

The Rt. Hon. Jennie Lee, M.P.
Minister of State,
Department of Education & Science,
Curzon Street,
LONDON, W.1.

MFKL/VLR
9th December, 1969.

Dear Miss Lee,

It was a great disappointment to us when, earlier this year, you were unable to present the first Booker Fiction Prize because of duties connected with the Italian State Visit. You had very kindly expressed considerable personal interest in this new literary prize and we were very sad that you could not take the leading part at its inauguration.

It is, however, an annual event and we are engaged in planning the 1970 Award. The Panel of Judges is, of course, already at work.

Arrangements are handled jointly by Booker Brothers, who are the generous donors of the Prize (the largest in this country), and the Publishers Association, which is responsible for most of the administrative planning. The Joint Committee has asked me, as President of the Publishers Association, to ask you if you would consider making the presentation in 1970. The date we have in mind is April 21st and a tentative enquiry to your office suggests that this might be convenient for you. It would be an evening occasion.

It would be most gratifying if your absence this year could be balanced by your presence next year and I do hope you will feel able to accept this invitation.

Yours sincerely,