



The Publishers Association

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Booker Prize

28 October 1971

John Murphy, Esq.,
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83 Cannon Street,
London E.C. 4.

BOOKERS	Date Recd:
BOOKS	1/11/71
ACTION:	Copies
	2

placed 1/11/71

Dear John,

I enclose a list of the suggested authors to be invited to the dinner on 25 November. At Tom's suggestion I have asked various people in the book world to make their suggestions as to the greatest living British authors, and they all came out with exactly the same list; with your approval shall I invite them - of course only half of them will come.

Unless I hear to the contrary, Tom is approaching Isaiah Berlin as speaker on Monday - as I rang George H. at your suggestion over Pritchett and he favoured Isaiah Berlin more.

It has been suggested, and indeed if you can bear it I think it would be a good idea to invite the following press as they are important and will be more inclined to cover the winner if invited to the dinner, being Sunday journalists: T.S. Ferguson - Sunday Tel. Sue McHarg Pendennis Observer Kenneth Pearson - Sunday Times - also perhaps Kenneth Allsopp Evening Standard?

One final thing is that Andre Deutsch is not bringing his wife but their main editor Diana Athill, but has also asked that Carmen Callil, their publicity girl should come along. I do feel that this is becoming essential as VS Naipaul is notoriously difficult to handle and there are various people who wish to interview him after the dinner and Carmen would be invaluable in this. I am sorry to keep adding to the list, but if I can make a plea this last would be my priority.

Best wishes,

Yours

Assistant Secretaries REG GOWERS PETER PHELAN