

00STM: LN32/NY NOV 2 78 MSG: FIL

TO: TIME MEDICINE

FROM: LONDON BY: WHITE

SLUG: TEST TUBE BACKLASH TK:2 EOH:

DR. ROBERT EDWARDS ISSUED THIS STATEMENT FROM CAMBRIDGE:

"I WISH TO COMMENT ON REPORTS IN NEWSPAPERS AND ON RADIO REGARDING THE ACTION OF THE BARREN FOUNDATION WITHDRAWING THE HONOUR AWARDED TO MR. PATRICK STEPTOE. I AM ADVISED THAT MANY OF THOSE REPORTS ARE GROSSLY LIBELLOUS OF MYSELF AND MR. STEPTOE, AND I DO NOT WISH TO GIVE FURTHER PUBLICITY TO THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN THEM.

"HOWEVER, I DO WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT BOTH MR. STEPTOE AND MYSELF FULLY INTEND TO GIVE THE FULLEST INFORMATION TO THE MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PRESS. A SHORT ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY MR. STEPTOE AND MYSELF REGARDING THE BIRTH OF THE FIRST TEST TUBE BABY IN THE LANCET (12TH AUGUST 1978) AND A FURTHER REFERENCE WAS MADE IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL (19TH AUGUST 1978).

"AT THIS PRESENT STAGE OF OUR RESEARCHES, WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO PUBLISH A PAPER CONCERNING OUR WORK. IN NO OTHER FIELD WOULD IT BE REGARDED AS NORMAL TO PUBLISH FULL DETAILS AFTER THE FIRST SUCCESS.

"I WISH TO EMPHASISE THAT WE HAVE AT ALL TIMES BEEN TOTALLY FREE TO PUBLISH IN MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND THAT OUR SOLE REASONS FOR NOT DOING SO WERE PROMPTED BY THE NEED TO EVALUATE

PAGE 2 LN32

OUR WORK FULLY.

"WE WILL LAY OUR RESULTS BEFORE THE MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES FOR CRITICAL AND OPEN SCRUTINY AS SOON AS IT IS POSSIBLE HAVING REGARD TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN MEDICAL AFFAIRS. ANY SUGGESTIONS TO THE CONTRARY, AND ANY QUESTIONING OF OUR GOOD FAITH AND COMPETENCE ARE DEEPLY RESENTED AND, I AM ADVISED, ACTIONABLE.

"MR. STEPTOE IS ON HIS WAY TO AUSTRALIA, AND I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT HIM, BUT I AM SURE HE WOULD AGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT."

1708/TAS

ETX:

CC