30 December 2002

Mr. Hanuk Hansdak and Mr. Ezicheal Hembrom
Santali Literary and Cultural Society
11/1, Sheriff Lane
Calcutta – 16, India

Dear Mr. Hansdak and Mr. Hembrom,

Thank you for your letter and enclosures sent to me in November 2002. Please forgive my lengthy delay in responding; I was away at two conferences and am at last catching up with my correspondence. I am especially appreciative of the Xerox copy of the *Report of the Committee on the Santali Language* (May 31, 2002) and copies of recent Santali magazines written in the Roman script. I have relayed information contained in your letter, enclosures, and the May 2002 report to members of the Unicode Technical Committee, one of the two committees responsible for the actual decision to include a script into Unicode.

As a representative for the Script Encoding Initiative at UC Berkeley, I wish to acknowledge your point of view regarding the use of Roman script for Santali. I would like to say, however, that encoding scripts by Unicode does not bring with it any requirement as to its use (or non-use) by anyone; as long as a script is used by people—ancient or modern—anywhere in the world, the script is eligible for encoding. Since the Script Encoding Initiative does itself not make any decisions for the two standardizing committees, subsequent follow-ups should best be sent directly to these two groups:

(a) Unicode Technical Committee
c/o The Unicode Consortium
P.O. Box 391476
Mountain View, CA 94039-1476
U.S.A.

Email (Lisa Moore, Chair, UTC): lisam@us.ibm.com

(b) Mike Ksar, Chair ISO JTC1/SC2 WG2
c/o The Unicode Consortium
P.O. Box 391476
Mountain View, CA 94039-1476
U.S.A.

Email: mikeksar@microsoft.com

Thank you for including the Latin alphabet usage charts for Roman Santali. (Because Unicode does not enter into the realm of any kind of orthographic standardization, however, it does not publish or endorse any "Roman Script Santali" mappings.)

Sincerely,

Deborah Anderson
Script Encoding Initiative
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UC Berkeley
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