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September 16, 1991

Dr. Luc Montagnier
Pasteur Institute
28, Rue du Docteur Roux
75724 Paris, Cedex 15
France

Dear Luc:

I was surprised and disappointed by your letter of September 12th. The talks we had together last week at my annual lab meeting did not lead me to expect it.

In addition, your letter is so vague that it is difficult to understand exactly what you are talking about. You give no specifics.

You wrote in your letter of June 4th: "I regret to decline it [the invitation to give a special lecture at the LTCB lab meeting] to express my discontent about the multiple untrue or incorrect accounts of our past relationship in your book. (...) Unless you retract publicly these false assertions, I do not feel like resuming any kind of good relationship with you."

I informed you in a letter of June 11th that I was going to modify four of the five points you mentioned. My two page letter detailed point by point what changes were to be made. The changes in the proofs Bernard Seytre gave you correspond exactly to the ones I spelled out.

I naturally considered your coming to the lab meeting as a sign that you agreed with the corrections I had made.

You spoke in your last letter of a discussion we had on September 2nd. You called Bernard Seytre on September 9th and he came and met you the following day. You must know that *Chasseur de Virus* is going to be in the bookstores in less than one month. The deadlines can no longer be extended.

However, Bernard Seytre told me that you told him that you wanted two more points corrected: one, p. 212 (U.S. version), about the year in which Robin Weiss gave you a cell line; the other one, p. 157 (U.S. version), about the account by Matthew Gonda of the July 1983 Task Force

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meeting. I must note that you did not mention the first point in your June 4th letter and that the second point was not explicit.

After my publisher informed me that it was possible to make minor last-minute corrections, I decided to modify these two passages, even if they are of no real importance and if I don't think that anybody, except a handful of retrovirologists, will notice the difference. On p. 212 the date will be changed and, in the middle of p. 157, the sentence with your name will be removed, despite the fact that it was a precise truthful quote from Dr. Gonda to my U.S. editor, Ms. Sue Rabiner.

On Friday, September 13th, you told me on the telephone that you wanted one more change to be made, on p. 147 (p. 199 of the French version). I proposed that you speak directly to Bernard Seytre so that you could describe the change you wanted, and I asked him to call you. I regret to learn now that you did not find a way to propose the modification or addition you wanted within the technical constraints of the printer and eventually declined my offer.

I note that, in a book of 400 pages, there are in fact few points you have objected to--and none of them concerning facts of importance.

The controversies in AIDS research have lasted much too long and must stop. They only deter the progress of our research. In agreeing to modify passages in my book according to your objections--and I have now done it twice--I am making a real effort to end the disputes and ill-feelings between us. I wish you would make a similar effort in kind.

I learn that we are going to be together on a TV program and on a story for L'Espresso. I am glad of this opportunity.

I am patiently awaiting your public correction of the truly serious defamation of my name made by you in *LePoint* and in *LeMonde*. As we agreed, this would be done as soon as possible. For proper relations, obviously it should occur before the end of this month (September) because I will begin visits to France in early October.

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Gallo, M.D.

xc:
Mr. Ronsac
Mr. Seytre
Dr. J.-C. Chermann
Ms. Rabiner