

~~SECRET~~
Mr Reed
for information

GRO-C

2.10.

WFSW.

From: Dr E L Harris (MED 3)

Date: 2 October 1987

Mr Hart (NHSMB OPs)

Copies: Mr McKeever (PS/CE NHSMB)
Dr Lewis (PS/CMO)
Dr Smithies (MED SB)
Mr Cashman (HS)
Mr Merifield (FRL)
Dr Wynyard (MED MPO)
Mr M Harris (HS1)
Dr R Moore (HS1A)

MAC,

Who is
doing what?

SHORTAGES OF BLOOD

You are aware of the leading article by Dr Cash in the BMJ of 12 September and my response the following week. Since then I have had a telephone call from a haematologist at St Lukes Hospital, Guildford, stating they have had to cancel surgical lists because the S W Thames Blood Transfusion Service for the two South Thames RHAs under Dr Keith Rogers has not been able to supply blood. In this week's MBJ a surgical registrar at Frimley Park Hospital confirms the difficulty of getting blood and alleges that a patient bled to death because blood for her had to be used on a younger patient. The Guardian and Times have picked this up in today's issues.

2. It is true that the supply of blood by the S W Thames Regional Transfusion Centre has given cause for concern for some time now and that the RHA's have not been able to solve the problem. I believe that the Department needs to force the Regions to take urgent remedial action now.

GRO-C

DR E HARRIS

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