

4/244

cc. Dr. Walford
Mr Cummingcopy
Mr. Packer
Mr. Winstone
m.

Sibellas

2532

12A.

(EUROPEAN) PARTIAL AGREEMENT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE: INTEREST IN
ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

At the last meeting of the Committee the Dutch raised this issue, expressing particular concern about the matter in view of their importation of blood products from the USA. The Dutch proposed that 'AIDS' should be included as a permanent topic on the agenda of the Partial Agreement Public Health Committee to allow a regular exchange of information on the condition between the Member States. I pointed out that the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology had already decided to undertake a study of this from the point of view of risk to the European populations, and the WHO European Regional Office has already decided apparently on an ad hoc consultation on the 'surveillance, diagnosis, problem, follow-up and research of 'AIDS' in Europe'. As all the Member States of the Partial Agreement are also members of both these other groups, it seemed to me that it was duplication to consider the matter in a third European forum. Unfortunately, all the other members of the Partial Agreement disagreed with me, so 'AIDS' will become a regular topic.

In the first instance, Member States of the Partial Agreement are being asked to produce a national note setting out the current position within their own country (in our case the UK) on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, including any epidemiological data and information arising from consideration within the individual blood transfusion services. Each Member State will be required to submit this memorandum by 31 August 1983.

I thought I would alert you to this straightaway, so that you can start collecting information on the UK picture, and particularly so that you can start co-ordination with our colleagues on the blood transfusion side. This will probably give you a few weeks start over the official request.

GRO-C

DR IAN T FIELD
Med. IMCD
AFH C716
Ext. GRO-C

28 April 1983