

RSL/AH

17th September 1981.

Professor A. Zuckerman,
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,
Keppel Street (Gower Street),
London WC1E 7HT.

Dear Arie,

At a recent meeting of the Haemophilia Directors' Hepatitis Working Party in Oxford on 11th September, an item on the agenda was the projected use of reports of hepatitis occurring in haemophiliacs following the use of factor VIII and IX materials. It was agreed that this type of reporting should continue and that it should be brought to the attention of Haemophilia Centre Directors that, where evidence of hepatitis was clearly associated with a batch of product, there should be strenuous efforts to direct this information to the Fractionation Laboratory. This early reporting was seen as an essential first step if any realistic action was to be taken on the rest of the batch, although it was accepted that the most likely action would be to inform holders of a suspect batch rather than to effect recall of material.

The question of accumulation of documented library samples of intermediates and finished products was not discussed. Even so, it seems that the Oxford meeting covered much of the ground set out in my letter of 4th August. Since there is good reason to minimise unnecessary meetings and discussions, I therefore suggest that the proposed meeting at DHSS on 7th October be at least postponed. I shall take no response to this letter as acceptance of this view and cancel the booking at DHSS accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

R. S. LANE.