Overview:

*Kampuchea* is the official and a party newspaper established in 1984. The founding editor of the paper was Khieu Kanharith and That Ly Hok was an editor-assistant. The paper was printed weekly and later became the country’s most influential paper in the 1980s and early 1990s. The first issue was published with a circulation of 5,000. The circulation rose to 500,000 and was distributed among the communist cadre free of charge.

In the 1980s the paper provided coverage for both local and international news that included economic, politic and war news reports from battlefield. It had deployed its correspondents in all provinces. The paper the official and the strongest the political propaganda of the Phnom Penh government against Democratic Kampuchea and the other two Khmer factions headed by King Norodom Sihanouk and Son San.

The paper has been strictly controlled by the party not the state. Both editors had served as a victim of his own writing. Kanharith and Ly Hok got into trouble after the paper criticized Kandal cadre who grabbed land from the poor in 1990 and consequently Kanharith was dismissed. That Ly Hok himself also was accused by Hun Sen of causing conflict with the mayor’s office after he published the photos of the mayor of Kampong Som in the *Kampuchea* in 1990. Ly Hok took photos of the mayor during a seminar. The mayor sent his armed men to demand the film as he was concerned that Ly Hok would publish them, but Ly Hok denied.

The paper is still functioning as propaganda of the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), but is not as nationwide powerful as it used to be.

Perhaps it is also worthwhile mentioning that after the general election in 1993, Kanharith was appointed as Secretary of State for the Ministry of Information and also in next government and in the third term of the government (2008-2013), he was promoted as the Minister.

**Issues held by Yale University Library:**

1992 [Year 14]

1995 [Year 17]
- Issue [998-999]: [Sep 15]