

Phnom Penh Post

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August 30, 1995

H.E. Charles Twining
Ambassador
United States Embassy
Phnom Penh

Dear Ambassador Twining:

As you are aware there have been numerous reports in the press that the Royal Cambodian Government is considering bringing criminal charges against me, as publisher of the *Phnom Penh Post*, for an article we published in the *Post's* March 24, 1995 edition. It is my understanding that I might be charged with incitement, disinformation, and creating insecurity and instability. If prosecuted and convicted I would face fines and/or a jail sentence. As well, my newspaper could be closed down permanently.

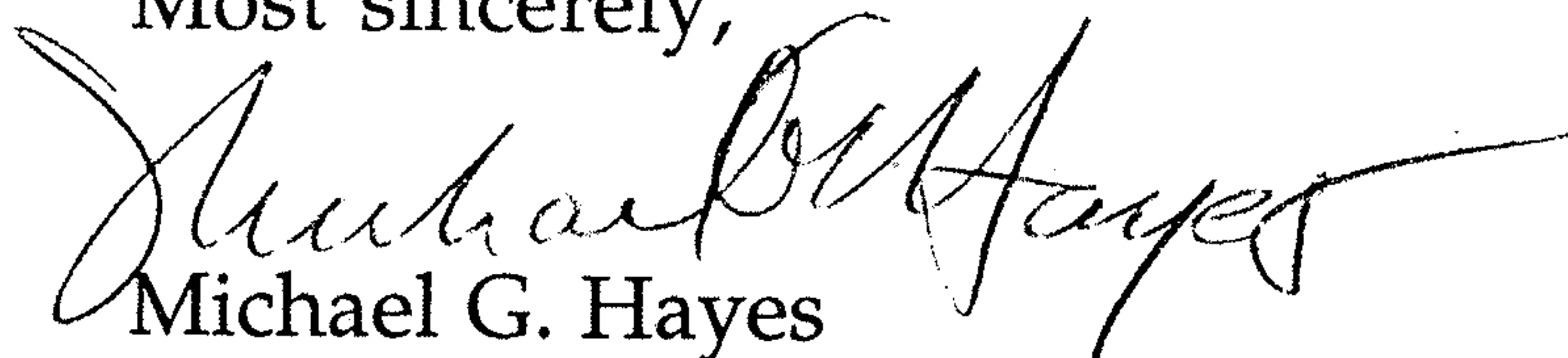
For the record, I stand 100 percent behind the accuracy of the article in question. If the Royal Government decides to prosecute me I will, of course, take all necessary measures to defend myself in court. However, as you can well imagine, I am extremely concerned about this situation, especially in light of the perceived lack of independence of the judiciary here in Cambodia.

Accordingly, as an American citizen and one of the largest American investors here in the Kingdom of Cambodia, and given the U.S. government's repeated expressions of support for freedom of the press, I am writing to request that the U.S. Embassy make an official inquiry into this matter to determine whether or not I will be prosecuted by the Royal Government.

I should note that to date my own inquiries with Royal Government officials have not resulted in any conclusive information one way or the other. However, I will continue to make inquiries as appropriate until a final determination is made on the status of the investigation underway.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Most sincerely,



Michael G. Hayes

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

cc: Robert Porter, Deputy Chief of Mission, USEmbassy