

15 October 1971

Philip Toynbee, Esq.,

Dear Philip,

Thank you for your letter in which I was delighted to hear your good news. Booker Brothers very much wish that you will come up to London and with your wife for the presentation of the prize and will be very happy to provide your expenses for this, I do hope therefore you will come, and again am sorry for any misunderstanding.

As you will know, but I merely confirm, the vote on V.S. Naipaul was two to three, namely John Fowles and Saul Bellow against and yourself, Antonia and John Gross for. The release went to the press for this last Friday so I hope they did not pester you too much.

No public announcement has been made about the dispute, if it is to be made it would obviously be better at the time of the announcement of the winner than at this stage, which will merely draw too much attention to him.

I look forward very much to seeing you.

Best wishes,

Yours,