

DR SMITHIES

ANTI HTVL III AND AIDS

I am delighted by the plans outlined by Dr Gunson. I regard it as of paramount importance to ensure that public faith in the BTS is maintained. And surely with all the concern over AIDS this can only be done (in the present state of knowledge) by introducing a screening test as quickly as possible. We simply must ensure that "our" blood is OK by the most up to date means. I therefore propose a very strong line -

- research
- a. We press those concerned to get on with/and development as quickly as possible. If successful marketing via CAMR/Industry to be lined up as soon as may be.
 - b. We should give whatever help is needed to move this along: if money is wanted we go to Ministers for it.
 - c. We need to consider the financial and other implications for the BTS of mounting a screening service: again we may need to go to Ministers for special treatment.

In short we must give this top priority.

GRO-C

10 July 1984

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Copies to:

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PS: I attach a note from 5 July Nature which underlines the urgency.