

**INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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**SIXTH WITNESS STATEMENT OF  
DR ABRAHAM KARPAS**

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I provide this statement in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 26 October 2023.

I, Dr Abraham Karpas will say as follows:

**Response to Criticism by Professor Richard Tedder**

1. Thank you for WITN3436008 and WITN3436009.
2. Tedder deals with two lesser issues and ignores several substantive accusations:
  - 2.1. Failure to approve the use of the Abbott Laboratories test by Mortimer for 6 months was in order to give Wellcome Diagnostics time to complete the development of their replica ELISA test. The accusation was also levelled by Abbott's representative in 1985;
  - 2.2. The so-called British test was based on the French HIV viral isolate which Weiss received from the Institute Pasteur (Dr L Montagnier) on the condition that it will be used only for academic research but was renamed CBL1 and the American CEN T-cells which Weiss claimed was his.
  - 2.3. Tedder and Weiss benefited financially from the 6 months delay by Mortimer to approve the introduction of the Abbot test in the UK for HIV screening, resulting

in numerous individuals who became infected with HIV which in 1985 led to death. Mortimer approved the Abbott test only after Wellcome Diagnostics completed the development of their test and cornered the British market.

3. He rebuts the lesser issues with much high moral bluster, in the manner of his evidence in the Penrose Report, meant to shrivel up criticism. I respond to them nevertheless.

3.1. In Section 2.3 Tedder denies that he refused to provide me with blood samples

from AIDS patients in 1983, at a time when the Middlesex Hospital had an AIDS ward with many patients while no one was diagnosed with AIDS in Cambridge. According to him the refusal was solely Professor Adler's responsibility. If this had indeed been the case Tedder could have suggested I approach Prof Adler directly. But Tedder's own letter WITN3436007 of 1983 makes it clear that this was not so and that it was he and Weiss who took the decisions about access to material. In a letter I still have from him dated 20 June 1983 he writes that his collaborator Dr Robin Weiss objected. I wrote again in July 1983 for samples but got no reply and he claims "I do not recall documented request for samples".

3.2. Section 2.5 expresses high-minded shock at the idea of Mortimer being influenced to modify the evaluation of my cell test. Professor Raymond Dwek FRS likewise found the suspicion shocking and wrote to Dr J Smith the director of the PHLS laboratories. (WITNO684002). Furthermore, the journal New Scientist published a full-page article entitled: Health Officers 'Altered' Data on AIDS TEST (14 July 1988 p34) which also mentioned that Mortimer refused to talk to the investigating scientific journalist Steve Connor. Although Mortimer sent the Interim Report on the evaluation of my test to Mr David Kennedy of the DHSS directorate he refused his suggestion to have a joint meeting.

3.3. The difficulty with the test expressed in section 2.7 is somewhat overplayed, because haemagglutination-type tests are or used to be the bread-and-butter of many medical laboratories; and the Karpas Cell Test was in fact taken into routine Japanese laboratories practice following the formal evaluation by the Japanese ministry of health and used over many years in Japan.

3.4. In Section 2.8 Tedder presents his asking me in 1987 to evaluate my test as a purely public-spirited request, to which I responded by providing him with a copy of the Interim formal evaluation document of my AIDS Cell Test that Mortimer sent to Mr David Kennedy of the DHSS directorate and Mr Wickland of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Geneva. (I regretted this later, as my witness statement set out (WITN0684030), because it enabled Tedder to use his close friendship with Mortimer to influence him to change the evaluation data for the final report).

4. Tedder refers to Mortimer's (WITN3436009) response ....“In an attempt at compromise Karpas and, through him, Cambridge Virucells Ltd, were offered a further evaluation to be read and commented on by three laboratory workers from outside the Central Public Health Laboratory and collated by me, but that offer was not accepted”. This is pure fairy story No such offer was ever made, either by Mortimer or through Tedder. I received nothing whatever I could refused.

5. I extract one valuable remark from Tedder's statement:

“... a trivialisation and distraction from the very serious issues which we all were grappling with at the time”... is a very good comment on and criticism of the behaviour of several major players at the time, for whom reputation and financial gains came foremost.

#### Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

GRO-C

Date

15-1-2024