

27th September, 1958.

My dear Leopold,

I am happy to say that the Committee have reacted rather quickly and want to go ahead with what I propose.

Mr Todd, in his letter, says: "They would therefore be very grateful if, as you suggested, you would draw up specific proposals in conjunction with Drs Martin and Hubinont for their consideration".

I am not, of course, sure that you and Hubinont will think everything I have put in the enclosed letter to provide a suitable basis. So far as it goes, however, I suppose our proposals should cover:

(a) The constitution and status of the Belgian Committee to be created ad hoc for the reception and administration of funds granted.

(b) Where and by whom the laboratory operations should be carried out and what arrangements (e.g. the employment of special technicians, the reimbursement of institutions for the use of their technicians' time and other facilities) can be made with existing organizations.

(c) Any organizational arrangements with the Belgian National Transfusion Service.

(d) The procurement of testing fluids and any special apparatus that may be needed.

I suppose there should be provision to meet small expenses (e.g. tram fares) for donors from whom additional co-operation may be asked.

No doubt Hubinont and yourself will find a great deal of detail that needs to be foreseen in the circumstances presented by the City of Brussels.

The complete classification will be immensely complex, and its statistical tabulation and examination requires consideration in advance. The only adequate means I can see for this would consist in an edge-punched card record, one card for every subject and one edge-punch for every test, 20 simple 'yes or no' tests being provided for by 40 punch holes. There is a firm supplying such cards suitable for edge-punching, though I am told they are unduly expensive, and it might be better to get a set of, say, 5000 made specifically for the purpose of our enquiry. The great advantage is, of course, to avoid the delay of electronic or mechanical card sorting machines, for a stack of edge-punched cards can be sorted rapidly by hand merely by pushing a steel knitting needle through the desired set of holes.

Publication is much more difficult, and for this I suppose the genotypes should be divided hierarchically, e.g. the OAB system would produce six classes, and each of these would be sub-divided into perhaps six or nine for HBS, each of these in turn being sub-divided for each subsequent blood group classified; and I imagine such individuals would have to be set out serially taking 100 pages at 50 to a page. For most scientific purposes, however, incomplete publication might be thought sufficient.

This is enough for now. I have no doubt that the Tobacco Manufacturers' Standing Committee will not let us down, though they may be at some pains to satisfy themselves that the expenses we anticipate are not excessive.

Sincerely yours,

Enc.