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# CAMPAIGN

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# CENSORSHIP

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AGAINST

(THE DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY)

PLEASE REPLY TO:-

ON SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 1997 TED GOODMAN, CHAIR OF CAC, PARTICIPATED ON THE PHONE, BY INVITATION, IN A BBC RADIO LEEDS STUDIO DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NEED FOR A PRIVACY LAW IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. IT WAS NOTED THAT SUCH A LAW WAS BEING INTRODUCED THROUGH THE ENACTMENT IN BRITAIN OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE STRESSED THAT THERE WAS A PUBLIC INTEREST DEFENCE IN THAT CONVENTION AND THAT HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD LEAD TO THE SITUATION WHICH PREVAILED IN THE USA, WHERE PERSONS ENGAGED IN PUBLIC LIFE WERE NOT ENTITLED TO LEGALLY ENFORCED PRIVACY.

ANOTHER PARTICIPANT IN THE PROGRAMME WAS A UNIVERSITY LECTURER ON MEDIA LAW WHO POINTED OUT THAT BRITAIN ALREADY HAD MORE LEGAL RESTRICTIONS IN THIS FIELD THAN ANY OTHER WESTERN COUNTRY. ALL PARTICIPANTS WERE OPPOSED TO GRANTING A LEGALLY ENFORCED RIGHT OF PRIVACY TO PUBLIC FIGURES, SUCH AS GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, BUT SOME THOUGHT THAT THE ROYAL FAMILY SHOULD BE PROTECTED. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL VIEWERS' AND LISTENERS' ASSOCIATION WAS CONFUSED AND VAGUE.