

Mr Harley

BLOOD PRODUCTS: COMMERCIAL INVOLVEMENT

X/ 1. I understand that Beechams, like Travenol and others, are interested in taking over BPL because they want to set up in this country a wider import/export business in blood products. In the past I have been led to believe - I do not know with what justification - that the enthusiasm of foreign firms for setting up such a business in this country is that we do not have the same tight legal and other controls over blood product manufacture as do other countries; and that this is because that manufacture has been a public sector monopoly.

2. If the above is correct, we should in my view consider whether any commercial activity would justify or require the introduction of controls similar to those obtaining in other countries. Perhaps you already have this in hand, but if not I should be grateful if you would put it so.

3. At some stage Beechams would have to be warned.

GRO-C

3 September 1980

P J WORMALD

cc: Mr Hart  
Mr Williams  
Dr Oliver  
Dr Walford

cc JBB ✓

Dr Griffiths

Are you able to agree that the Medicines Act, if applied (as it must) to any commercially-produced blood products, should provide sufficient safeguards in relation to X above?

GRO-C

GRO C

8/9/80

copy to Mr Williams  
Dr Halgall  
Mr Baker  
Mr Chambers.