8A 32A

Mr Draper.

GR O-C 27.1.76.

MINISTER OF STATE (HEALTH) MEETING NOTE NO 13/75

SUBJECT : FACTOR VIII PRODUCT LICENSE - HAEMOPHILIA

DATE : 21 JANUARY 1976

PRESENT : Dr Owen
Mr Draper
Mr John
Mr Tringham
Dr Andrews
Dr Waiter

1. The meeting had been called at Dr Owen's request following his consideration of a submission about an application from Armour Pharmaceutical Company to supply Factor VIII to haemophilia centres.

2. In discussion, the following points were made:-

i. The price being quoted by Armour Pharmaceuticals was 8p per unit which compared with 10p and 12p from other sources. If a license was granted, no quantity would be specified and the Haemophilia Centres are free to go to anyone of the approved suppliers.

ii. Even though this product was cheaper, it would not necessarily be favoured by doctors because of the fact that as it had a lower solubility than Haemophil it could not be injected but would have to be infused, which represented in itself an additional overall cost. Solubility was one of the essential criteria that had to be satisfied if the medical profession were to generally adopt a Factor VIII product and Dr Owen said that it was crucial that the supplies that we were to produce ourselves fulfilled this criterion. At present, the products coming from the Elstree Plant were not of a sufficient solubility and in this respect they were inferior to the Scottish product. Dr Owen asked that the Scottish Laboratory and Elstree should get together to discuss their processes and to share their technology and he asked for a progress report on this within 1 month.

3. Dr Owen agreed that negotiations could start with Armour Pharmaceutical but he asked that it should be spelt out that the overall policy of the British Government was, in line with the WHO recommendation, to aim for self-sufficiency.

4. ACTION : Mr Draper:- paragraph 2ii).

GRO-C

G E GRIMSTONE
D616 AFH
Ext GRO-C

22 January 1976

cc: those present