



Cambridge Haemophilia Society

2037

Branch of THE HAEMOPHILIA SOCIETY PO BOX 9, 16, TRINITY STREET, LONDON SE1 1DE.

Local Secretary: Mrs. L. Duncan,
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✓ Local Chairman: Mr. P. Wetherell,
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7th February 1981

Dear Mr. Stewart,

Members of the Cambridge branch of the Haemophilia Society are distressed by a recent "World in Action" television programme (Dec. 22nd) and reports in the national press which have focused attention on the plight of the Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree. Haemophiliacs rely on the production of Factor VIII and IX at the laboratory and it has concerned us very much to hear of the unsatisfactory health and safety conditions that obtain there. Furthermore it would appear that production of Factor VIII is limited to the extent that £2.5 to £3 million per year has to be expended on imported Factor derived from the United States and Third World countries. In the former case the Factor runs a high risk of infecting our members with hepatitis because of the "skid row" sources from which blood is purchased and in the latter case the local supply of Factor is being sold to the U.K. to the detriment of haemophiliacs in those countries.

We understand that £1.25 million is to be spent on modest improvements to the Elstree plant. However a further £5 to £6 million would fund the creation of a new laboratory which would make the U.K. entirely self-sufficient in Factors VIII and IX thus reducing the risk of hepatitis to haemophiliacs and, in the space of two or three years, save considerable public expenditure since the Blood Transfusion Service has no shortage of donors,

I would be grateful if you would take this matter up with Dr. Gerard Vaughan the Minister responsible, on behalf of the haemophiliacs in your constituency. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Peter Wetherell

