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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:-

23 Budgen Drive  
Redhill Surrey RH1 2QB  
11th May 1999

To: Anna Gien  
World of Wonder  
2 Tunstall Road  
London SW9 8DA

Dear Anna Gien

RE: NO SEX PLEASE-WE'RE BRITISH

Further to your telephone call today, below is a memorandum, which I hope you find helpful. I also enclose an account I wrote of the legal position in Britain. In addition you should contact David Webb, the Honorary Director of NCROPA. (National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts), who has been campaigning for 25 years and has many tales to tell about the hypocrisy of British Members of Parliament who watch porn in private but condemn it in public. His telephone number is 0171 352 9067. In addition, Dr Sean Gabb of the Libertarian Alliance has given a talk on the history of censorship in Europe. His numbers are 0181 858 0841 and 0956 472199.

The basic problem is that not one member of either House of Parliament will speak out in favour of reforming Britain's draconian porn laws. Earlier this year Dr Evan Harris, Liberal MP for Oxford West, thought of trying to do so but has given up in the face of all-Party opposition.

The American position is different. In 1973 the United States Supreme Court effectively legalised pornography. In 1986, however, it declared that the question was not a Federal responsibility but one of community standards ie up to each local authority. The situation therefore varies.

If you want more info, my office telephone number is 0181-681-1500. (I am often out in the evenings). In any event please let me know when your programme will be broadcast

Yours for freedom of expression,  
Ted Goodman, Chair of CAC

PORN AGAIN IN EUROPE 1999

In 1871 France became a liberal republic and tolerated pornography and brothels. "French Postcards" ie postcard-size photos of nudes and/or copulation became the only pornography legally available in the Western world. Even that outlet was belatedly blocked in 1959 by the puritan President de Gaulle's legislation. It was however, too late. The "swinging sixties" brought change

In 1965 Denmark legalised first written and then pictorial pornography. The Netherlands partly followed suit in 1967. The Arts Council asked for a trial suspension of the Obscene Publications Act in England in 1968, but the Labour Home Secretary, James Callaghan, refused, stating "there is already too much (sic) pornography in this country."

On the Continent, by contrast, the trend continued. In 1968 Sweden legalised porn, followed by West Germany in 1974 and then France, Italy and Portugal in 1975. The death of Franco was followed by legalisation in Spain in the 1980's. The fall of communism had the same results throughout Eastern Europe in the 90's.

Only Britain went the other way. In 1984 State censorship of video recordings was introduced by the Thatcher Government, followed the next year by the extension of film censorship to cinema clubs. In 1990 one hundred Members of Parliament signed a motion calling for the banning of the new paperback version of the 18th century sado-masochist classic "Justine" because that would make the work "generally available". (They did not mind the more expensive hardback which had been around for years!) The 1992 Conservative General Election manifesto proudly stated that Britain had amongst the strictest laws against pornography in the World and pledged to maintain them. After the Labour victory in the 1997 General Election, the new Home Secretary Jack Straw (a divorced but born-again Christian) ordered a tightening of film censorship for which he was publicly criticised by James Ferman, the outgoing Secretary of the British Board of Film Classification. In 1998 Chris Smith, the gay Labour Secretary of State for Culture, proscribed decoders for eight satellite television stations (including a Russian one). Not one other country in the whole of Europe has done likewise, except for Norway which has banned a Swedish station. Smith stated that he was doing this to protect minors. This epitomises the "nannyist" attitude of the British Establishment ie adults in this country must not be allowed access to anything that is unsuitable for children! In 1999 an Obscenity Bill was introduced in the House of Lords with all-Party support to make the criminalisation of pornography even stricter.

Public condemnation of "filth" is part of the hypocritical British way of life! As has been pointed out by Professor Christie Davies of the University of Reading Sociology Dept, in Britain even the popular Press dare not feature Continental style "good honest porn". Instead it resorts to "double porn" ie pornography masquerading as an attack on it eg "Shock Horror.. we expose this filth!"