

*I understand that the
suggested reply reflects
legal advice. I am*

1. Mr Dobson *sure we should say
no more at this*
2. Parly *stage*

GRO-C

8.

From : J Canavan EHF1A

Date : 8 January 1991

File : LIE 16 GEB 16

cc: Mr Powell SOLB3

Dr Rejman MEDISP

Mr Tyrrell AIDS Unit

PQ614

1. I attach a suggested reply. The Secretary of State's 11 December statement did not include the details of the proposed settlement, since these were still to be considered by the plaintiffs and, in the case of minors, the court. That consideration is still underway, therefore at this stage it would be best not to give further details.

2. We understand that more detailed information has already appeared in the media and that this has caused some upset to some plaintiffs. We would not wish to exacerbate sensitivity of feelings over this matter.

3. The current position is that the detailed provisions of the agreement are still under discussion with the plaintiffs' lawyers. By the middle of the month we expect to have some feedback through Counsel on the reaction of plaintiffs in England and Wales. Before a settlement could be reached, individuals would need to sign away litigation rights and formally accept the offer. Therefore we are unlikely to know the outcome before mid February at the earliest.

GRO-C

J CANAVAN