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The press conference is on Thursday, 3rd October, so you will be able to be there. I have told Lionel and he is happy.

When you return there will be copies of press release material and, I hope, of Peter Du Sautoy's speech together with suggestions for your speech.

By the way, I telephoned Michael Belmont of <sup>C</sup>Cazanove and found out the company which was faintly interested in Bookers Books was National General Corporation. This appears to be quite a large American <sup>Q</sup>company which has diversified from owning cinemas to owning, amongst other companies, Grosset and Dunlap which is a hard cover publisher, and Bantam Books which is a soft cover publisher. Belmont is sending the itinerary in Europe of the executive of National General who was interested in case we wish to get in touch with him. I have told Belmont to say merely that you are away and would be in touch with him when you return. Meanwhile, I indicated to Belmont, as you already had done so, that we were pretty unlikely to want to take the matter any further.

I hope you are having a good stalk,