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CONFIDENTIAL



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

cc Mr Rogers
 Mrs Crofton
 Miss Dempster
 Mr Hapfield
 Mr Cashman
 Dr Smithies
 Mr Barton
 Dr Moore

Tony Newton Esq OBE MP
 Minister of State
 Department of Health and Social Security
 Alexander Fleming House
 Elephant and Castle
 London
 SE1 6BY

2 November 1987

Dear Tony,

COMPENSATION FOR HAEMOPHILIACS

I have seen your minute to the Prime Minister concerning your engagement with John Moore to meet a delegation from the Haemophilia Society tomorrow.

I have to say that, although in terms of equity there might seem to be some gains to be made from a positive response, it would seem to have very real dangers. How could such a precedent be ring-fenced? It could lead to an open-ended commitment of huge dimensions. Might it not give rise to court action against the Government because of the implication of negligence? Have the law officers given a view on the possible consequences of a sympathetic response? I do not feel that we can afford to offer such a response until the pros and cons have been thoroughly considered.

I therefore suggest that you and John Moore should listen only at this stage, and that the most you should say is that you will consider the points made by the Society, with no implication that the Government will take action.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and members of H(A).

GRO-C

JOHN MAJOR