

NO/DAW/DP

30th April 1992

MX1100, Mr. Simon Honey,
HMP Brixton,
Jabb Avenue,
London,
SW2 5XF.

On behalf of all the members of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA), I write to say how very sorry we are about your prosecution and subsequent imprisonment for activities which (a) in no way ought to be criminal in a supposedly 'free society', and (b) are, indeed, justly and rightfully legal in virtually all other European Community countries, in most other so-called 'free' Western-World States, and now even in many former Eastern Bloc countries where erstwhile authoritarian Communist régimes have cast off the kind of repressive State sexual censorship to which the citizens of our increasingly repressed and depressing country are still disgracefully subject.

You well know that I and the NCROPA have been battling to try to bring some vestige of sanity to this 'nannyist' society of ours for the past 16 years - so far, alas, to no avail, hence your present predicament. We shall, of course, continue the struggle come-what-may and in spite of the newly-elected Tory Government which boasts in its election manifesto of the fact that the UK has the "toughest anti-pornography laws in Western Europe" and that it "will keep them that way." Well, we shall see!

All this will be of little solace for you, outrageously incarcerated, as you are, by a viciously repressive, nauseatingly puritanical and, in the main, hugely hypocritical 'State Establishment' machine. It is a scandal. We sincerely trust that your time in prison will be as comfortable as possible, that you are being treated well, and that your time there will pass very quickly.

May I just add this comment (and please forgive me for mentioning it if it pains you further)? I was quite astounded when I learned that you intended to plead "guilty" to the charge. I cannot believe for a moment that you genuinely believe yourself to be guilty of publishing

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material which would "deprave and corrupt" anyone. If it was your lawyers' suggestion that you should do so, my own view is that you were very badly advised indeed.

Once again, may I express our heartfelt sympathy for the ghastly and grotesque injustice you have been, and are being, subjected to. There is something very rotten, indeed, about a country in which 'free expression' is so hideously proscribed. Let's hope we can, at long last, change this 'obscene' state of affairs very soon. I, personally, shall certainly continue fighting it until I drop. So please make sure you keep your spirits up. We need you to go on fighting, too!

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Webb,
Honorary Director,
National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts

P.S. At Isabel Koprowski's suggestion, I am enclosing a stamped-addressed envelope for a reply - if you feel like sending one and, indeed, if you are allowed to do so. If you would rather not, I shall quite understand. No doubt we can discuss it all when you are finally released from this awful ordeal.