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Broq. 1. MSC

THE THOUGHTS OF BEN KIERNAN.

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- 1. ... Khieu Samphan's personality --- particularly his unassuming manner, ready smile and simple habits --- endeared him to Khmer peasants. Himself a peasant by birth, he is said to have been somewhat ascetic in his behavior, but never fanatical and always calm.

"Khieu Samphan: Cambodia's Revolutionary Leader." Dyason House Papers. June 1975.

- 2. "There is ample evidence in Cambodian and other sources that the Khmer Rouge movement is not the monster that the press have recently made it out to be."

"Cambodia in the News; 1975-76. Melbourne Journal of Politics. 1976.

- 3. Did the new government plan and approve a systematic large-scale purge? There is little evidence that they did. Apart from the execution of high-ranking army officers and officials, the killing reported by refugees from the northwest since April 1975 was instigated by untrained and vengeful local Khmer Rouge soldiers, despite orders to the contrary from Phnom Penh.

"Social Cohesion in Revolutionary Cambodia." Australian Outlook. December 1976.

- 4. As a result of the Khmer Rouge irrigation program, Cambodian agriculture will be modernised and peasant living standards increased.

"Social Cohesion in Revolutionary Cambodia." Australian Outlook. December 1976.

- 5. The Western Press have more of an interest in a "bloodbath" in Cambodia than the communists do...

Letter to The Age (Melbourne). March 2, 1977.

- 6. After interviewing many refugees I have found, as others have, that each one's view of the revolution depends to a great extent on their class background. This is natural, since the revolution is decidedly biased in favor of the poor, in particular the peasantry.

Unpublished letter to The Times (London) August 11, 1977. Published in Journal of Contemporary Asia. Vol 7. No. 4. 1977.