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25, Middleton Close,  
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6th December, 1999

To the members of the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport

Dear Madam/Sir,

State censorship of television and video

The United Kingdom is the only country in the whole of Europe to criminalise reception of foreign satellite television stations. Secretaries of State have issued proscription orders against eight such stations, including a Russian one. This has been done allegedly on the ground of protecting children. The reason is invalid because decoders are required to activate reception of these stations. British parents should not be treated as less responsible than their Continental counterparts, whose governments trust them to keep coded channels out of reach of their children. The Campaign wants the Secretary of State asked why he prohibits adults in this country from viewing material elsewhere considered unsuitable only for minors.

CAC is taking part in the current round of consultations being carried out by the British Board of Film Classification with respect to its guidelines for classifying film for cinema and video. As video censor the BBFC is currently responsible to the Home Office. The Campaign wants to see all responsibility for cinema and video transferred from the Home Office to the Department of Culture, where in our view it belongs.

As a member of the Select Committee we should be grateful for your support on these issues.

Yours faithfully,

(Hon. Secretary, CAC)