

26 October 1972

Cyril Connolly, Esq., CBE., C.Lit.,

Dear Cyril

I have much pleasure in enclosing the press release, and thank you so much for getting the copy through to me as quickly as you did. From the comments I have had I think the message seems fairly evenly balanced. Only one person has made a bet on the winner as being the winner all the others have gone for the other three.

The other reason for my writing is that Alan Heydock, producer of Wednesday's Radio Book Programme called "New Read On" would very much like to interview you just before the announcement of the winner on the short list, but they will not of course try to extract the winner from you, that they guarantee. They will finish the programmes simply by saying "Now that we have heard Mr. Connolly speak on the four books look in your newspapers tomorrow for the winner". In fact the interviewer will be Magnus Magnusson, whom you may know, but if not he is the most gentle man. They would want to record the programme on Tuesday afternoon 21 November, to go out on the Wednesday before the Dinner. The reason I write in such haste is that I must let them know if you agree on Monday (30 October). Would it be possible for you to give me a ring? I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,