

CONFIDENTIAL

PS/Secretary of State

Copy to: PS/Mr Forsyth
PS/US of S
PS/SHHD
CMO
Miss Cox
Mr Morison
Mr Boe, Solicitor's Office
Mr Scott
Mr Stevenson
Mr Macniven
Mr Robertson, SOFD 5

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AIDS: STATEMENT ON SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HAEMOPHILIACS

1. Further to my minute of 11 November, we have today received from DHSS the attached text of the statement which the Secretary of State for Social Services proposes to make on behalf of the Government on Monday. The text makes clear that the grant to the Haemophilia Society from the contingency reserve is being made available to enable the Society to establish a special trust fund from which to provide help tailored to the particular needs of haemophiliacs and their families throughout the United Kingdom. The details of the grant and trust fund have yet to be settled, and the text promises an exchange of letters with the Society in due course. We shall ensure that the letters on behalf of the Government make it clear that Scottish haemophiliacs are to receive support consistent with the support received by those who live elsewhere.

2. In his minute of 11 November, PS/Mr Forsyth recorded Mr Forsyth's inquiry as to how the proposal for a grant would help with the problem of mortgage protection policies etc. The existence of the trust fund will not of course make it easier for infected haemophiliacs to obtain life assurance cover or mortgage protection, because they will remain, in the view of life insurance companies, uninsurable risks; but the fund will ensure that there is some financial support for those who, because of the combination of their haemophilia and their HIV infection, find themselves in extreme financial difficulties. There may be pressure in due course for further financial support from the Government to haemophiliacs, but for the present it seems that the Haemophilia Society have gratefully accepted the not insubstantial sum which the Government are making available.

C M A LUGTON
13 November 1987

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