

RECEIVED IN  
OFFICE OF THE  
13 DEC 1984  
PARLIAMENTARY  
SECRETARY

*Jim*



Travenol Laboratories Ltd.,  
Thorpe Lea Manor,  
Thorpe Lea Road, Egham, Surrey,  
TW20 8HY  
Telephone: Egham (0784) 34388  
Telex: 916376 travuk g

AWB/AJN/00316

7th December, 1984

14 DEC 1984  
CORRESPONDENCE  
PRIVATE OFFICE

The Lord Glenarthur,  
Joint Parliamentary Under  
Secretary of State,  
Department of Health & Social Security,  
Alexander Fleming House,  
Elephant & Castle,  
London. SE1 6BY

Dear Lord Glenarthur,

I wrote to you a little while ago, and we had a brief chat when we met at the Carlton Club, concerning the issue of self-sufficiency in Britain for the supply of blood products. Since that time there has been a great deal of publicity about the cases of AIDS, both in Australia and in this country.

I write again merely to emphasise that over the years myself and other senior colleagues in the Company, in meetings with Directors of Blood Transfusion Services and Advisers to the Department of Health on transfusion have sought to raise the feeling of urgency about risks such as AIDS, and on a number of occasions we have offered to make greater haste in the provision of heat treated factor VIII concentrate on an importation basis, but more importantly, we have offered every conceivable supportive measure we could think of to accelerate the introduction of newer methods of blood collection and processing to assist the Transfusion Service and the Central Blood Products Laboratory to move to self-sufficiency.

We remain willing to take up discussions which could include collaboration and possible technology transfer on heat treatment processes and other means whereby blood fractions may be made safer for the patient. Travenol is also involved through a joint venture with a genetic engineering company, in the development of pure factor VIII concentrates. This work may well be parallel with that which has been reported in the press recently by the team at the Royal Free Hospital in London, but it may be at a time like this, the dialogue at the right level and a full and frank exchange of information on research efforts and prospects, could be helpful.

/Cont'd...

Registered Office:  
Caxton Way, Thetford, Norfolk  
Registered in England No. 461365

- 2 -

Additionally, Travenol Laboratories is one of the companies which, through its subsidiary Clinical Assays - Genentec, has developed a test for HTLV-3 virus, now thought to be the causative agent of AIDS. It also strikes me that the availability of this test may be of particular interest to those concerned with this problem. It is not yet commercially available but I feel sure discussions could be opened up with appropriate technical groups within the B.T.S. and N.H.S.

A final point. It is my belief that if Regional Health Authorities provide the funds for the transfusion service, to purchase the kinds of blood packs that Dr. Lane and his team at the Blood Products Laboratory in Elstree can efficiently process, then the yield of British made blood products can be rapidly increased. Over time, we would all expect genetically engineered products to become available, and for this reason, I would suggest that proposals to invest heavily in automated equipment to intensify plasmapheresis programmes, is likely to be a far less cost-effective alternative than a more rapid move toward the support of Dr. Lane's work using the newer blood packs which have been developed in the last few years. I repeat, doing this does impact the revenue budgets of Health Authorities. They need to spend more on blood packs immediately to gain more speed towards self-sufficiency over time.

If it is possible for properly qualified members of the staff of Travenol to become involved in discussions about any of these issues, and contribute constructively as the Transfusion Service, and the Department of Health seek solutions to current problems, I can arrange this.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

A.W. Barrell