

Cutter

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TO: ~~M. Hershberger~~ / M. Schwartz, J. Hink, M.J. Kalm,
J. Ryan / J. Wood, R. Rousell *R. Schwartz*
FROM: L. Hershberger
SUBJECT: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

DATE: August 12, 1982

COPIES TO: C. Moore

Attached are minutes of a meeting held at Secretary Schweiker's office in HHS regarding AIDS.

My initial reaction to this after hearing Dave Aronson's report on the previous meeting at BoB was one of minor concern since in Dave's opinion the CDC didn't have much data linking AIDS to AHF. My concern level has risen since then for two reasons:

- 1) We received a phone call from the BoB requesting that we quarantine 4 units of Source Plasma from a donor hospitalized for AIDS.
- 2) The realization after the HHS meeting that this is a volatile political issue and that Dave Aronson is politically naive. He thinks like a scientist rather than a politician. Note the comment by Dr. Donohue on page 6 that the BoB may be forced to make politically expedient decisions to disapprove the operation of plasmapheresis centers specifically intended to collect anti-HBs plasma from homosexuals.

We were extremely fortunate that we were able to quarantine the 4 units of Source Plasma mentioned in item 1) above before they were pooled. Had they been pooled the BoB might have found it politically expedient to make hard line decisions regarding the fate of the products made from the pool. This kind of risk will continue for some time until there is solid data to prove that AIDS is not transmitted by blood products. Meanwhile we should try to help the BoB develop a rational policy for dealing with AIDS that will withstand political panic.

GRO-C, Hershberger