

know the results of my own experiment and to be treated in this way. Over the next few days I felt tremendous pain in my stomach for the first time in my life and I could not eat anything.

Two weeks after Siminovitch's attack on me I drafted a letter to the MRC of Canada asking whether they could set up a committee to investigate the matter. I showed this letter to Siminovitch and explained my intentions. He told me, "Don't waste your time. It won't reach a committee. I will call the MRC secretary right now." I went ahead and sent the letter. A few days later I received a letter from MRC saying that my Centennial fellowship which was supposed to start in June 1978 would not be activated but no reason was given. Moreover, there was no mention of my request for open investigation by an MRC committee.

In June 1978 I left Canada and returned to my homeland Greece. I asked the University of Toronto for an open investigation. I never got an answer. I also asked the Committee for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility of Science to do the same. They were willing to help but I had to get all the evidence to defend myself against Siminovitch's accusations. This was an impossible task for me at that time since there was nothing written down. I sent an open letter to several hundred scientists all over the world stating the facts about the Siminovitch affair. I had a great response and I was told that several scientists protested to the MRC of Canada. As the result of the international pressure I assume that the MRC of Canada reconsidered its view and, contrary to Siminovitch's wishes, reactivated the Centennial fellowship that had been awarded to me a few months earlier. At the same time I applied to the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) for a fellowship which they awarded to me. I eventually opted for the Centennial fellowship which I took up at the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research in Glasgow, Scotland. Later on my support came from the Cancer Research Campaign of Great Britain. I am very thankful to this organisation who enabled me to continue my work in cancer and oncogenes in particular. Although, due to the circumstances, I have lost a lot of ground in this fast moving field, I hope I have made some additional contributions to cancer research.

Finally, I should say a few words about Siminovitch himself. What do I think of him? During the two years of my stay in his lab he definitely was there only for a small percentage of the time, one or, at most, two hours a day for a few days a week. At that time he would stay in his office talking to a visitor or somebody else from the Department or the lab. There were postdocs in his lab for more than a year whom he had never talked to or asked what they were doing. He wanted us to know that what he believed was right. He was thirsty for power. Once he told me, "I do not understand Angus (Graham). Although he could have a lot of power in Canada he doesn't want it." Graham and Siminovitch were thought to be the two top men in biomedical research in Canada at that time. Another important difference between the two men was that Siminovitch made instant decisions, many of which turned out later to be wrong, whereas Graham was always saying, "Let me ponder about it", and came later with the right decision.

I am still confused and perplexed about the motives of Louis Siminovitch. It is a fact that he attacked me in a cruel and ruthless manner at the time he realized I was interested in leaving his lab for institutions of higher achievement. It is, however, possible that Siminovitch made a mistake in his judgment and, having acted in a certain way, he found it impossible to investigate and reconsider his views.