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BLA/3/11 : 24

Mr. Clark

(62)

Copies: Mr. Venning
Miss Doran Ms. Haile
Mr. Nodder
Mr. Collier
Dr. Harris
Mr. Cashman
Mr. Harley
Mr. Scott-Moncrieff

BLOOD

The attached clutch of papers relate to:

a) our concern over what may emerge by way of a further scandal at Edgeware; and

b) our response - irrespective of what actually emerges in the media and what we say about that - to evident deficiencies in management and control.

2. In my view the Secretary of State, fortunately, is in a position to act now on (b) and I would advise that he do so forthwith, by

c) deciding, and announcing at the right time his decision, to set up a new direct management structure for the 3 central blood laboratories, with the status of a special health authority, as proposed by Mr. Finsberg;

d) endorsing, and announcing at the right time, the action now in hand to review the standards of operation of the Regional Blood Transfusion Service (based on 13 Regional Blood Transfusion Centres), as set out in paragraphs 24-29 of the attached note which I asked Mr. Harley (Assistant Secretary responsible for the administrative branch dealing with Blood etc.) to prepare - Flag A. In brief this is a review of the control system of the National Blood Transfusion Service by the existing Advisory Committee chaired by a Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Dr. ^{Harris} Evans), to be considered on 31 March, for report to Ministers immediately thereafter; coupled with a direction from me to the Head of Audit to review audit guidance and practice; as a preliminary to further instructions to

Regional Blood Transfusion Centres etc;

e) preparing a statement for Parliament, or press
which would need to be drafted now and would

i) express the Secretary of State's concern,

ii) announce the measures, and

iii) encourage continuing blood donation from the
public.

GRO-C

K.R. STOWE
12 March 1982