

Japan Relief for Cambodia

A NON-PROFIT, VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION COOPERATING WITH PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK TO BRING HOPE TO THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE THROUGH PRIVATE AND CORPORATE DONATIONS, DISTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO THE NEEDY. PACKING, TRANSPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE CONTRIBUTED BY DONORS IN THE SHIPPING AND TRADING INDUSTRIES.

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BERNARD KRISHER
Chairman

January 11, 1993

Mr. Peter R. Kann
Publisher, The Wall Street Journal
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kann,

I met you several times during my years as a correspondent for Newsweek in Japan and most recently when the Wall Street Journal had a reception in Tokyo. I left Newsweek in 1980 and subsequently became the Fortune correspondent for Japan (through 1983) and also chief editorial advisor to Shinshosha Publishing Co., where I developed the mass circulation news/photo weekly, Focus, which sells around one million copies a week. I am now working on the development of another new magazine for Shinshosha and keep myself busy and 'prosperous' through a variety of other editorially-related activities.

I have recently undertaken a voluntary project, into which I am now devoting about one-third of my time and contributing a share of my financial resources, to help Cambodia in its rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Over the past six months I have collected from Japanese donors around \$50,000 in cash and \$350,000 in donations in kind, which are being distributed directly to the people and institutions in need. Last October I headed a delegation of a dozen Japanese businessmen and in the company of Prince Sihanouk we distributed cash and clothing, pharmaceuticals, toys, computers, etc. to institutions and thousands of poor people in remote villages. (AP transmitted a wire photo of one of our donation events--giving shoes to 350 legless mine victims at the Royal Palace.

In regard to this project have a favor to ask of Dow Jones. One of my targets is to help establish a daily newspaper in Cambodia as that beleaguered country has no dailies except a four page sheet in Khmer, issued by the Hun Sen government as a propaganda organ. Sadly, the country which is moving to establish a democracy

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and free market economy has no daily press!

With potential funding from foundations and benefactors, I plan to organize some local journalists on my next trip to Phnompenh at the end of February to join in establishing a six to eight page A-4 size paper to include international, business, cultural and local news with a two page summary in Khmer. I have already obtained the printing equipment and a large supply of paper has been shipped to Cambodia through the generosity of Fuji Xerox. This newspaper will be sold at a low price, initially by subscription to officials, intellectuals, hotels, multinationals, the peace keeping forces, U.N. personnel and available in some shops, at the central market, through street newsboys, and faxed to those who request it. It will present the news objectively and carry a forum page open to letters and articles, presenting a diversity of views. I envisage a circulation of 300 to 500 copies. The goal is to have the news trickle down to the Cambodian people through their contacts with the foreigners who receive it and to encourage spin off publications in Khmer. Because of the security (political violence is always a threat) it may be necessary to prepare this paper in Bangkok or Tokyo and fax it in for reproduction in Phnompenh. This publication will be in the red for some time and remain dependent on contributions which I have been collecting here. I would very much appreciate if you would permit us, once such a paper is launched, to freely use the articles which can be accessed in the Dow Jones data base news service under //NEWS. In turn, we would credit Dow Jones' contribution in the interest of developing a free press in Cambodia in a box which would appear in every issue, if you desire.

I would consider this as a priceless contribution to the development of a free press in a country which theoretically enjoys freedom of the press but has no press to speak of. It would match the principles and views the Journal has supported for more than a century.

60
new
papers
already

And this letter to you, in fact, was inspired by your own words in yesterday's letter to your readers. If I may quote: "It leads us consistently to champion individual liberties, political freedoms, free enterprise, free markets, free trade and the free movement of peoples. It is a worldview as applicable today as a century ago, as relevant to emerging nations as to those that are economically and politically advanced."

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your potential cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. For your further background, I take the liberty of enclosing some correspondence with parties in Cambodia to document that this project is no idle dream and I have been pursuing it actively.