

Singapore Government

PRESS RELEASE

Media Division, Ministry of Information & The Arts, 36th Storey, PSA Building, 460 Alexandra Road, Singapore 0511. Tel 2799794/5

Release No.: 51/MAR11-0/94/03/31

MHA/94

HIGH COURT JUDGEMENT ON APPEAL BY MICHAEL FAY

The Ministry of Home Affairs is surprised that the Charge D'Affaires of the US Embassy, Mr Ralph Boyce, has expressed his "regrets" on the decision of the Chief Justice in upholding the District Court's judgement on Michael Fay. This is the second time he has criticised the judgement of a Singapore court in public. This is regrettable. As a diplomat accredited to Singapore, and representing a country that respects the rule of law, he should respect Singapore's judicial system. There are official channels for him to make representations.

Mr Boyce needs no reminding that Fay was originally charged with 45 counts of vandalism and six counts of mischief, amongst others. He subsequently admitted in court to committing 18 acts of vandalism and six acts of mischief. The damage he had caused was extensive - he spray-painted 18 cars, damaged the doors of three cars and the bonnet of another. He also retained stolen property, including six Singapore State flags and public road signs. As stated by the Chief Justice in his oral judgment, "These acts of vandalism were committed relentlessly and wilfully over a period of ten days, from 17 September 1993 to 26 September 1993, and amounted to a calculated course of criminal conduct."

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

31 MARCH 1994

MHA(3)/PRmar31.'94