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replied.
8/23/93

14 August 1993

Mr Michael Hayes
Phnom Penh Post
House #10a, Street 264,
Phnom Penh

Dear Mr Hayes,

Following my all too brief visit to Phnom Penh and the Angkor complex, I tried but failed to get a story into print. I maintain a sort of low profile strategy of increasing awareness of Cambodia but it is hard, as the enclosed cartoon snippets show.

My reason for contacting you directly is that you may be able to help me with a problem I have with back copies of the Phnom Penh Post. My 'darling' girlfriend unwittingly recycled the entire collection along with other crucial documents... As there is no form for such a request, I wonder if you could arrange how this could be dealt with (?) I continue to keep an archive on the UNTac reign, but sorely need the PPP to maintain accuracy and detail.

During mid-April, I came to the PPP and attempted to do some research on the computer-electronic market in Phnom Penh for you. I feared that I found little that you did not already know. No doubt, I entered under one of those spurious groups that the Gekko wrote so well about - Cambodia invaded by all sorts of news seekers, trippers and war junkies as election looms? However, since my return to London in late May, a PPP bumper sticker has been on prominent display - unfortunately, not my name in print.

As sets of the PPP may be in short supply, I have attempted a light hearted sweetener in the form of news snippets and a couple of publications. The only way of explaining how Cambodia has received the profile it has. As a close student of the press from London, I think the Guardian just pips the Times and Daily Telegraph for continued quality coverage. The photograph is, without question, that of Mr Tim Page - printed twice by the Guardian! But then, who am I to speak.

My best wishes to you independent news and views and all the other knights-errant. If ever a people needed a little help from their friends it must be the Kmers.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Salmon

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Kind Regards