

HHG/LM

30th July 1987

Dr. A. Smithies,  
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Dear Alison,

I am sending you the report on the discussions which took place at the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Blood Transfusion in May of this year on NANB hepatitis and AIDS.

With respect to NANB hepatitis, the paper leaves as many questions unanswered as it answers and finally comes to a conclusion that is not particularly helpful in that each country has to make a decision for itself. However, at least the Committee were not influenced by West Germany, and particularly by France, in coming to a resolution that ALT and anti-HBc should be introduced uniformly throughout Europe. I suppose this may be helpful in a negative sort of way.

Incidentally, Dr. Weise said during the meeting that the ALT screening programme in W. Germany had led to a 29% reduction in the transmission of NANB hepatitis. When we met in the Working Group we were unaware of any data to substantiate this and we deliberately inserted the sentence "...that it has not been possible to evaluate its effectiveness...." in paragraph three of our report. This was not challenged by Dr. Weise when the report was discussed.

The work on HIV has largely been carried out by me and it presents some interesting data for the European Countries. The meeting report was reasonably legible, and I have simply photocopied this. The data concerning testing of blood donations is unique and I was asked to send this to Vox Sanguinis for publication.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

H.H. GUNSON,  
Director