

IEA

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26 September 1980

Recd 26/9/80

I was glad to learn that you are up and about, and I hope restored to your habitual activity. We have now expanded the 1978 BBC broadcasts, and I hope to let you have galleys in a couple of weeks.

You may have heard the Mont Pelerin Society is considering a regional meeting in Chile next year (and one in Sweden). Two or three members have expressed some anxiety that the Society would be appearing to be supporting the Chilean regime and what seems to be the continued postponing of political freedoms.

I recall raising with you at lunch here the question whether the market economies could operate smoothly under conventional representative democracy, with its tendency to coagulate into pressure groups. Your reply satisfied me at the time, but I have forgotten it! Are you writing anything on this delicate issue in your book? or can you refer me to anything you have already published on it?

My reason for asking is that I think our Journal [★] must take the bull by the horns. The examples of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore and now Chile are used constantly by our critics to argue that market economy does not ensure political democracy.

I know you are busy on the book but several lines would suffice.

Kind regards.

Yours etc
Arthur Seldon

Arthur Seldon

** Copy early next week*

(I have been checked to the Board.)