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This progress report outlines the "state of the art" of our work on tobacco root culture. We have established that it is technically feasible to produce a nicotine-rich tobacco-based material. It is equally obvious, however, that there are many problems to be investigated and overcome before we can begin to talk in terms of a commercially viable process.

Nevertheless, we think it is time we began to consider more directly the commercial application of this work, and in the next few weeks we will be producing a separate note on this aspect.

As you know, we could buy a survey from the GFM Organisation (Frankfurt) of the future possibilities for the commercial production of botanic material by plant-tissue or plant-cell suspension cultures. Our friends at Battelle have not made any adverse comments on the capabilities of GFM, and Hamburg will be sending me any comments they have by the end of this month. The survey would cost £4-5,000 and, again in the next few weeks, we can raise with you our views on whether or not we think it would be a good buy.

*No circulated
to AD-4/30/75
cannot patent applied to*

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