

84 Strand-on-the-Green
London W4 3PU

12 April, 1993

Dear Mr Webb:

How do you like the following letter? I have sent copies to Mr. Nirj Deva MP, the Home Secretary, you at N.C.R.O.P.A., and The Daily Sport. I recommend the pledge to your members. If you could get 100,000 people to sign this and send it in to the Home Office, I think this latest attempt at censorship would collapse.

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS J. GOODEY



RECEIVED 14 APR 1993

84 Strand-on-the-Green
London W4 3PU

12 April, 1993

The Home Secretary
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1 9AT

COPY

Dear Sir:

The recent moves by the Government to prevent me watching the television channel of my choice appal me. It is proposed to make it a crime in the United Kingdom to deal in, or maybe even to own, equipment for watching the satellite channel "Red Hot Dutch". The parallels I immediately come up with are:

In Communist countries it frequently used to be illegal to watch television leaking over from nearby free countries;

In South Korea it has always been illegal to watch North Korean television, and at one time I believe it was even illegal to watch Japanese satellite television and sale and import of decoders and receiving equipment was forbidden (I do not know the latest state of play); and:

In many authoritarian countries it is illegal to listen to various radio broadcasts which may present political views unpalatable to the government.

I consider that the UK Government has no business deciding what kind of television I should watch or should be available to me. This type of Government activity is not what I pay my taxes for. Restricting the freedom of expression is not a legitimate or proper function of government. Ask Mr. Rushdie.

Let me make my position clear. I do not at the moment have equipment for receiving "Red Hot Dutch". Although I generally enjoy heterosexual pornography when it is presented to me (as do many of my friends both male and female), and although I have occasionally purchased the odd pornographic video, magazine, etc., I don't normally chase after it with much effort. I would certainly class myself as one who can take pornography

or leave it alone, and I am usually just too busy with more important matters to partake actively.

However, the new measures against freedom of expression being prepared by the Government are beyond the bounds which I feel I can tolerate. (Such regulations would never be allowed in a country of rights, like the United States of America). Therefore I now make the following pledge:

I give notice now to whom it may concern that, primarily in order to show the Government and my acquaintances what I think of Government policies, and secondarily for purposes of legitimate and harmless enjoyment, I am immediately purchasing and installing at this address, at whatever cost, whatever equipment is necessary in order to watch and to continue watching "Red Hot Dutch". If I need "smart cards" to continue watching in the future, I shall continue to purchase them by any legal or illegal channels available. If Government officials of whatever kind attempt to enter my dwelling in order to interfere with my legitimate viewing rights, entry will be resisted. If equipment is confiscated, I shall replace it. If any Court subjects me to penalty, I shall opt for imprisonment rather than any non-custodial penalty; and when released I shall persist. I shall never surrender my rights over my own mind.

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS J. GOODEY



copies to: Mr. Nirj Deva MP, N.C.R.O.P.A., The Daily Sport.