cam has been attempting to identify documents and other information that may bear on the criminal responsibility of certain individuals for offenses such as war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. Thus, DC-Cam's Director has

been scouring the existing archives and examining newly arrived primary documentation to bolster individual case files for top Khmer Rouge leaders.

### **Discovering Historical and Potential Evidence**

DC-Cam has discovered and preserved a large quantity of documents and photographs. Much of this documentary material consists of internal memoranda and correspondence of the Khmer Rouge regime that implicates particular Khmer Rouge leaders in serious human rights atrocities. Many of these documents were acquired only recently, and DC-Cam continues to search for more. In 1998, the United Nations Group of Experts reviewed and evaluated these materials and concluded that sufficient evidence exists to support prosecutions of Khmer Rouge leaders for the most serious crimes under international and Cambodian law. In fact, the Cambodian military court and the defense lawyers for Ta Mok and Duch have already utilized the materials held at DC-Cam.

### **Preparing Potential Evidence for a Legal Accounting**

In preparation for a foreseeable legal accounting, DC-Cam launched a documentation project to code, catalogue and analyze Khmer Rouge documents. This task aims to render DC-Cam's materials highly accessible to a future tribunal, its prosecution and defense counsel, and members of the public. DC-Cam has also translated into English many documents deemed by the Director and his legal advisors to be of utmost importance.

For preparing its materials as potential evidence, as well as for the collection of additional materials, DC-Cam intends to retain a small legal staff drawn from its past and current volunteer legal advisors. It will also continue to solicit volunteers from talented applicants around the world. The Center regularly receives applications from interested lawyers and law students in Europe, Asia, Australia, and North America.

DC-Cam stands ready to assist the court in translating documents and utilizing DC-Cam's catalog system. The Center has maintained scrupulous records that trace – to the extent possible given the passage of time – the chain of custody of all the documents available in the archives. Drawing on its extensive experience in this regard, the DC-Cam will also maintain responsibility for storing and handling fragile and deteriorating documents. To meet the needs of the anticipated Khmer Rouge trial, DC-Cam has been preparing four classes of evidentiary materials.

*Dossiers on Victims:* From the beginning of our work, we have classified a certain type of material as "At-Risk Documents." These are materials that we believe to have particularly high value as potentially probative evidence of individual criminal responsibility. Out of a 935 files (over 40,000 pages of Khmer text), 106 dossiers (6,418 pages) have been compiled for their probative value. Working with international consultants, the DC-Cam staff has analyzed 106 cases that might be used to illustrate incidents of crimes against humanity during Democratic Kampuchea. Each dossier is a file on an individual victim or group of victims, containing names and signatures of both victims and interrogators, and names of the important Khmer Rouge leaders involved. These files were selected from the bibliographic collection of the DC-Cam archives.

*Personally Incriminating Documents.* DC-Cam has collected and compiled 5,922 pages of information relating to the following individuals in the Khmer Rouge leadership (or on individuals otherwise associated with events during the Khmer Rouge regime):

|                           |                         |                                    |                             |                       |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pol Pot:<br>333 pages     | Ieng Sary:<br>936 pages | Nuon Chea:<br>437 pages            | Khieu Samphan:<br>254 pages | Son Sen:<br>969 pages |
| Ieng Thirith:<br>17 pages | Ke Pauk:<br>20 pages    | Ta Mok:<br>1,179 pages             | Chan:<br>1,261 pages        | Hor:<br>303 pages     |
| Him Huy:<br>63 pages      | Pon:<br>28 pages        | Pon, Him, Huy and Hor:<br>26 pages |                             |                       |

We have not carried out any analysis of the information we collected on these individuals. We simply compiled the relevant information and classified it according to time periods and the respective individuals concerned. Among the materials examined were files containing minutes of the Khmer Rouge Standing Committee meetings, documents related to Lon Nol regime, and “Telegram” files reporting routine activities to and from the Khmer Rouge lower and top levels.

*Dossiers on Khmer Rouge Leaders:* DC-Cam accelerated its assembly of legally probative dossiers during 2000. We collected and compiled information related to Duch, Mok and other top Khmer Rouge leaders that may bear on the issue of individual criminal responsibility. In collaboration with several leading international scholars of the Khmer Rouge, the DC-Cam archives are being carefully examined to determine what materials are legally relevant to criminal matters.

DC-Cam launched the Project’s newest phase in December 2000. Twenty DC-Cam staff members have been scouring the archives for specific information. The task is carried out only on Saturdays with overtime compensation. Ta Mok, Duch and seven full-rights members of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party have been singled out for this purpose: Pol Pot, Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, Sao Phim, Vorn Vet, Son Sen, and Khieu Samphan. In addition, we are also assembling dossiers on Ke Pauk, Ieng Thirith, Chou Chet, Phouk Chhay, Yun Yat, Men San and Moul Sambath, who were candidate members of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party.

### **Educating the Public about the Justice Process**

DC-Cam believes that the public needs to be closely informed of the tribunal’s progress in order to help heal the wounds within Cambodian society left by the Khmer Rouge era. The Center intends to launch an educational campaign by disseminating the work of the tribunal through its monthly magazine and a web-site. This project is in keeping with one of the U.N. Group of Experts’ principal recommendations, which states that it is necessary to “arrange for the unfettered dissemination of the proceedings” of the tribunal in Cambodia.

*Disseminating Legal Reports and Materials.* We compiled a large set of legal materials during 1996, including international laws and conventions relating to genocide, war crimes

and crimes against humanity. So far, we have collected and compiled 259 such files. They can serve as study materials useful to students, as well as to lawyers who may wish to build legal cases addressing crimes committed during the Democratic Kampuchea regime between 1975-1979. DC-Cam has also finalized a legal report dealing with the issue of “command responsibility” for Khmer Rouge atrocities during Democratic Kampuchea.

*Legal Training.* We are now re-establishing our 1995-1996 legal training project in international law, with assistance from Yale, Harvard and Columbia Universities. This project will not only to enhance the professional depth of DC-Cam staff, but more importantly, will reach out to the Cambodian legal community. Our objective here is to bring legal practitioners in Cambodia closer to international standards in the area of court administration, as well as in prosecution and defense of crimes connected to international humanitarian law and international criminal law.

## 7. THE MAGAZINE PROJECT

DC-Cam launched its magazine, *Searching for the Truth*, to widespread plaudits on January 22, 2000. The magazine is designed to help inform the Cambodian people about life under Democratic Kampuchea. This publication also educates Cambodia’s citizens about the preparations for and conduct of any criminal tribunal. The specific objectives of *Searching for the Truth* are to:

1. Promote justice and accountability with respect to the crimes committed by the Khmer Rouge regime
2. Educate the public about and contribute to the establishment of the rule of law in Cambodia
3. Inform the public about the Khmer Rouge judicial process and legal procedures
4. Provide the public with a better knowledge of the Khmer Rouge regime based on documents held at DC-Cam and other institutions, and of Khmer Rouge history based on scholarly writings and internally-produced research papers
5. Provide a forum for informed debate concerning the conduct of the Khmer Rouge trials
6. Disseminate legal information about international law and what is happening internationally with other instances of war crimes, genocide and other crimes against humanity
7. Provide information to DK survivors who are searching for information about their lost loved ones during the Khmer Rouge regime.

Our monthly magazine features a variety of articles on different topics. Each issue includes five sections:

*Documentation Work at DC-Cam:* Prepared by the staff of DC-Cam and based on primary Khmer Rouge documents, this section presents summarized text converted from the original documents.

*History:* This column features articles concentrating on analysis of Khmer Rouge history. Contributions to this section are provided by international experts on the Khmer Rouge, and it aims to advance our general understanding of that history.

*Legal Analysis:* The third section features articles on legal analysis prepared by international lawyers, judges, or other legal experts.

*Rouge.* The articles in this column are contributed by non-governmental organizations, government officials, teachers, and students. The aim in this section of the magazine is to encourage the general sharing of views, comments and suggestions.

*Family Tracing:* This last section of the magazine provides a window on DC-Cam's tracing of victims' family members, who died or disappeared in the Khmer Rouge time. The column also describes new lives after the Khmer Rouge time. DC-Cam welcomes all requests by the public for family tracing.

Each issue runs up to 60 pages, and includes at least 10 photographs. We hope to eventually print 40,000 copies of each issue, distributed at the village level throughout Cambodia.

*Searching for the Truth* is distributed free of charge to Cambodians. So far, 14 issues of the magazine have been published, and the public response from readers of all kinds has been strongly supportive. This publication has been made possible by generous grants from the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Canada Fund of the Canadian Embassy in Phnom Penh.

### **Project Activities**

The funds available have only allowed us to publish between 3,000 and 5,000 copies of each issue. Only issues that address current public debates or which have particularly significant articles enjoyed a print run of 5,000 copies. Five thousand copies of Issues 2 and 3, for instance, were printed; they focused primarily on Ieng Sary and Nuon Chea, whose cases are being hotly debated by the public and Cambodia's National Assembly.

However, owing to the great demand from the public, DC-Cam produced 4,000 copies for each issue in the last quarter of the year 2000. Of these, the vast majority were distributed free of charge from the sub-district to the central government level throughout Cambodia, to many NGOs, government agencies and all the embassies in Phnom Penh. A small number of copies (500) is put on sale in Phnom Penh for the purpose of generating additional revenue to defray publication costs.

When the first issue was produced, 3,000 posters were produced as well, aiming to publicize

the launching of *Searching for the Truth*. These posters were delivered to most districts in Cambodia, while some were put on sale in the city.

In August, our magazine team went to Takeo province to interview Ta Mok's younger sister Pou. By coincidence, the interview took place just as Ta Mok allegedly suffered two heart attacks, but the resulting publicity meant that accounts of our interview with Pou were published in both Khmer- and English-language newspapers, as well as in *Searching for the Truth*. This interview attracted local and international journalists, including CNN, who interviewed Youk Chhang, the Director of DC-Cam.

*Issue Themes.* For the first year of publication, we put the focus of each issue on a different Khmer Rouge leader each month:

- Issue 1: All the Khmer Rouge leaders and their work;
- Issue 2: Ieng Sary, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Issue 3: Nuon Chea, President of the People's Representative Assembly and Deputy Prime Minister
- Issue 4: Pol Pot, Prime Minister
- Issue 5: Ieng Thirith, Minister of Education
- Issue 6: Duch, Chief of Tuol Sleng Prison
- Issue 7: Khieu Samphan, President of the Democratic Kampuchea Presidium;
- Issue 8: Mok, Chief of the Southwestern Zone and a member of the Standing Committee
- Issue 9: Khieu Ponnary, Minister of Education
- Issue 10: Son Sen, Deputy Prime Minister for Defense
- Issue 11: Returned to a focus on all of the top Khmer Rouge leaders
- Issue 12: Focused on victims and survivors of the DK regime.

*Distribution:* Distribution has presented a challenge. At the outset, we contracted with agents for local newspapers to help distribute the magazine in the countryside. We subsequently discovered that this approach not only entailed additional costs, but also provided no positive confirmation of delivery. Several NGOs then agreed to assist. Nonetheless, we are currently handling distribution independently. This approach appears to be the most economical and reliable.

Every month, up to 85% of the print run of *Searching for the Truth* is distributed free of charge to 4 cities, 20 provinces, 173 districts and 1,560 sub-districts, as well as the Royal Council, members of the National Assembly and the Senate, political parties, embassies in Cambodia, the Council of Ministers, ministries, most NGOs, all libraries, the National Archive, and all Cambodian Ambassadors working abroad. We also plan to extend the distribution of *Searching for the Truth* to other concerned countries, and countries in which Cambodians live abroad.

*Sales.* Each month, a small number of copies (500) is put on sale at newsagents, bookshops and some mini-markets in Phnom Penh. These sales serve three purposes: first, to promote the goal of becoming financially self-sustaining; second, to generate additional

income to defray publication costs; and third, to implement the concept of “taking from the rich to help the poor.” For the year 2000, income from sales was \$7,324.70.

Ideally, we would like to extend publication of the magazine beyond the originally planned two years to correspond with the prospective duration of the Khmer Rouge trials. We also hope to produce an English-language version, and sell it at US\$4 per copy beginning in mid-2001. As the Khmer Rouge tribunal is anticipated to begin soon, an English-language version of *Searching for the Truth* is continuously requested by international NGOs and other sources in the international community.

*Support from Readers:* Before the initial issue of the magazine was even released, local NGOs requested hundreds of copies to distribute to participants in a series of seminars on the Khmer Rouge trials. The Center for Social Development requested 450 copies for Town Hall meetings held in each of the three provinces. Subsequently, they have requested 300 copies of every issue. With the release of each monthly issue, more and more letters of support are received from readers.

This year, we received 68 letters from readers, as well as many telephone calls. Most came from the countryside, expressing their support for our publication. Letters arrived from His Majesty the King, Prime Minister Hun Sen, Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng, the Sam Rainsy Party, the Cambodian People’s Party, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cambodian Institute of Human Rights, the Khmer Press Association, LICADHO, COMFREL, WFP, CCC, the Director of the National Institute of Management, and many others. We also received supporting letters from the Hun Sen Library, as well as district and provincial offices throughout Cambodia. In a letter from the Chief of the Bureau of Information in Kratie Province, Uch Sun Lay wrote,

I am one of the Cambodian victims under the Khmer Rouge regime, in which my father, father-in-law, mother-in-law, wife, and three children were executed, accused of being KGB agents. I lost more than ten family members and relatives. I and the some 80 people [with whom I read your magazine] are very happy to discover that *Searching for the Truth* is free from political bias, and featuring articles concerning international laws, which together can perhaps serve to catalyze a possible trial in the future.”

A letter from Ung Sami, the Governor of Pursat Province, suggested that our readers are deeply moved by the magazine:

“I have read and reread, over and over again, all the contents of your magazine. I was both amazed and frightened, and felt as though the events happened only a short time ago. I would like to praise you with all my heart for the conscience and idealism you exhibit by which you prioritize the interests of the nation and the people. I would also like to praise you for having compiled such a historical record for the younger generations of Cambodia to learn and judge from.”

## Family Tracing

Virtually every family in Cambodia had loved ones disappear during the Khmer Rouge revolution, never to be seen or heard from again. This left a gaping void in the lives of millions of people. Some of these victims of Cambodia genocide no doubt died anonymous deaths, unrecorded and unremembered. But many of them were formally processed through the Khmer Rouge internal security system, which kept records in sometimes astonishing detail. Over the course of the first six years of DC-Cam's work, many individuals with such lost family members have come to request information about their missing relatives. DC-Cam estimates that in approximately 80% percent of these cases, it has been able to locate information regarding the fate of the missing family members.

## 8. ADDITIONAL DC-CAM INITIATIVES

### Translation

DC-Cam has been devoting an increasing amount of resources to translating various materials to and from the Khmer language. Some of the documents we translated this year include:

- A collection of files related to diplomats who served the King during his years in exile, including the forced confessions of such individuals as Huot Sambath, Tauch Kham Deoun and Sien An.
- 52 pages of the Khmer Rouge telegrams (which were edited by native English speakers)
- 145 pages of materials for legal analysis into English, and "A Sampling of Documentary Evidence" by Steve Heder, into Khmer
- An 88-page book put out by the Khmer Rouge regime, titled "Black Paper," from English into Khmer.
- "Child Khmer Rouge Cadres in Tuol Sleng Prison" was translated from into Khmer
- The future monograph "Oukoubah," was translated into English
- Parliamentary debate on the Khmer Rouge Draft Law.

We also began translating Professor David Chandler's recent book, *Voices from S-21*, into Khmer, and have been serializing it in our monthly magazine.

The translations we plan for the future include files related to six surviving senior Khmer Rouge leaders as well as files related to the Royal family and certain diplomats. We will also translate and publish a collection of 383 notebooks written by Khmer Rouge cadre. These notebooks record the daily activities of Khmer Rouge officials, including meeting minutes, notes on political education sessions, medical musings, songs, proverbs, slogans, and so on. In addition, we plan to translate Anne Frank's Diary into the Khmer language.

### Creating a Supplementary Cambodian History Text

DC-Cam remains committed to writing a supplementary history textbook for Cambodian public schools. With this project, we aim to fill the gaping hole in the current public school curriculum. Due to political disagreements among the various factions of the Royal

Government since 1993, virtually all reference to modern Cambodian history between 1970 and 2000. There is almost no mention at all of the Cambodian genocide in the educational materials used public schools, K-12. Under these conditions, Cambodia's youth will remain ignorant of the facts of their own nation's history, leaving open the possibility that a genocide regime might one day return without them realizing that it could happen here.

We view this as unacceptable, and tantamount to a form of genocide denial. We are therefore following up our plan to develop a Khmer history textbook. In this regard, we have recently received a pledge of support from Anne Frank House in Amsterdam to assist in this project. DC-Cam believes it is entirely possible – and absolutely necessary – to produce an accurate, frank and truthful rendering of the impact of the Khmer Rouge revolution on Cambodia, in such a way that it will prove acceptable to all legal parties in the Cambodian political spectrum.

### **Cooperative Ventures**

DC-Cam's program of cooperation with the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocidal Crimes continues to deepen. In the past, DC-Cam contributed to the upgrading of Tuol Sleng's archive room, and helped to provide a computer for the use of its. In the future, we intend to provide the Museum with a microfilm reader. We have developed a new joint DC-Cam and Tuol Sleng brochure, aiming to support a campaign to rehabilitate the Museum.

We are also working with Tuol Sleng to establish a modern photo laboratory. This will enable the museum to develop and print Khmer Rouge photos both for research purposes, thus helping the museum to expand its professional capacities as well as to financially sustain its operations. Recently we agreed to set up a DC-Cam office at the museum. When this office is established, DC-Cam will detail staff members to work there. The office will be equipped with a microfilm reader and developing facilities.

## **9. ENHANCING AND PROTECTING DC-CAM'S ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS**

### **Preservation of Existing Materials**

*Microfilming:* Since we started microfilm work, we have produced a total of 216 reels of film. We sent 178 reels to Richard Richie at Yale University's Sterling Library for development and to produce duplicate sets of negatives for the DC-Cam archives. During the first quarter of 2001, we have not yet sent any reels of film to Yale, nor have we received any negatives back from the Yale Library. We will send a new shipment of exposed film to Yale when a quantity suitable for shipment has accumulated.

DC-Cam recently received a microfilm reader and camera from the German Embassy in Phnom Penh. As a result, we can now view our increasingly considerable archive of microfilmed documents. And with our new microfilm facilities now in place, we can permit increased public access to all the information and photos on microfilm, while preserving the original documents for legal use only.

*Scanning:* During 2000, we aimed to digitally scan all the photographs taken on mass grave mapping expeditions up through and including the photographs taken during the 1999 mapping trips. In addition, we also planed to digitally scan a wide variety of other genocide photos (11,663 images), which were acquired from various sources including Tuol Sleng over the last few years. However, we were not able to carry out the scanning of these collections because of lack of staff and more urgent priorities. As more photos continue to be acquired from various sources, we hope eventually to design and implement a large-scale multimedia database to organize and preserve this visual information.

*Photos:* We have collected a great deal of photographs of victims and perpetrators of Cambodia's genocide. They include 11,663 individual images, some of which are duplicates. Most of the photos are from the Tuol Sleng Museum, some from the Ministry of Interior, and some from other sources. For the time being, we are cataloguing these photos. First, we divide them according to whether they are images of victims, of perpetrators, or general views during the Khmer Rouge regime. Second, we sort the images of people according to sex, age and date. So far 2,527 photos have been catalogued and preserved in albums. In the future we intend to collaborate with Rei Yum Art and film producer Rithy Panh to launch an international joint photo exhibition.

One example of these recent photographic acquisitions is the result of a new collaboration between DC-Cam and The Phnom Penh Post Publishing Company. We are working together to publish Khmer Rouge photographs for historical and legal purposes. Almost 1,000 Khmer Rouge photo negatives have been donated to the Post and DC-Cam as a part of this new project.

*Laminating:* Most of the documents DC-Cam holds are in poor condition; some are very deteriorated as they were neglected and not well preserved. The decay of these documents threatens the integrity of DC-Cam's archives, and indeed, threatens Cambodian history as a whole. DC-Cam has therefore laminated the most important documents, and we plan to laminate all documents eventually.

### **Acquisition of New Materials**

DC-Cam continues to steadily acquire a wide variety of materials from various sources inside and outside Cambodia. But increasingly, DC-Cam is expanding its acquisition programs to encompass sources outside Cambodia, which we believe to remain a rich and largely unexploited potential source of important documentation. We are continuing to collect materials from Vietnam, where we believe a large amount of relevant documentation exists. We also plan to mount an expedition to Laos, in order to see if archives there contain any relevant materials, and if so, to attempt to negotiate an agreement permitting us to add them to our archives. Other forays abroad are contemplated for the near future, as well.

We recently concluded an agreement to acquire a major archive that has been privately held in the United States. In August, we received a shipment weighing 272 kilograms, composed of 28 cartons of documents, photographs and related materials from this archive. Assembled

by a non-governmental human rights organization during the 1980s, this collection constitutes a major addition to the DC-Cam archives. Included in this archive are original primary documents from the Khmer Rouge security organization, the Santebal, which have been outside of Cambodia, in some cases for up to 20 years. Also included are recordings of extensive interviews with Cham Muslims and Cambodian Buddhist leaders, testifying to the extent of their persecution during the Khmer Rouge regime. This archive also includes thousands of photographs of Khmer Rouge genocide sites.

## 10. DEVELOPMENT OF THE DC-CAM FACILITIES

### **Recent Upgrades to Our Facilities**

On August 11, we received nine computers and two printers from the Japanese Embassy in Phnom Penh. On September 1, we also received a microfilm reader and camera from the German Embassy in Phnom Penh. DC-Cam hopes to eventually buy a microfilm developing machine so that we will be able to process film on our own.

In 1999 and 2000, DC-Cam initiated several new projects to upgrade our physical facilities and office building. One major addition to the building was the construction of a new top-level floor, which contains a pavilion for meetings and training sessions. We also converted our ground floor microfilm room into a storage area for fireproof filing cabinets. We then relocated the microfilm facility to the first floor, converting the first-floor bathroom for this purpose. In addition, we converted a corridor and kitchen on the first floor into additional microfilm workspace. We plan to build another office extension on the roof of the building sometime during 2001 to house our legal advisors.

*Preservation Room:* DC-Cam also upgraded the existing ground floor microfilm room, converting it for use as storage area for fireproof filing cabinets. The fireproof filing cabinets represented a major security upgrade for the facility. With the increasing likelihood that a Khmer Rouge tribunal will soon be convened, it has been repeatedly suggested by UN sources as well as by various embassies and other concerned parties that additional measures need to be taken to safeguard the original documents held in the DC-Cam archives from possible accidental or malicious destruction. Moving the most important documents from the vulnerable wooden shelving of the Archive Room and relocating them to secure storage in fireproof cabinets contributed significantly to this end.

*Security Exit:* During the conversion of the microfilm room we also added an additional security feature. The ground floor of the building had a non-functional rear entrance, facing on the ally behind the building. We removed the old vestigial folding-screen style door and re-framed the portal, adding a solid metal rolling door to improve the overall security of the facility. This new doorway will now serve as an emergency security exit from the building.

*Office of Legal Advisors:* As the staff of DC-Cam continues to grow, another office extension is badly needed to house new recruits and volunteers. This will be particularly important as pressure for legal analysis of the archives increases. Therefore we plan to

build another office extension on the roof of the building sometime during 2001 to house our legal advisors.

### **Plans for a Permanent Center**

DC-Cam aims to be a permanent resource for research, training and public service. We have acquired a plot of land in Phnom Penh to construct a dedicated research facility and library that will house DC-Cam in perpetuity. In addition to administrative, research, archive and conference functions, the building will also serve as both a memorial and a museum dedicated to preserving the memory of the victims of the Cambodian genocide. An international architectural competition has recently been inaugurated seeking to commission a design for the new building. Letters of intent to submit designs have already been received from leading universities in North America, Europe and Asia. DC-Cam will soon launch a capital campaign to support construction of the facility, which is expected to cost on the order of US\$5 million for the physical plant alone. Additional support will be required to properly equip the new facility with the state-of-the-art technologies used in DC-Cam's ongoing work.

DC-Cam has selected a committee to oversee the architectural design competition and is seeking a consultant to assist in managing the capital campaign. To date, multiple designs have already been submitted to DC-Cam, the first of which came from a Cambodian-American survivor of the DK regime. This design can be viewed on the DC-Cam homepage at <http://www.welcome.to/dccam>. DC-Cam is hoping that artistic renderings of the proposed designs for the new building will be submitted by as many as sixteen universities.

*Edited by Wynne Cougill.*