

GEB 5

Miss Gordon  
PO (PS(H))

From: J Canavan EHF1A

Date: 15 January 1991

cc: Dr Rejman MedISP  
Dr Purves MCA

*File*

You asked for advice on the request from Armour Pharmaceuticals for a meeting with Minister.

If there were to be such a meeting it might be more appropriate for PS(L) to hold it as she has responsibility for blood products and services. However we do not see any need for Ministers to meet the Company at this time.

The EC Directive to which Armour refer includes mention that the 'Community entirely supports the efforts of the Council of Europe to promote voluntary unpaid blood and plasma donation to attain self sufficiency throughout the Community in the supply of blood products'. This is a statement of the desirable position but it was recognised that it would not be reached in the near future. The Directive does not forbid the import of blood products from US companies such as Armour which use plasma from paid donors. Any new steps to achieve Community self sufficiency would require new discussion within the EC machinery and consultations with the interested parties. We are not aware of any discussions and it is unlikely that any would be planned in the near future taking into account the pressures on other issues in the EC.

At this time, therefore, we think it would be sufficient for Minister to write to the Company setting out the position but offering a meeting with officials if they think that would be useful.

GRO-C

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