

Mr Chapman
Mr. Morrison NOV/20/1
Dr Mufson
It might have helped if
Dr Covell had been at the meeting
with Dr Cash.

Dr Bell

Copy to Dr Scott
Dr McIntyre
Mr Davies

GRO-C

6/3

HTLV III ANTIBODY TESTING FACILITIES

Thank you for your minute of 28 February and the copy of Dr Cook's communication with Mr Mutch.

I can understand Dr Cash's anxiety over a possible rush on BTS for HTLV III antibody testing by those at risk of infection. I find it less easy to comprehend his method of approach to the Health Boards or how he expects the public to be given open access to the test.

In fact when it does arrive, the test will be limited in supply and there is little doubt that the first priority should lie with the BTS. To withhold it until it is more generally available to the public would be considered by many to be indefensible. I know for a fact that commercial suppliers in this country are poised to distribute the test to all and sundry as soon as it is available in quantity and I do not think there will be any laboratory that will not be persuaded to obtain it.

I am not sure, therefore, that an approach to CAMOs would be productive except as an educational exercise.

I am encouraged to read in the pamphlet published by the "Scottish AIDS Monitor", which is widely distributed amongst homosexuals in Scotland, a paragraph stating that knowing one's HTLV III antibody status does not help much at the moment and advising them not to seek the test just to find out whether or not they have the antibody. I hope this will be effective.

GRO-C

DR R G COVELL
5 March 1985

Room 2

Ext GRO-C