

M' Macpherson/ GRO-C 29/8

Copies to Dr Swift

Dr Young

Dr McIntyre

M' Davies

M' Hoy SIO

AIDS

A draft DHSS Press Release (copy attached) arrived by telex this morning.

I had Mr Rockhart with me at the time and had on the heels of the telex Mr Neep took a message from DHSS to the effect that M' Patten would not in fact be making an announcement today; and that they would keep us in touch.

Clearly we need to consider the possibility of a statement by M' Mackay (or perhaps go for association with any statement by DHSS?); views on this would be helpful.

I have not myself spoken to DHSS but I imagine that all this is reaction to recent statements by Professor Julian Peto and others, to the effect that not enough is being done.

E.R.65B

GRO-C

29/8/85

(S.M. LIDDLE)