

29/1/76

Dr Waiter

cc Dr Maycock
Dr Holgate
Mr Tringham
Mr John
Mr Dutton

Dr McIntyre, SHHD
Major General Jeffrey, SHHD
Dr Raison

AHG : FACTOR VIII

1. At Minister's meeting yesterday, to discuss the Armour Co. application for a product licence for "Factorate", Minister expressed considerable concern on two points:-

- (a) that there should be the maximum co-operation between all concerned in Scotland and England with the production at Elstree and Liberton of AHG;
- (b) that the qualities and presentation of the NBTS products must be such that they are equally as acceptable to clinicians as are the (imported) commercial preparations - particularly Hemofil, as being the product most firmly established. In this connection there was discussion on points such as relative volumes and solubility, critical to their use for injection as well as infusion.

On both these points Minister wishes to have a report within a few weeks.

2. You subsequently agreed to see if you could arrange to pursue the latter urgently, as Minister was anxious that if any changes were necessary they should be implemented as soon as possible. On the first, I know Mr Dutton hopes to visit Liberton, with his SHHD colleague, in the fairly near future. I understand from Mr Dutton that after we left the Regional Transfusion Directors' meeting (to attend Minister) they discussed the distribution arrangements for the Elstree AHG and agreed to set up a small Working Party with representatives of the RTDs and Haemophilia Centre Directors. It could well be that this group, suitably enlarged, could widen their consideration to include the aspects of concern to the Minister, eg presentation, characteristics (particularly suitability for injection), and also mutual co-operation with Liberton over supplies of plasma and of the finished product. (Minister was anxious that production should be encouraged on an optimum GB basis).

3. I think we should meet on all this with Dr Maycock and representatives from Scotland when you and the other recipients concerned have had time to consider the various aspects. Perhaps Mr Dutton could arrange for this in two or three weeks time.

GRO-C

M W Draper
HS2B

22 January 1976

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