

Singaporean Perspectives on Michael Fay's Caning

Source 1: Singaporean Superintendent of Education Lum Hon Fye to reporters (Asiaweek, Hong Kong, 25 May 1994):

"The suspects may be foreigners from well-to-do families, but they will not get any preferential treatment."

Source 2: Father of modern Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, in television interview (Asiaweek, Hong Kong, 25 May 1994):

"The U.S. government, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. media took the opportunity to ridicule us, saying the sentence was too severe." "[The U.S.] does not restrain or punish individuals, forgiving them for whatever they have done. That's why the whole country is in chaos: drugs, violence, unemployment and homelessness. The American society is the richest and most prosperous in the world but it is hardly safe and peaceful."

Source 3: Walter Woon, associate professor of law at the National University of Singapore (Asiaweek, Hong Kong, 25 May 1994):

"No matter how harsh your punishments, you're not going to get an orderly society unless the culture is in favor of order." "In Britain and America, they seem to have lost the feeling that people are responsible for their own behavior. Here, there is still a sense of personal responsibility. If you do something against the law, you bring shame not only to yourself but to your family."