

~~GENCENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP

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NO/DAW/DP

1st February 1993

Sent to the Heads of Government of the following E.C. Member States:-

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|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. ITALY - President Giuliano Amato | 7. FRANCE - President Mitterand, |
| 2. SPAIN - President Felipe González Márquez | 8. GREECE - M. Constantine Mitsotakis, |
| 3. GERMANY - Dr. Helmut Kohl | 9. PORTUGAL - Professor Anibal Cavaco Silva |
| 4. BELGIUM - M. Jean-Luc Dehaene | 10. LUXEMBOURG - M. Jacques Santer |
| 5. DENMARK - M. Poul Rasmussen | |
| 6. HOLLAND - M. Ruud Lubbers | |

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, EURO TRANS-FRONTIER BROADCASTING

AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom's National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA) is deeply concerned over the incompatibility between the U.K.'s membership of the European Community and the continued retention of its antiquated, oppressive state censorship laws.

As the Head of Government of a fellow European Community Member State which, rightly and justly, does not impose the kind of draconian, authoritative, viciously-repressive censorship laws on its citizens (especially sexual censorship) as the 'nannyist' U.K. Government imposes on British citizens, we write to seek your support for our fight against such restrictions in our country, and our demand for U.K. citizens to be allowed the right to true 'freedom of expression' as enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 19) and the European Convention on Human Rights (Article 10), to both of which great Charters of Liberty the U.K. is an original signatory but to both of which, in this respect, she only pays lip-service.

The N.C.R.O.P.A. is a staunchly anti-censorship organisation (see copy of our promotion leaflet enclosed herewith) which has been unsuccessfully campaigning for the past 17 years for fundamental changes to the U.K.'s intolerably harsh sexual censorship laws, so as to bring us rightfully into line with virtually all other E.C. countries, like your own, where consenting adults are free to choose for themselves what they see, read and hear.

We are particularly concerned at present about 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 a Manchester-based company (Continental Television Ltd.) which transmits from Denmark in encrypted form a programme called "Red Hot Dutch" contain-

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ing 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. Council Directive of 3rd October 1989 concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities throughout the Community and to which all Member States, including the U.K., have agreed.

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, narrow-minded views of the U.K. 'Establishment' Government and that the U.K. is compelled to abide by all E.C. laws and agreements, not only regarding this specific matter, but in all matters concerning state censorship and 'freedom of expression' and, in accordance with Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, "regardless of frontiers".

We entreat you vigorously to resist any pressures exerted upon you and your country's Government by the U.K. Government to change your own internal state censorship legislation which rightfully affords your people that just and proper 'freedom of expression', 'freedom to publish' and 'freedom to choose' which is still so ruthlessly denied to the people of the U.K.

Please, instead, do nothing which will assist the U.K. Government in perpetuating state sexual censorship in our censor-obsessed country or which will hinder us in our extraordinary fight for freedom of expression, but exert every possible and appropriate pressure on the U.K. Government to change its untenable attitude to sexual publications and to thus allow Britons that freedom which virtually all other true Europeans share and enjoy, and to which all Heads of State of all European Community Members put their seal in February 1986, including the Head of State of the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely,

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

Enclosure.