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PEH/ESS

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Dear Harold,

Donor Sessions in US Military Establishments

For many years until 1986 we held regular blood donor sessions at a US Military Establishment in Bedfordshire. This was the only US Establishment served by NLBTC but the donor session also served a number of UK civilian personnel.

At the time of introduction of anti-HIV testing, we were informed that we would be expected to release results of routine screening tests on blood donations given by US active duty personnel to the Military Authorities. I have reviewed our correspondence with Alison Smithies in early 1986. At that time, we were sent an example of a form which was to be signed by all US active duty personnel donating blood on military installations. We objected to the wording of this form, as it made clear to the personnel that the British Blood Transfusion Service was **required** to report to the US Military Medical Authority, and we did not feel we should be under any such obligation. Our views were somewhat coloured by the fact that we had already detected an anti-HIV positive US serviceman, identified on retrospective screening of donations from mid 1985.

I understand that the RTDs agreed collectively in 1986 that they could not agree to the US Military's request, as in this country all test results are confidential and reported to the donor **alone**. We transmitted this information to the Authorities at the US base and understood that this viewpoint had been accepted. We had proposed a compromise, which was that all active duty military personnel would be asked by staff at the base to complete a permission form, giving written consent for us to release their results to the Military Personnel. We understood that this had been accepted, but our next donor session at the base was cancelled at 24 hrs notice and we did not arrange any further sessions there.

