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JDC's Report

Harper's Bank

DMcI/EP

14th June 1990

Mr J T Donald
General Manager
CSA

Dear Jim

SELF SUFFICIENCY

As asked for, the following is a broad definition that fits in with current European understanding of the term and also SNBTS thinking.

*** Self-sufficiency in blood and blood products**

The satisfaction of the appropriate clinical demands of a population for human blood and blood products, by the provision of sufficient quantities of suitable quality derived from within that population.

This is a "pure" definition and contains no comment about cost effectiveness. If some products are simply not worth producing from within your own population (e.g. too small a volume and too high a cost; good, safe, cheap alternative products available from elsewhere) you would decide not to be 100% self-sufficient across the whole range of products.

When we say "self-sufficient" we normally really mean self-sufficient in whole blood, its immediate fresh and cellular components, albuminoids, factors VIII and IX, and the main immunoglobulin preparations - our current "core products". This list is certain to grow. You know about fibrin glue, anti-thrombin III, alpha-1-antitrypsin and haemoglobin. Factor VIIa and hyperimmune immunoglobulins directed against microbial infections are other examples.

As you know there are strong views in many quarters about the epidemiological importance of self-sufficiency. Countries with low prevalence of viruses among their populations are normally anxious to keep blood and blood products "in the family" and certainly not to import from areas where the prevalence is significantly higher.

Self-sufficiency is of course by no means a steady state - and as you know we are experiencing major new demands in terms of the quality of existing core products - notably the clotting factors. We shall almost certainly always need to run pretty fast just to stand still.

Clearly, our own decisions about self-sufficiency in Scotland for non-core products will depend on a careful weighing up of the factors involved -

* safety	* efficacy	* accessibility
* security of supply	* strategic issues	
* stock requirements	* cost	* others (politics, PR)

Yours sincerely