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7th June 1978

Dr A E Bell
Scottish Home and Health Department
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DE

Dear Bert

PROCESS OF PLASMA FOR DHSS : SPFS BATCHES P(E)575 AND P(E)576

We have now completed the processing of approximately 4 000 litres of plasma received from Elstree and have been able to calculate the yield data for three complete batches. These yielded at the stage prior to final dispensing 24.7, 25.2 and 25.7 g/litre of plasma of SPFS-like protein. These yields are lower than obtained from NBTS plasma which is usually in the range of 30-31 g/litre. There are also slightly lower levels of purity than normally experienced with the Scottish product. These differences are almost certainly due to the fact that the Scottish product is prepared from a mixture of fresh frozen plasma and early out-dated plasma held frozen at -40° whilst I understand from Dr Lane that the NBTS material could have been held liquid for much longer.

It is difficult to foretell if we can do much to increase the yield from this material but we believe that we can alter the chemistry at the fraction II + III stage to improve the purity.

One/

Dr A E Bell

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One effect of this programme has been that we now have 690 units of SPFS labelled as agreed with Mr Vallet and packaged ready to dispatch. The original arrangement, which I have never seen in writing, is that we should send this to DHSS stores in Bristol. The route and means have not been stated. At present each pallet costs us £0.35 per week in demurrage charges. Could you please advise me on what to do with it now?

I have attempted with my staff to rearrange work-schedules at PFC to increase production to 1 500 litres of plasma processed per week to allow space for 500 litres for DHSS plasma processing without recourse to shift-working. Despite the confidence which you will recall was displayed by my section managers at our last meeting together this attempt has failed since the best production level reached was 1 250 litres and that on one week only. Consequently I have decided that we restrict activities to SNBTS plasma pro temp. In the meantime the shift-working saga, now in its eleventh year, has entered a new and (perhaps) more hopeful stage.

I enclose two copies of each of the batch summaries for the first two complete batches of "English" product. You may care to send one copy to Dr Waiter in due course.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

JOHN G WATT
Scientific Director

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c.c. Mr L Vallet