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Nick Fahy
International Relations Unit
The Department of Health

By fax

Dear Nick,

RHONE-POULENC RORER

1. Thank you for replying to my request for background for my meeting with representatives of Rhone-Poulenc Rorer about blood and blood products. In fact your note of 26 May was not received here until mid-morning today, after the meeting had taken place.
2. For the record, none of the issues of potential controversy mentioned in your note cropped up. I made it clear that UKREP were not the experts and we stuck to discussion of Council reactions to the Commission's recent communication. I used the lines in the briefing for the Health Council. We did not discuss domestic policy.
3. One specific question arose to which I was not able to respond. The French and Belgian Governments have apparently introduced legislation which prohibits the sale of derived blood products which have as their base blood or plasma that has not been voluntarily donated. Did we think that this was compatible with the 1989 directive on blood products?
4. I suggested that this and other technical questions should be addressed to Dr Rejman.

V
GWS

GRO-C

Angus Dwyer