



**BOOKER
McCONNELL
LIMITED**

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Dear Ian

Many thanks for letting me know about the local reaction to the John Berger affair. If you hear of any more material comment we shall be interested to know about it.

With regard to the impact in England, I am asking Peter Smith to let you have a complete set of the press cuttings. There has been, as you will see, a lot of publicity and I don't think any of it will have adversely affected Bookers. A lot of it has been highly critical of Berger himself; even during the speech at the dinner some people were shouting remarks which showed that they were obviously very cross with him. There has, so far as we are aware, been no reaction on the Continent.

We invited Berger to lunch here before his return to his home in Paris this week but he could not manage it and suggested the alternative of a drink in the evening. Ours was his fourth appointment that day and he did not keep any of them, so we may not meet him after all.

We promised to endow the prize for seven years and there are three more prizes to go. After the next presentation we must consider the whole future of the prize. I do not think we shall be influenced by the Berger affair but there are, of course, several other factors to be taken into account, not least the cost and our lessening commercial interest in live authors. It is very helpful to have your own view and this will certainly be taken into account.

Yours sincerely

D.H. Joss