



P. 67 Confession of HOU Nim (ហ៊ុន នីម), alias Phoas (ផាស់)

I. Dear Communist Party of Kampuchea whom I respect more than my life,

Dear *Bang* POL (ប៉ុល), *Bang* Nuon (នួន), *Bang* Vãn (វ៉ាន់), *Bang* Vorn (វ៉ន),

Comrade KHIEU (ខៀវ) and Comrade Hèm (ហែម),

Today, on 10 April 1977, while I was developing a radio program to mark the Anniversary of the 17 April 1975 victory, Comrade Pàng (ប៉ង) telephoned me,

requesting that I work with Angkar. I was taken aback when I was arrested unexpectedly by the combatant comrades. At first, I did not believe that I had been arrested by Comrade Pàng's unit, since I have been loyal to the Party. I suspected the enemy had tried to place the blame on me. When I arrived at the prison, a policeman in charge asked me, "Do you know KOY Thuon (កុយ ធ្នូន), PHÔK Chhay (ហ៊ុក ឆាយ)

ឆាយ) and TAUCH Phoeun (តូច ហ្វឺន)?" I immediately realized that I had been

accused by the enemy since they wanted to destroy me – who have been loyal to the Party and determined to protect the Party's lines as I would my own life. Another police officer questioned me about the "new party establishment" matter; I recalled a recent moment when I heard Comrade Chhây talk about PHÔK Chhay and the establishment of the Party during the revolutionary self-criticism at the Party's office at Borei Keila (ប្រីកែឡា) in November 1976.

I think the enemy was playing a dirty trick; I have worked honestly for the Party, so I would like the Party to judge me fairly.

I would like to inform the Party unequivocally that I have neither betrayed the Party, nor worked as an agent of the CIA, for A SON Ngoc Thanh (សុង ឌុកថាញ់), for revisionists, or for any foreigners, to infiltrate the Party and to destroy the Party at all. I will maintain such an absolute stance and confession even though the Party may kill me.

First of all, I would like to ask a favour from the Party; I will not escape. The Party can detain me; however, please do not chain my legs. I cannot get used to it; I have insomnia and hepatitis, so I do not have energy. I ask the Party to please consider and grant me this favour. I will not run away; if I did, the Party can shoot me down.

I would like to request a radio to listen to our radio programs, and some of the Party's documents so I may continue learning under the Party's flag until I draw my last breath.

If there is a tape, I will describe my background and my revolutionary self-criticism in more detail. Since I cannot sit for long, I would like to give a preliminary report to the Party as follows:

Regarding some relevant points I am mentioning below, I used to raise them in revolutionary self-criticism; particularly in September 1970 with *Bang* POL, *Bang* Nuon and Comrade Hèm at Office 870 near Chinit (ជីនិត) River during the Party's anniversary celebration, and during which *Bang* Pol introduced the history of the Party.

I have already reported that when I was a student (1951–1952), I held a patriotic stance; I fought against French colonization. When I was at school, youths, students and the people were confused by A SON Ngoc Thanh's members.

I had been advised mainly to struggle and adopt a firm stance to fight against the imperialist Americans and the oppressing class.

From 1957 to 1962, we often met and discussed our view on situations; particularly at my house. Our comrades gave us the Leninist documents on "The State and Revolution" to read. After I came back from China, I started to read many articles of MAO Tse Tung (ម៉ៅ តៃតុង). I even translated these articles into Khmer. I neither read the Party's documents nor knew about the Party's Statute. I did not know who the leaders were. At that time I assumed that UCH Vèn (អ៊ុច វ៉ែន), HOU Yun and KHIEU Samphan were the leaders.

From 1963, UCH Vèn, HOU Yun and I mostly had disagreements over Revisionism. I opposed the Soviet Union's Revisionism but supported China, while

the other two backed the Soviet Union. So we always had disagreements with each other.

I admit that in 1965 or 1966, while I was in a car with POK De Komar (ប៉ុក ដី កុមារ) and PHÔK Chhay, I said, “If UCH Vèn and HOU Yun are revisionists, let’s establish another party.” I said that because I had heard VĂN Tip (វ៉ាន់ ទីព្យ) and NOU Ván (នូ វ៉ាន់) talking about it too. Since then, I have forgotten about it; and I have never raised it during self-criticism because it was a joke, and I did not expect that someone had reported it and accused me like this.

With respect, I would like to report the traitorous network in the East and their contacts with me as follows:

Bang Phim (ភីម) and myself:

Bang Phim and I had two types of communication:

- Direct communication between *Bang* Phim and myself.
- Indirect communication through Comrade Lin (លីន) (his regular assistant at

the Zone Office) and *Bang* Chăn (ច័ន).

Orders and levels of communication:

- I met him for the first time in 1971 while I was working with high-ranking officers. Later on, I met him at the Angkar Office. In this meeting, he had not yet talked about any political issues with me. It was just an opportunity for me to know, respect, and like him as a confident, happy, and openhearted elder.

- In 1972, I was more acquainted with him through Comrade Lin and *Bang* Chăn. I will subsequently talk about Comrade Lin and *Bang* Chăn after I finish reporting on *Bang* Phim to Angkar. Comrade Lin and *Bang* Chăn have also affected *Bang* Phim's stance and views which were not supportive to the Party over certain issues.

[Annotation scripts: 2nd May 1977

(Signature)

Phoas]

In late 1974, *Bang* Phim and I met face-to-face and talked about politics.

Meeting Context:

At that time in late 1974, Angkar instructed Comrade Hèm and me to go to the East to get ready to greet the delegations of the provisional revolutionary government of South Vietnam who visited the liberated sectors in Cambodia. While waiting to welcome the delegations at *Bang* Phim's office (entered from Kandaor Chrum

(កណ្តាប់ដៃ), we had to spend two nights there. Comrade Hèm and I met *Bang* Phim on the first night. On the second night, when Comrade Hèm was resting, I went to sit and chat with *Bang* Phim at his place.

Bang Phim was glad and friendly with me. I started to ask him, “How about this dry season, *Bang*?”

With a smiling face and a smoking pipe in his mouth, *Bang* Phim replied shortly with optimism, “Well, it has been carefully prepared this time; it must be successful.”

As this was a confidential issue, I dared not ask him further because achieving the ultimate victory during the dry season in 1975 was a most confidential matter.

[Annotation scripts: 12 May 1977

(Signature)

Phoas]

Thus, I raised other questions, particularly about the Vietnamese delegations, who were arriving the next day, and I thought in my mind that *Bang* Phim must have known them as well.

I asked him, “Amongst the Vietnamese delegations who are coming tomorrow, who will be the most significant person?”

Bang Phim immediately replied, “The most important one is not VIN Tăn Phăt (វិន តាន់ផាត់); VIN Tăn Phăt has only a position without power, like PÈN Nut (ប៉ែន នុត)—the Front hero.”

Bang Phim continued, “The most important person is *Ta* NẮM Trung (ពាំ ទ្រុង). This man is the key person in the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Workers’ Party, which led the struggle in South Vietnam.”

I interrupted him, “Oh! From the list that Angkar introduced to us, *Ta* NẮM Trung was the Deputy Chief of Delegations and Minister of National Defence of the provisional revolutionary government.”

Bang Phim responded, "That is him."

He added, "This person has also been in charge of the relations with Cambodia after the coup in 1970."

I asked him, "Have you ever met him?"

Bang Phim immediately replied, "Yes, I have. I meet him every so often. Previously he had no place to live in South Vietnam; he came to take shelter here; and this office was my base."

[Annotation scripts: 2 May 1977

(Signature)

Phoas]