

Michael Hayes
Phnom Penh Post
c/o Indoswiss
Phnom Penh
GPO Box 2420
Bangkok 10120
Thailand

Sept. 25, 1992

Dear Mr. Hayes,

I wish to inquire about working for the Phnom Penh Post. After reading about your newspaper in The Enterprise of Falmouth, Mass. earlier this month, I called your mother and she passed on your address.

I'm writing because the idea of helping a newspaper get on its feet is as exciting as working in an historically rich country in transition. Margaret Hough Russell's article also refers to your first issue, in which you describe the Post as "an experiment with the concept of a free press." During visits to my family in South Africa in the 1980s, I observed the press push the limits of censorship, often successfully. I would treasure the chance to take part in a similar experiment in Cambodia.

I don't have illusions of glamor. After working for The Associated Press for three years, I'm overly familiar with the hard work and strange hours journalists sometimes endure.

And as the son of a foreign correspondent, (my father, now in Sweden, also works for the AP!), I'm aware that living and working abroad can be less predictable and comfortable than in the United States.

I confess I've never been to Cambodia. The closest I've come is visits to my brother, a Reuters correspondent, in Beijing and Taipei.

But I hope you'll take my inquiry seriously, and that this letter doesn't appear as whimsy on my part. My French is rusty but can be

revived, and the AP has provided me with basic reporting skills - speed, accuracy and economy with words.

I enclose my resume and a few clips. If you have the time or inclination to send a copy or two of the paper, I would appreciate it. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Torchia".

Christopher Torchia