

Question 47: *Were microbiology analyses done using the samples used for the alcohol analysis?*

No, because all the data available to the expert (including the alcohol concentrations in the vitreous humour and the urine close to the blood concentrations) did not warrant it in any way. **Cf. Q. 48.**

Question 48: *Was there anything that might lead you to think that the alcohol results might reflect microbial overgrowth of the sample or contamination of the sample? (For example, contamination from alcohol in the gut either by diffusion or by direct contamination?)*

1. The possibility of the presence of alcohol from microbial overgrowth

a) The very short period between the taking of the sample and analysis

- The car crash in which Mr Henri PAUL died occurred on Sunday 31 August 1997 at around 0030hrs and his autopsy took place that same morning at around 0900hrs at the Paris Institute of Forensic Medicine (IML), conducted by Prof. Dr. Lecomte.
- Prof. Dr. Ricordel, professor of medicine at the Val-de Grâce, a member of the National Pharmacy Academy, a director of the Toxicology Laboratory of the Paris Prefecture of Police, was summoned by fax early in the morning of 1 September 1997 by Monsieur Bernard PAGES, the Prosecutor at Paris Regional Court, in order to carry out a blood analysis for ethanol on the driver of the vehicle involved, the victim of a fatal road traffic accident. Prof. Ricordel gave his results on the actual morning of 1 September 1997. The analyses were carried out successively at 0944hrs and 0952hrs.

Cf. attached document: copy of the expert's report by Prof. Dr. Ricordel.

- Mr Al Fayed, having been informed of the results by the Public Prosecutor, immediately challenged them through his lawyer. It was then decided to carry out further tests.
- I was appointed by Prosecutor Bernard PAGES to do a control analysis late in the morning that same day on a second container of blood taken during the autopsy carried out by Prof. Dr. Lecomte the previous day. The summons reached me by fax on Monday 1 September 1997 at 1138hrs. The container of blood was collected by me from the IML at around 1230hrs and I arrived at the lab at about 1300hrs. This blood was analysed at the Toxlab laboratory at 1319hrs and 1348hrs, still on 1 September 1997, and the results were telephoned through to and faxed to the Public Prosecutor at 1400hrs.

Consequently, the time delays of a few hours (36 hours) between the road traffic accident, the autopsy, the first analyses and the control analyses, as well as the similar blood alcohol values in the expert's analysis and the second expert's analysis – a result which was passed to me after I gave my own results – did not give grounds to suspect any state of putrefaction in the blood samples.

- b. Organoleptic features of the blood:

The organoleptic characteristics of the blood: colour, texture and smell, indicated non-putrefied blood in a very good state of conservation.