

MT.

Confidential Filing.

CONSIDERATION of BRITISH  
CANDIDATES for NOBEL PRIZES  
for SCIENCE.

SCIENCE and  
TECHNOLOGY.

April 1989.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
13.4.89							

S  
3004

**CLOSED.**

PREM 19/2837

Q/F

Sue G.

does not want

these: neither

do I.

We do not

have Fairclough's  
minute to FORB of  
16/4. IR 2574



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

MR. FAIRCLOUGH

CABINET OFFICE

NOBEL PRIZES

The Prime Minister has seen your minute to me of 11 April. She was content that Dr. Perutz should lead the informal group of Nobel Laureates to promote consideration of British candidates.

She has also noted the existence of the Tyler Prize which, to judge from the achievements of past recipients, would be a very suitable honour for Professor Lovelock.

I am copying this minute to Sir Robin Butler.

ANDREW TURNBULL

13 April 1989

file 1/6  
brochure returned

APPTS ?

Two

Brochure  
returned to  
Fairclough  
on 13/4/89  
Lb



NICE

Honours? No

Prime Minutes

Yes

(i) on Nobel Prize content with X

not

(ii) on an award for Professor Lovelock  
to note existence of Tyler Prize

Noted

(which President Reagan helped  
inaugurate c 1973), which to  
judge from past recipients (pp 12-13)  
would be entirely appropriate.

11 April 1989

AT 124

W085

MR TURNBULL

NOBEL PRIZES

I refer to my minute of 16 March to Sir Robin Butler. I write to tell you of the current status of my attempts to form an informal group of Nobel Laureates to orchestrate the consideration of British candidates, as well as to indicate a way forward for gaining recognition for Professor James Lovelock.

2. Sir John Kendrew has been very helpful and has suggested names of existing Nobel Laureates who might be willing to form themselves into a team, however, he recommends Max Perutz as being a better leader than himself for two reasons: Max Perutz is interested and already performs this role on behalf of medical research and, secondly, Sir John Kendrew is no longer a practising scientist. I followed his suggestion and have spoken with Dr Perutz who would be most willing to serve in the role suggested. He is currently giving thoughts about the names of Nobel Laureates he would prefer to help him. I would appreciate confirmation that the Prime Minister is content with the choice of Max Perutz rather than Sir John Kendrew to lead this informal activity.

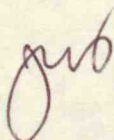
Yes not

3. The most prestigious award for contributions to environmental matters seems to be the Tyler Prize, the scope of which would embrace Lovelock's contribution and particularly his concept of

Gaia which, as I explained to you, is not strictly science. I attach a brochure describing the prize and which you will notice is for environmental achievement and not just scientific contribution. I am currently searching for the right individual(s) who could support Lovelock's nomination.

4. I have arranged a meeting with Sir George Porter with the objective of inviting him to contact the Nobel Organisation recommending that they add environmental science as a category to the Nobel Prizes.

5. I will keep you informed of progress and I am copying this minute to Sir Robin Butler.



JOHN W FAIRCLOUGH  
Chief Scientific Adviser



IT8.7/2-1993  
2009:02

Image  
Access

IT-8 Target

Printed on Kodak Professional Paper

Charge: R090212