

American Perspectives on Michael Fay's Caning

Source 4: U.S. embassy official Ralph Boyce to reporter (Asiaweek, Hong Kong, 25 May 1994):

"We see a large [difference] between the [crime] and the punishment. The cars were not permanently damaged; the paint was removed with thinner. Caning leaves permanent scars. In addition, the accused is a teenager and this is his first offense."

Source 5: President Clinton in Washington, D.C. (Los Angeles Times, 9 March 1994):

"We have generally quite good relations with Singapore. They have a different culture, a different view, a different set of laws. As you know, I have not objected to the young man's being punished. I have not even objected to the young man's being [imprisoned]. I have objected to this caning. I think many Americans who have expressed sympathy with it do not understand exactly what it involves, how it is going to be administered, and that he is going to bleed considerably and may have permanent scars. And I think it is a mistake."

Source 6: Physicians for Human Rights in letter to Singapore's President (New York Post, 6 April 1994):

We are "concerned that the physical and [mental] consequences of this punishment are equivalent to the effects of torture, which is outlawed in Singapore..."

We ask for the sentence "to be [thrown out] and that the punishment be legally abolished. We also seek assurances that current legislation requiring physician participation during the practice of caning be [changed], as it [goes against] international standards of medical ethics."