

~~GENCENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

NCROPA

FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP

HONORARY DIRECTOR - David Webb, R.A.D.A. Dip., 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London, SW3 4TD - Tel: 071-730 9537

NO/DAW/DP

27th January 1993

*To:- Jacques Delors, President, and all 16 other Members
of the Commission, European Commission, Rue de la Loi 200,
1049 Brussels, Belgium. (See attached list).*

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, EURO TRANS-FRONTIER BROADCASTING
AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

I am writing to you to express the deep concern of the United Kingdom's National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA) over the incompatibility between the U.K.'s membership of the European Community and the continued retention of its antiquated, oppressive State censorship laws.

The National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA) is a staunchly anti-censorship organisation (see copy of our promotion leaflet enclosed) which has been campaigning for the past 17 years for fundamental changes to the U.K.'s intolerably repressive sexual censorship laws which are virtually unique in the E.C., which impose a drastic curtailment of the right to 'freedom of expression' as enshrined in both the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 19) and the European Convention on Human Rights (Article 10) and to both of which great Charters of liberty the U.K. is an original signatory and is thereby supposed to be bound.

In reality the right to 'freedom of expression' regarding sexual material (including books, magazines, films, video-cassettes, gramophone records and audio cassettes, computer-based ware etc.) is vigorously denied to U.K. citizens, and the U.K. Government's purported backing for the implementation of such a right is monumental hypocrisy.

The NCROPA, which is the only national U.K. organisation openly representing the consenting-adult consumer, or potential consumer, of sexually-explicit material (or what is often referred to indiscriminately, albeit inaccurately, as "pornography"), is urgently seeking the E.C. Commission's assistance in pressuring the U.K. Government

continued/.....

continuation/.....

to come into line with the vast majority of other E.C. member states, to remove its criminalisation of, and restrictions on, sexually-explicit material and thus, rightfully, to adhere to its own commitment to the provisions of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, and to implement without delay a truly European 'freedom of expression' policy.

In this respect, we entreat you not to be improperly and unfairly influenced by any U.K. attempts to undermine or circumvent agreed European Community Law, nor to allow any special exemptions or dispensations from agreed E.C. rules, directives and practices, from the U.K. The U.K. has joined the 'European Club' and must abide by the afore-known rules of that 'club', like every other member state.

We also entreat you not to succumb to any pressures from the U.K., either overt or covert, to change, or even dilute, your own country's internal censorship legislation if and where that legislation conflicts or is at variance with the out-moded, viciously repressive, draconian state censorship laws of the U.K. Regrettably, there is a huge streak of arrogance amongst many Britons which assumes that the U.K. is always right and that it is all other countries who are always out-of-line. Such people boast openly of bringing the rest of Europe round to their insular way of thinking, and many of them think that this is what they will do with all other E.C. countries which are not so ruthlessly censored as the U.K. and where freedom of expression - including sexual expression - really does so right-ly flourish. Please be especially wary of such subversives and reject them.

The NCROPA is particularly concerned at present with the furore being incited in the U.K. by familiar and predictable opponents of the opening of a trans-frontier satellite TV channel here by Continental Television plc (based in Manchester), which transmits from Denmark a programme called "Red Hot Dutch" containing sexually-explicit action. Ways of prohibiting this programme from U.K. TV screens are currently being explored by the British Government, notwithstanding that the programme is being legally transmitted from another E.C. member state and conforms to the provisions of the E.C. Directive on Trans-frontier Broadcasting 1989, to which all members, including the U.K., are signatories.

In the interests of fair and free trade, but even more importantly, in the much wider interests of freedom - of freedom of expression - and of freedom of sexual expression in particular, it is imperative that no concessions whatsoever are made by the E.C. to accommodate the quite unrepresentative wishes of the U.K. 'Establishment' Government. Please do nothing which will obstruct or hinder us in our extraordinary fight for freedom of expression in this supposedly 'free' country.

Yours sincerely,

David Webb,
Honorary Director,
National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts

Enc.