
CAMPAIGN

CENSORSHIP

AGAINST

(THE DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY)

PLEASE REPLY TO:-

23 Budgen Drive
Redhill RH1 2QB

1st March 1996

To: Christine Crawley MEP
16 Bristol Street
Birmingham B5 7AF
Ref: Goldman

Dear Ms Crawley,

Thank you for your letter of the 26th February. We apologise for puzzling you by ours of the 6th January. What concerns us is the fact that nearly all other countries in the European continent, including the former communist states, have abolished censorship, whereas this country is increasing it. The United Kingdom, for instance, is the only country to proscribe the Swedish satellite channel "Erotica."

We believe that Members of the European Parliament should be advocating the same freedom for British Citizens as exists on the Continent (where there is no film nor video censorship) instead of vice versa. You, however, appear to support the latter proposition ie decrying the lack of censorship elsewhere in the European Union. This seems to be based on traditional infantile English Grundyism ie "No sex please, we're British."

We believe that you are unaware of the harm caused through anti-pornography raids by police and/or customs officers on the homes of British residents (especially gays). These are always publicised (even if no prosecution and/or confiscation ensues) and often result in the victims losing their employment and sometimes their liberty for having material which is perfectly lawful abroad. An example is the Anglican vicar of Wimbledon, whose home was raided by Customs Officers last year because a spot check at Dover found him to be in possession of three sexually explicit French videos, which he had legitimately purchased in Paris. Details of the raid were released to the local Press with disastrous results for the victim.

Why should British people be denied the same freedom as enjoyed by their Continental counterparts? As Jacques Lang declared, when he was Socialist French Minister of Culture, "The State has no right to censor what citizens see or hear."

Yours for freedom of expression,
Cllr E Goodman, Chair of CAC

