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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

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Telephone 01-407 5522 ext

GRO-C

8 November 1984

Dr R S Lane
Director
Blood Products Laboratory
Dagger Lane
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Hertfordshire WD6 3BX

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your letter of 12 October sent after we had discussed the problem of the transmission of AIDS in blood products. I regret not having been able to reply before this but I have been abroad on an official visit to China and Hong Kong.

The points you have made in your letter will be among those which I expect the AIDS Advisory Group to discuss at their meeting on 27 November. As far as your proposal to heat treat Factor VIII is concerned I would hope that you would bring this to the attention of the Advisory Group who might wish to consider if the evidence for inactivation of HTLV III by heat is sufficient to warrant taking this step, particularly if a screening test can be made available. There may also be implications for the adequacy of the proposed plasma supply if heat treatment affects the yield of the Factor VIII harvested which both the CBLA and the Department would need to have clarified. I trust that you will furnish both the Department and the CBLA with full details of this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

E L Harris
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

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