



MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY
KING NORODOM SIHANOUK VARMAN
TO THE PHNOM PENH POST

31 OCTOBER 1996

I would like to thank The Phnom Penh Post for extending an invitation to me to contribute a message to their special supplement on the occasion of my Birthday Anniversary.

I am pleased to oblige as The Phnom Penh Post is the "Dean" of the press corps in Cambodia, having been established almost four and a half years ago. The Phnom Penh Post is also a fearless independent newspaper that enjoys a wide readership of over 20,000 within Cambodia and circulation in over 45 countries around the globe.

I have particularly appreciated the coverage The Phnom Penh Post has given in recent years to Human Rights and Environmental issues affecting the Kingdom. These are issues very close to our heart and of importance to the democratic future of our country. By bringing these issues to our attention in an objective, honest and informative fashion The Phnom Penh Post has greatly contributed to an informed debate among our political leaders and, hopefully, to a better understanding of the issues involved.

The role played by the independent press of Cambodia in the reconstruction, development and the preservation of our country's cultural identity remains of paramount importance and I would like to encourage The Phnom Penh Post management and staff to continue their noble endeavours without fear or favour but with respect and honesty.

I would like to send to all the staff of The Phnom Penh Post, foreigners and Khmers, my warmest congralutations and fervent wishes for the success of their noble mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Sihanouk", written over a horizontal line.

NORODOM SIHANOUK