

STM LN-HYK51 JULY 13 78 MSG : FIL

TO: TIME SCIENCE/MEDICINE

FROM: LONDON

BY: WHITE

SLUG: TEST TUBE BABY

CLOSE 7/13 TK: 2 EOH:

THE CLAMOR FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE BABY CONTINUED TODAY AT OLDHAM HOSPITAL, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY ASSURED NEWSMEN THAT INFORMATION FROM THE HOSPITAL WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL.

THE AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY ISSUED THIS STATEMENT: "ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH A NEWSPAPER (THE DAILY MAIL) WHICH HAD AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND PROVIDED A SECURITY GUARD AT THE ENTRANCE TO MRS BROWN'S ROOM, HAVE BEEN ENDED AND SECURITY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED FOR THIS PURPOSE BY THE AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY. THEIR INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO ADMIT NO-ONE OTHER THAN THOSE AUTHORIZED BY MR STEPTOE OR MRS BROWN. THE AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY HAD NO PART IN THE AGREEMENT WITH THE NEWSPAPER. WITH REGARD TO MRS. BROWN'S CONDITION, MR. STEPTOE SAYS THAT THE BABY IS NOT YET DUE TO BE BORN AND HE CANNOT THEREFORE COMMENT ON CURRENT SPECULATION CONCERNING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DELIVERY."

WHAT THE HOSPITAL -- WHICH OF COURSE COMES UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE -- HAS DONE, IS TOSS OUT THE DAILY MAIL SECURITY GUARD AND INSTALL ITS OWN GUARD. BUT THE FAMILY'S AGREEMENT WITH ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS FOR EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO THE STORY STILL STANDS.

AUTHORITIES CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO CHANGE THAT.

DESPITE ASSURANCE THAT HENCEFORTH INFORMATION FROM THE HOSPITAL WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL, THE HOSPITAL SPOKESMAN COULD NOT ANSWER ANY OF OUR QUESTIONS (INCLUDING YOUR LATEST ONES). DR. STEPTOE IS THERE BUT WILL NOT TAKE A CALL. EDWARDS IS UNREACHABLE. WE HAVE ASKED A FRIEND TO ASK STEPTOE TO PHONE US, AND STILL HAVE HOPES.

UNLESS WE GET TO STEPTOE, CAN'T GET HIS COMMENT ON DR. DOUGLAS BEVIS' CLAIM IN 1974 THAT HE KNEW OF THREE TEST TUBE BABY BIRTHS. BEVIS REFUSED TO GIVE NAMES OR DETAILS, AND AS A RESULT HIS CLAIM HAS BEEN GIVEN NO CREDENCE. MRS BROWN TOLD THE MAIL THE DOCTORS KNOW THE SEX OF HER BABY, BUT THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO KNOW BEFOREHAND. CAN'T CHECK IF THE TECHNIQUE HAS BEEN USED ON PRIMATES. ALMOST CERTAINLY, THE DOCTORS HAVE PLANS TO STUDY THE CHILD AS IT GROWS, TO DETERMINE IF IT IS NORMAL. PRESS ACCOUNTS, GIVING NO SOURCE, SPECULATE THAT OTHER WOMEN HAVE BEEN IMPLANTED AND THAT SOME ARE PREGNANT, BUT THERE IS NO WAY TO CHECK THIS UNLESS THE DOCTORS TALK.

ON WEDNESDAY THE DAILY MAIL SAID MRS BROWN IS 32. TODAY IT SAYS 30. USE 30. AGE OF STEPDAUGHTER, SHARON, DAUGHTER OF HER HUSBAND BY PREVIOUS MARRIAGE, IS GIVEN TODAY AS 17 (NOT 16, AS GIVEN PREVIOUSLY). DAILY MAIL TODAY CARRIES PAGE ONE PICTURE OF SMILING, BRUNETTE MRS BROWN, REPORT'S THAT YESTERDAY STEPDAUGHTER SHARON BROUGHT MRS BROWN FLOWERS AND STRAWBERRIES IN HOSPITAL.

END -- SENT 1802 AW

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