

AIDS: HOUSE OF LORDS Pg 14 JULY

1. We spoke about your minute of 16 July when you asked for a fairly full draft letter to Baroness Masham. I understand Miss Edwards is replying separately about Baroness Gardner's supplementary question and you may wish to use her material to expand on my draft, attached. I have not made reference to the AIDS leaflet since this was covered in Lord Glenarthur's reply to Baroness Dudley; and since I would suggest we say no more until Ministers have had an opportunity to comment on the second submission which I am aiming to get to you by the end of the week.

2. I am also enclosing a background note, prepared by Dr Walford, on cryoprecipitate.

GRO-C

J A PARKER
HS1
Room 1209
Han House
Ext GPO C

26 July 1983

ENC S

cc Miss Edwards
Dr Walford
Dr Sibellas
Mr Green

GRO-C

GRO-C

GRO-C

CONTRIBUTION TO REPLY TO BARONESS WASHAM

I should emphasise that there is no conclusive proof that AIDS can be transmitted by blood, cryoprecipitate or Factor VIII concentrates. While no cryoprecipitate for therapeutic use is imported into this country, we are at present dependent on imports from the USA for about half our requirements of Factor VIII for the treatment of haemophilia.

My officials have been in close touch with the Haemophilia Society about the AIDS problem and we are all very grateful to them for the constructive and responsible attitude they have taken. Naturally this is a matter of great concern to them; but they did not support the cries from some quarters to ban the import of Factor VIII because they accepted that the possible risks of infection from AIDS must be balanced against the obvious risk of not having enough Factor VIII essential to their treatment. You will, however, be interested to know that I have arranged to meet the Society on 8 September to hear, at first hand, some of the problems they are facing. One of the topics I am sure they will wish to discuss is progress on the new Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree which, when completed in three years time at a cost of £21 million, will be capable of making this country self-sufficient in blood products. Meanwhile, we have confirmed with American manufacturers that future supplies of Factor VIII for this country will be manufactured only from plasma collected in accordance with US Food and Drug Administration regulations introduced in March this year. These were designed to exclude from plasma donation, donors from high risk groups.

94C
BACKGROUND - Prepared by Dr Walford.

CRYOPRECIPITATE

Cryoprecipitate is a crude extract of Factor VIII and other proteins which is made by freezing human plasma followed by thawing. After the plasma is thawed, a precipitate is left which contains much of the Factor VIII activity of the original plasma, together with other protein "impurities". In the manufacture of Factor VIII concentrates, cryoprecipitate is used as the starting material and is then subjected to a series of further purification steps, depending on the level of purity which is desired, to remove the contaminating proteins.