

STM: LN-NY48 JULY 14 78 MSG: CAC
TO: TIME SCIENCE, MEDICINE
FROM: LONDON BY: WHITE
SLUG: TEST TUBE BABY ECH:

SOME LONDON PAPERS, INCLUDING THE TIMES, REPORT THE BABY'S BIRTH IS IMMINENT. THE TIMES SAYS THE BIRTH IS LIKELY, BY CAESARIAN, ON SUNDAY, REPEAT SUNDAY, JULY 16.

THE HOSPITAL DENIES THE BIRTH IS IMMINENT. THE AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY SAID TODAY IT HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE DOCTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR MRS BROWN TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING: "1. PREGNANCY PROGRESSING WELL. 2. SPECULATION ON THE DATE OF BIRTH TOTALLY FALSE. (PRESUMABLY MEANING THE SPECULATION THAT THE BABY WILL BE BORN THIS SUNDAY). 3. BIRTH NOT IMMINENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. 4. NO DECISION MADE ABOUT THE METHOD OF DELIVERY. 5. FURTHER STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED NEXT TUESDAY (JULY 18)." "

DESPITE THIS STATEMENT, SOURCES IN OLDHAM CONTINUE TO SPECULATE ABOUT A BIRTH THIS SUNDAY, SUGGESTING THAT THE DOCTORS' STATEMENT THAT A FURTHER STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED NEXT TUESDAY IS SIMPLY A SMOKESCREEN, AND THAT THE TUESDAY STATEMENT WILL TELL ABOUT THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD.

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STORY IS FINE, NOTING THE FOLLOWING:
1) "SCHEDULED TO GIVE BIRTH EARLY IN AUGUST" SHOULD BE CHANGED, GIVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLIER ARRIVAL. SUGGEST SAY SCHEDULED TO GIVE BIRTH "SOON". THAT WILL COVER IT, WHETHER THE BIRTH IS

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NEXT WEEK, OR SEVERAL WEEKS HENCE.

2) TRYING TO CHECK MRS. BROWN'S AGE ONCE AND FOR ALL, WE CALLED THE DAILY MAIL, WHICH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT PRINTED 32 ON WEDNESDAY AND 30 ON THURSDAY. THE EDITOR IN CHARGE SAID HE WASN'T SURE WHICH WAS CORRECT AND CALL BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS, WHICH WE WILL DO. NO OTHER RELIABLE SOURCE AVAILABLE, FYI, HAS THAT SIMPLE INFORMATION. NOBODY IN THE FAMILY WILL TALK TO A REPORTER, SINCE ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS IS PAYING BIG FOR EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS, THE DOCTORS WILL NOT TAKE CALLS, AND THE SO-CALLED "SPOKESMAN" AT THE HOSPITAL SAYS HE DOES NOT HAVE THE AGE INFORMATION AND WILL NOT TRY TO GET IT EXOLAM. THE DAILY MAIL EDITOR SAYS THE HUSBAND IS KNOWN AS JOHN BROWN, ALTHOUGH HIS NAME IS GILBERT JOHN, AND THAT'S THE WAY THE DAILY MAIL AND OTHERS ARE USING IT. SO MAKE HIM JOHN BROWN, RATHER THAN GILBERT JOHN BROWN.

3) THE DAILY MAIL SAID MRS BROWN COULD NEVER CONCEIVE BECAUSE OF A "FAULT" IN HER FALLOPIAN TUBES. MAYBE THEY MEANT TO SAY "BLOCKED." PERHAPS IT IS THE SAME THING. IN ANY CASE, THEY SAID "FAULT" AND STORY IS SAYING BLOCKED, FYI.

4) IT IS MUCH TOO CHANCY TO SAY DETAILS OF THE BROWNS' EXPERIENCE ARE STILL SKETCHY BECAUSE STEPTOE AND EDWARDS, "IN APPROVED SCIENTIFIC FASHION, INTEND TO PROVIDE DETAILS TO THEIR COLLEAGUES FIRST." IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE WORLD MAY READ THE FIRST DETAILS FROM THE DOCTORS IN THE DAILY MAIL. SUGGEST SAY SIMPLY "DETAILS OF THE BROWNS' EXPERIENCE ARE STILL SKETCHY, BUT PUBLISHED REPORTS ETC" (DROPPING "BECAUSE STEPTOE AND EDWARDS, IN APPROVED SCIENTIFIC FASHION, INTEND TO PROVIDE DETAILS TO THEIR COLLEAGUES FIRST").

5) THERE IS NO RELIABLE SOURCE FOR THE NUMBER OF WOMEN STEPTOE AND EDWARDS HAVE TRIED TO IMPLANT. IT COULD BE DOZENS, SCORES, 50,

HUNDREDS, WHATEVER. ONLY THE DOCTORS KNOW. HAVE TRIED TO IMPLANT
"A NUMBER OF WOMEN" WOULD BE SAFEST. OR "MANY."

6) THE DOCTORS IN THEIR STATEMENT TODAY SAID "NO DECISION MADE
ABOUT THE METHOD OF DELIVERY." SO IT MAY NOT BE CAESARIAN.

HOWEVER, THE SENTENCE IS OKAY AS YOU HAVE IT. BROWN, "WHO
BRITISH NEWSPAPERS REPORT WILL BE DELIVERED BY CAESAREAN SECTION
ETC" ALL SOURCES ARE PREDICTING CAESARIAN.

7) RE THE SENTENCE "WORD HAS CIRCULATED IN BRITAIN THAT ANOTHER
SIX WOMEN ARE EXPECTING LAB-CONCEIVED CHILDREN WITHIN TWO MONTHS."
THAT CAME FROM JUST ONE NEWSPAPER, AND IT COULD BE SHEER THUMB-
SUCTION. WE SUSPECT IT IS. SUGGEST SAY SIMPLY "IT IS RUMOURED
THAT OTHER WOMEN ARE EXPECTING LAB-CONCEIVED CHILDREN" AND
LEAVE IT AT THAT, WITHOUT SAYING HOW MANY OR WHEN.

8) STEPTOE AND BROWN HAVE NOT CLAIMED THAT ALL TESTS SHOW THAT THE
BROWN'S BABY IS NORMAL. THEY HAVE NOT SAID ANYTHING ON THIS SCORE.
THEY SAID TODAY "PREGNANCY PROGRESSING WELL." PERIOD. IF THE
BABY TURNS OUT TO BE ABNORMAL, THIS LINE WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE.
SUGGEST MAKE IT STEPTOE AND EDWARDS REPORT THAT MRS BROWN'S
PREGNANCY IS PROGRESSING WELL, BUT NO ONE WILL BE SURE THAT THE
BABY IS NORMAL AT LEAST UNTIL THE CHILD IS BORN.

9) NOWHERE HAVE WE SEEN THAT STEPTOE AND EDWARDS WILL WRITE FIRST
PERSON ACCOUNTS OF THEIR ROLES (ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAPPEN), AND IT
WAS NOT STEPTOE-EDWARDS WHO AUCTIONED OFF RIGHTS TO THE COUPLE'S
STORY, BUT A BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE COUPLE. STEPTOE
ADVISED THE COUPLE TO DO IT, BUT HE DIDN'T DO IT FOR THEM. THE
HIGHEST BIDDER WAS ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPER GROUP LTD'S SYNDICATION
SERVICE, WHICH IN TURN HAS DEALS WITH FOREIGN BUYERS, THE WHOLE
PACKAGE BEING WORTH A REPORTED REPEAT REPORTED DOLLARS 560,000.

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NOBODY HAS CONFIRMED THAT SUN, ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OWN THE DAILY MAIL AND THE EVENING NEWS. BUT ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS CERTAINLY IS NOT PAYING IT ALL.

SUGGEST MAKE IT READ: THE EXPECTED BIRTH HAS ALREADY TAKEN ON ALL THE TRAPPINGS OF A PRESS CIRCUS. RIGHTS TO THE COUPLE'S STORY AND PICTURES OF THE BABY HAVE BEEN AUCTIONED OFF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER: ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPER GROUP LTD., OWNERS OF THE DAILY MAIL, FOR A REPORTED DOLLARS 560,000 ("TEST TUBE BABY TO BE BORN RICH" SAID ONE HEADLINE). BUT THE DAILY EXPRESS WAS ABLE TO BREAK THE STORY FIRST ETC. "

THERE'S NO CONFIRMATION THAT STEPTOE-EDWARDS ARE TO RECEIVE ANY OF THE MONEY.

10) THE HOSPITAL WILL NOT CONFIRM THAT MRS BROWN IS IN "WARD 3." SAYS SHE IS IN MARRON MATERNITY UNIT. CHANGE THE SECOND GILBERT TO JOHN.

UPDATING AS REQUIRED. WE'RE CHECKING THE HOSPITAL, AND OTHER OLDHAM SOURCES, REGULARLY, AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF A BIRTH THIS WEEKEND.

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