



1. Mr Green to see 12^A
2. BLF 17

~~IN CONFIDENCE~~

not necessary 2/7

Dr Griffin
Mr Williams

ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF WHOLE BLOOD INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

At a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the National Blood Transfusion Service yesterday, Dr John Cash Director of the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service, made the allegation that blood for use in patients was being imported from Southern Ireland. As Chairman of that Committee I undertook to inform Medicines Division and our Inspectorate of this and stated that we would investigate the matter.

I need not emphasise the importance we attach to stamping out the illegal importation of blood into this country. Ministers hold very strong views on this matter and recently Mr Kenneth Clarke stated to a meeting with the Private Sector Liaison Committee that the Department would not tolerate the importation of blood.

Would you please pursue this as a matter of urgency. Publicity about blood could break at any time because of the Police investigation of activities both at the National Heart Hospital and at the Edgeware Blood Transfusion Service.

GRO-C

16 September 1982

E L Harris

c.c. Dr Holgate
Mr J B Brown
Mr Harley
Mr Godfrey ←