Dr. D. Welford,
Principal Medical Officer,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Hannibal House,
Elephant and Castle,
London SE1 6TE.

17th May, 1983

Dear Dr. Welford,

Following the meeting of the Haemophilia Reference Centre Directors on Friday last, 13th May, there is one outstanding point which I do not think was finally cleared. This refers to the possibility that some of the American factor VIII manufacturers may consider it advantageous to export products which were made from plasma collected before March 24th rather than retain them for domestic use. You are no doubt aware that on that date the American Food and Drug Administration circulated all American establishments collecting source plasma giving revised guidelines for collecting plasma with regard to AIDS. I have some misgivings concerning the possibility that stocks held by the manufacturers and source plasma collected before that date will be preferentially exported. Whilst I do not wish to overstate the risk from imported American factor VIII concentrates, nevertheless I think that Haemophilia Centre Directors would wish to be reassured that factor VIII concentrates imported are at least up to the standards recommended for use in the U.S.A. I was glad to learn therefore that you intend to take this up with the Medicines Division and I hope that it will be possible rapidly to vary the Product Licence for relevant imported products to take account of these recent developments.

Yours sincerely,

A.L. Bloom
Chairman,
U.K. Haemophilia Centre Directors.

c.c. Dr. J. Holgate
Dr. C.R. Rizza