

RSL/AH

16th November 1991.

Dr. B. Habibi,
Centre National de Transfusion Sanguine,
13 Avenue du Quebec,
91943 Les Ulis Cedex,
FRANCE.

Dear Dr. Habibi,

Thank you for spending Friday evening with me, setting out the problems which currently beset the French Transfusion Service. In relation to your circular letter prefacing the text of your appeal in Le Monde, I would like to clarify my position in support of your views.

The trial that may take place in France next year may inevitably include areas of French administration in which I have no locus. You say that the legal process is largely driven by the concerns of HIV-infected haemophiliacs and the impact this medical problem has had is on, in particular, the fractionation agencies of the French Transfusion Service. The involvement of these agencies may be co-ordinated from Paris but, again, that is not my concern. In support of your appeal, I agree with your view that the events in fractionation and preparation of coagulation factors for haemophiliacs between 1984 and 1986 require special consideration by experts in the field: I would add my name to those who support this view. For this reason, I would be prepared to give expert professional advice if it were asked for by the French Transfusion Service in the matter of defence.

I must state in this letter that I can take no view about the condition of those plaintiffs in France whose HIV infection was the result of transmission by blood products other than factor VIII and factor IX.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

DR. R.S. LANE.