

27 September 1971.

Dear John,

Herewith a brief statement about the Naipaul, which I've forwarded to the other English judges for their approval (or not, as the case may be).

Yours,



John Gross

BOOKERS BOOKS		Date Recd
ACTION:	MLL	8/9/71
	SM	L
	JWTH	
	EDM	

In the opinion of the judges V.S.Naipaul's In a Free State is eligible for the Booker Prize because it is a unified and coherent work rather than a collection of short stories. The successive episodes interlock and reinforce one another, while whatever the unorthodox technique may sacrifice in terms of conventional narrative consistency it more than makes up for by enabling the author to bring out the global dimensions of his theme without having to dilute his novelist's sense of concrete and individual detail.