

Phnom Penh Post

FAX: 33-1-46-379338

Nov 13, 1994

Thomas Fuller, International Herald Tribune, Paris

Dear Thomas:

I offered the Managing Editor position to a Kiwi, Matthew Grainger this morning and he has accepted the job.

I expect that this will come as bad news for you, but at the very least I want to thank you profusely for your interest in the job and for all your efforts at sending me relevant paperwork. I should note that if Matthew had declined the job I would have offered it to you. While this will give you little solace, you should know that of the 30 applications I received from all over the world, yours was perhaps the strongest on paper.

Just so you know my reasoning, Matthew has been stringing for us and sub-editing as well. He is a known commodity and in a small "family" paper like the Post personalities are a key component to keeping the paper on track. Thus, I was always reluctant to offer the job to someone I had never met before, which I trust you can understand, but in your case given the strength of your application I would have gone against my immediate instincts.

Another more important issue of immense concern is that there is a new press law in the works here which is quite draconian. My guess is that there is a 50/50 chance we will get shut down in the next few months, assuming that the law is passed in the coming weeks, which we all expect it will be. So, I was extremely hesitant to offer the job to someone who would have to re-locate from some other part of the world, only to come out here and find the job vanishing before their eyes. Added to this is the issue of re-location itself. I really don't have the funds to fly someone out here but would have felt obliged to offer at least some of the airfare (and you may have insisted on all). In Matthew's case, because he is already here I save myself those funds.

At the very least, I would like to suggest that you keep in touch with the Post. Matthew is our fifth Managing Editor in 29 months. Turnover takes place for a number of reasons - job burnout, better jobs somewhere else (the Post seems to be a great platform for a "real" job elsewhere in the world), policy squabbles with me, or general Cambodia fatigue (from which we all suffer regularly).

Thank you again for your interest. And please keep us posted on your current address.

*Most sincerely,
Michael Hayes*