

CAMPAIGN

CENSORSHIP

AGAINST

DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY

PLEASE REPLY TO:-

To: Peter Heintz
Second copy 8th Nov 1999
Reply awaited

23 Dudgeon Drive
Redhill Surrey
RH1 2QB
4th October 1999

To: The Director
Arts Council
14 Great Peter Street
SW1P 3NQ

Dear Sir,

Further to our chat after your excellent fringe meeting at the Labour Party Centennial Conference in Bournemouth last week, CAC is anxious to revive co-operation with the Arts Council as soon as possible. In the 1960's our respective organisations helped achieve the abolition of theatre censorship in the UK by a Labour government. We should now try and do likewise regarding cinema and video censorship.

The situation is serious. Britain is the only country in the world where the video "Ecsatsy of St Theresa" is illegal. In addition the video version of the award-winning "Ai No Corrida" remains banned here. Robin Duval, new Director of the British Board of Film Classification, has stated that he is trying to increase censorship and to that end has appealed to the High Court against the August decision of the Video Appeals Committee (which overturned his ban of eight video recordings).

Please let me know your views on how our two organisations can mount a joint campaign. A start could be made by asking that responsibility for films and videos be transferred to the Department of Culture from the Home Office, which has a negative crime prevention priority.

Yours for freedom of expression,

E Goodman
Cllr E Goodman
Chair of CAC