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September 18, 1991

Dr. Daniel Zagury
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Dear Daniel,

I have a copy of Popovic's rebuttal to the preliminary OSI report. It is in full agreement with my rebuttal. We have no differences.

Popovic had sent me copies of the earliest drafts of his paper (one of the four Science papers) to his sister's home for posterity.

I do not know why he did not keep it in his house. He used those early drafts about six months ago to demonstrate he wanted to include work on LAV (he did) in his paper. His data was simply and only short term culture of LAV in a cell line, which he told me in time he lost or was losing. I told him in early January 1984 (shortly after I learned of his success in culturing LAV) to focus on our isolates, which he was doing in any case.

I feared cross-contamination of LAV with our cultures. He stopped the LAV work and told me he was losing the LAV production in any case. Popovic has stated for the record that he told Montagnier in December 1983 that he cultured LAV successfully.

When our Science (May 1984) papers were written in March 1984, I was surprised to see some experiments with LAV in his paper. There was no data on analysis of LAV, or comparisons of it to our isolates, only and simply a description of short term culture experiments. I told him it would be better to publish this data in a thorough and detailed paper with the Pasteur Institute scientists as co-authors. In fact, immediately (first week of April 1984) I flew to Paris to tell Chermann and Montagnier all the data. This is one month before our publication of our four Science papers.

We agreed to make careful comparisons of LAV to our isolates and publish together with Chermann and Montagnier, etc. We did, and by the summer of 1984, two papers were prepared to publish with all of us as co-authors. (I still have copies of those papers). However, Montagnier subsequently made the decision not to publish them because he believed soon the entire gene sequences would be available from both groups and this would make our planned joint papers redundant. I agreed and we did not publish them. You should also be aware that in these papers LAV is in a cell line from us! Thus, Montagnier has known this all along. However, I

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have always believed that our success in deliberate culturing LAV was transient. That was what Mika always told me and I believe it is true.

Daniel, that is the whole story, and I have never told it otherwise. Obviously, when I said we did not grow LAV, I referred to deliberate, continuous work with it and scale up for commercial use (blood test). I never deliberately did so.

In summary, there is nothing new, and Mr. Nouchi is one hell of a slanderer.

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Gallo, M.D.

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