Would BLK/15 please set up a new file headed "Diagnostic Test for HTLV III" and file this on it. BLK 5?

3/8

AIDS - DEVELOPMENT OF DIAGNOSTIC TEST FOR HTLV III

Since my minute of 6 July there have been further developments regarding the radio immunoassay for antibody to HTLV III. Some 2,000 tests have been carried out on AIDS patients, patients with the extended lymphadenopathy syndrome, homosexuals attending STD clinics, haemaphiliacs and others. The findings shortly to be published, confirm the presence of detectable antibody in 28 out of 29 (96 per cent)AIDS patients 104 out of a 117 (88 per cent) patients with extended lymphadenopathy syndrome 60 out of 288, homosexual patients attending STD clinics (20 per cent) who were apparently otherwise healthy barring their "normal sexually transmitted disease".

At the beginning of October it is planned to start screening all blood donors at North West London RTC. Whilst the latter trial will be a research project we need to plan ahead for an anticipated extension of the screening test to all blood donors and to others at risk to the disease. Attached is a paper setting out some of the many problems that will need solving as a consequence of being able to detect the antibody in carriers. It is proposed that the Department should invite a group of experts to provide guidance so that health authorities can be advised accordingly.

27 July 1984

MED SEB
Room 1025A Hannibal House
Ext 3487

copies