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Miss Harris

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Dr Harris

cc: Dr Field
Miss Edwards
Dr Graveney
Dr Sibellas

BRITISH PLASMA-DERIVED VACCINE AGAINST HEPTATIS B

I have a few questions arising on Dr Field's submission, on which I think Ministers might like to know the answers:-

First, (1) How much has British Technology Group contributed?

(2) Does any income to the UK (eg in the form of licence fees or royalties) arise, or could it arise, from the Dutch exploitation of the genetic engineering techniques developed at Edinburgh? This might influence Ministers' views on going all out for a British product.

I agree that a review of the kind proposed is highly desirable (and a full report from PHLS). Will it cost us anything?

There seem to have been transactions between the London School and CAMR of which we have not been kept fully informed. Can this be right, when we are, in effect, funding both ends of the operation? I wonder if you are wholly satisfied with the arrangements for our supervision of this project and the conduct of the parties.

GRO-C

T E NODDER
D802 AFH

1 September 1983



Dr Field O/R

BRITISH PLASMA-DERIVED VACCINE AGAINST HEPATITIS B

Re your minute of 31 August I have given the suggestion of a submission to Ministers on this topic very careful thought, and in your absence have consulted Dr Sibellas, Professor Cole and Dr Graveney. My conclusion is that we are not ready for a submission to Ministers. As I see the situation -

- (i) you have written to the Director of the PHLS for a detailed report of the progress with the vaccine by Professor Malling at CAMR;
- (ii) the Advisory Committee on Hepatitis under the chairmanship of Sir Robert Williams meet on 18 October. At this meeting Professor Zuckerman has been asked to produce a progress report on his research. Dr Sibellas will be writing to Professor Zuckerman asking him for a written report. When Sir Robert's Committee have considered the subject they will be able to report to the Department.

In view of the above any submission would be premature.

The way forward is for me to call a meeting on 28 October with the object of deciding whether or not the Department should continue to give support to the development of the Professor Zuckerman vaccine in the light of new vaccine research in the Netherlands and Japan and the identification of AIDS as a possible consequence of a plasma-derived product.

At this meeting three documents will be required:

- (1) A history of the project to date;
- (2) Professor Zuckerman's status report on his research;
- (3) Dr Whitehead's report of the transfer of the technology to CAMR and the results of their efforts.

The people to be invited to the meeting on the 28th, apart from appropriate administrative colleagues, are from OCS Professor Cole and Dr Graveney, from PHLS Dr Whitehead and anyone else he wishes to bring along with him, from NIBSC Dr J Smith and Dr G Schild^{and} Dr J Holgate, Dr Walford and Sir Robert Williams. It has been agreed that Dr Sibellas and Dr Graveney will make the necessary administrative arrangements.

GRO-C

1 September 1983

E L Harris

c.c. Mr Nodder
Professor Cole
Mrs Firth
Miss Edwards
Dr Sibellas
Dr Graveney