

# Thais Angry Over Refusal Of Honorary Degree for King

Special to The New York Times.

SYDNEY, Australia, Aug. 12 —A refusal by the Australian National University to grant an honorary degree to the King of Thailand brought a sharp reaction tonight from the Thai Embassy in Canberra.

The Embassy said the University's decision had "injured the feelings of the Thai people much more than the University could have supposed."

The "degree affair" has caused much embarrassment to the Australian Government, which is preparing for a state visit by King Phumiphol abduded, and Queen Sirikit Aug. 26. He is scheduled to visit the university the following day.

A spokesman has said the university's rules prevent it from conferring the degree on the king. However, sources close to the university said the King's lack of academic qualifications was responsible.

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