

UNEDITED EMAIL CONVERSATION BETWEEN SIAN POWELL AND VINCENT HO

April 15

Greetings,

I am an Australian journalist based in Hong Kong, and I recently wrote an article about Australians living in China for the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

I was surprised to learn the article also appeared in Singtao newspaper in Australia, translated into Chinese.

I didn't give permission for this reproduction. Would you please explain?

best,

Sian Powell

April 18

Hi, Sian

The Diggers in reverse is such an extraordinary article. Not only the historical angle it plays is right on the dot, it also has so many success examples. It will be a shame if Australians who read only Chinese would not be able to enjoy this feature. We have taken the liberty of writing a Chinese write-up basing on your article.

I beg your forgiveness.

Yours sincerely,

April 20

Dear Vincent,

It was wrong to use that story without payment, so please don't do it again. As the editor of a newspaper, you of course know that reproducing that article was blatant plagiarism. We freelance journalists earn very little, and we can't afford to give our work away for free. I'm sure, Vincent, that you don't work for free.

If you want to reproduce a story I have written, or if you want to me to write one specifically for your newspaper, please get in touch and we can negotiate terms.

By the way, are you related to Charles Ho Tsu Kwok - the chairman of Sing Tao News Corp?

best,

Sian

April 21

No, he was my classmate. I used to work in the Standard.

Vincent

April 21

Okay Vincent. Well if you want to publish anything else of mine, just ask and we can negotiate.

I recently wrote a piece about smog in northern China that you might be interested in. It was published in QWeekend (the Courier-Mail's magazine in Queensland). You could have second rights and publish it, but only if you agree to pay.

I attach the piece ... by the way, did you put a byline on that "diggers story"? If so, what was the byline?

best,

Sian

April 21

Sian, why don't you get a job. Hong Kong's rent is pretty ridiculous. I understand they are always looking for subs.

April 21

*Dear Vincent,
You're right. Hong Kong is very expensive.*

I have approached the South China Morning Post. But Mr Wang doesn't want reporters who can't speak Cantonese or Mandarin - which is fair enough. And the chief sub, Mr Buck, only wants subs with substantial technical knowledge of subbing. Which I don't have. So I need freelance commissions.

But I take it you don't pay?

Cheers,

Sian

April 23

*Hi Vincent,
You didn't answer my question about the byline. Whose byline did you put on my story?*

Also I would like to ask also if you have had many complaints like mine? Have you reproduced many other articles without permission?

Best

Sian