

JNM

Marilyn telephone<sup>d</sup> and dictated the attached draft of the letter to go out to the invitees for the party on 15 January. This draft is the result of discussions with Jocelyn Baines who, Marilyn says, toned down her first draft. He has deleted reference to "industrial patronage" as he feels that Bookers will not wish to press the point in view of their current interests in authors. If you approve the draft, Marilyn will type the letters over the holiday as this will give a little more notice than if it is left to the beginning of the New Year.

Jasmine

Dear

As you know, the Booker Prize for Fiction was inaugurated last year. The Prize is sponsored jointly by the Publishers Association and Booker McConnell Limited; and the author who, in the opinion of an independent panel of distinguished judges, has written the best work of fiction in the previous year, receives £5,000.

This is a landmark because there has never been a literary prize of this magnitude in Britain. It is the hope of the sponsors that such an annual award will do much to increase public awareness of the important role that fiction has to play in our society.

The Publishers Association and Booker McConnell Limited wish to invite you to a small, private, party on 15 January at 6.30 p.m. at Flat 1015, Kings House, St. James's Hotel, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. in order to discuss plans for the prize, in this its second year, and to seek your advice and help in the handling of it.

Please let me know if you are unable to attend.

Yours sincerely,