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Clonavon,
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Bristol BS8 3HT.14th December, 1998

**Mr Richard Tate,
Editor-in-Chief, Independent Television News,
200 Grays Inn Road,
LONDON, WC1.**

Dear Mr Tate,

Ms Joan Shenton has sent me video tapes of the full and abridged Meditel contribution to the programme commissioned by TV Channel 4 for December 1st, World AIDS Day, together with relevant correspondence. As a senior medical adviser to Meditel since 1980, I am writing to express my concern about the decision to alter and then cancel this well-researched contribution in which seven prominent medical scientists participated, including Professor Luc Montagnier who first identified LAV, later renamed HIV, in 1983.

Questions about the causation and transmission of HIV are now urgent because of their relevance to allegations by UN Global AIDS that AIDS is spreading uncontrollably. The scientists whom Ms Shenton included in her short programme were noted experts with published reasons for doubting the current consensus among health professionals and authorities that HIV is identifiable as the exclusive cause of AIDS. In the programme, they claim that HIV has *never* been isolated by recognised virological techniques and that the indirect tests used for diagnosis and surveys of AIDS therefore lack proof of validity.

Those of us who have been involved since 1983 in monitoring AIDS and debating causation are well aware of reasonable doubts about HIV. These doubts await resolution because attempts to open discussion and further investigation are regularly blocked by misinformation from persons with obvious conflicts of interests, who insist that HIV is the exclusive cause of AIDS, that entire populations are already infected and at risk of AIDS.

On previous occasions, Channel 4 with help from Ms Shenton has debated well-informed doubts about the current consensus. This is urgently required in the public interest. Her programme should be revived for unprejudiced presentation without further delay.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Gordon T Stewart,
Former consultant (AIDS) WHO.Cc Messrs Jim Gray and David Lloyd.
Ms Joan Shenton.