

John Maples M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

2nd November, 1983

Kenneth Clarke Esq MP  
Minister of State  
Department of Health and Social Security  
Alexander Fleming House  
Elephant and Castle  
London SE1

Dear Kenneth,

Mr GRO-A, GRO-A London GRO-A

Mr GRO-A is a constituent of mine who came to see me. He suffers from Haemophilia and as a result has to have regular blood transfusions. He is very concerned about the spread of AIDS, particularly as apparently the United Kingdom imports most of its blood products from the United States. The particular ingredient which he requires, "Factor 8", the clotting factor, is I understand imported mainly from Alpha Therapeutic Corporation in California. As you know, there has been a serious spread of the AIDS problem in the United States and it can be passed on by blood transfusions.

Mr GRO-A tells me that another Haemophiliac, one GRO-A, recently died of AIDS which he acquired from a foreign blood product.

This seems to me to be a very serious problem, and I should be grateful if you could let me know what action the DHSS is taking to make sure that AIDS is not imported into the United Kingdom with foreign blood products. Is there any way of synthesising these products and is there any programme to ensure that the United Kingdom is self-sufficient in blood products at some foreseeable time in the future?

I enclose some copies of newspaper articles which Mr GRO-A gave me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever,

GRO-C