

Dr Abrams

AIDS

1. I visited Dr Tedder, Professor Weiss and Professor Adler at the Middlesex Hospital on 22 March 1985. During our discussion it became clear that unresolved technical challenges facing the UK test mean that it is unlikely to be first in the field. We are likely to need to evaluate a number of other tests, largely from the United States, ~~over~~ the succeeding months.

2. I would be grateful to know what organisation exists within the Department and the PHLS to meet this challenge, and who is to be both responsible and accountable for the completion of what will be a demanding series of evaluative tests.

3. I would also like to know what arrangements are planned to put into effect recommendations resulting from the evaluation when they emerge. In particular who will be accountable for ensuring that the chosen screening test is introduced simultaneously throughout the Blood Transfusion Service and in Sexually Transmitted Disease clinics.

4. I would also like to take forward urgently work on the resource implications of the introduction of the test and its consequences eg, *the appropriate* counselling, training etc. This should certainly be considered by ~~a~~ working group of my Expert Advisory Group on AIDS - perhaps at the next meeting of our internal group dealing with AIDS we could consider the composition and timing of this working group, and its terms of reference.

GRO-C

E D ACHESON
CMO

25 March 1985

cc Dr Harris
Dr Stellas
Dr Smithers
Dr Murray
Mrs With
File : do RA.