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Dr Geffen

ADVISORY GROUP ON HEPATITIS

Dr Harris and I discussed this matter with CMO last week. It was agreed that the numerous problems arising in relation to hepatitis need to be brought together into one Advisory Group on Hepatitis rather than be dealt with in a scattered fashion by various ad hoc groups. The advisory group should take the form of other major infectious disease advisory groups such as that on lassa fever and rabies, ie it should meet once or twice to consider the major problems at present facing us but then be convened only as the work demands. The terms of reference should be wide enough to cover medical advice on all aspects of communicable hepatitis. In particular the specialist advice needed by blood transfusion experts - for example on what kind of test it is best to use - would certainly fall to the new advisory group even though in practice such highly specialized questions might be remitted to special groups.

Could you and colleagues please prepare a note so that CMO can tell Ministers what is proposed? One point which might be mentioned is that Sir Robert Williams (whose dental report has proved so helpful) will be available this year but possibly not thereafter.

GRO-C

13 February 1980

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