Note on Consultations concerning the care of those suffering from Haemophilia and related diseases

1. Following the approach to this Department by the Medical Research Council in 1963 asking us to take over responsibility for the care of persons suffering from haemophilia and related diseases and the agreement that followed inter-departmental consultations, a paper, (a copy of which I attach, Appendix I) was considered by the S.M.A.C. at their meeting on 10th November, 1964.

2. At their meeting in February, 1965, S.A.M.Os were provided with much the same information as had been given to S.M.A.C. (I also attach a copy of the paper provided to S.A.M.Os for that meeting. Appendix II)

3. Subsequent to that Meeting, the Department set about preparing a H.M. to give effect to the new arrangements but at this stage the C.M.O. caused the future of the Central Register to be reconsidered. After a meeting in October, 1966, with M.R.C. representatives it was decided that the Central Register need not be maintained. That decision was conveyed to the Directors of Haemophilia Registration Centres in the Department's letter of 19th June, 1967.

4. On 17th April, 1967, an informal meeting was held at R.F.H. attended by the Directors of the Special Haemophilia Centre at Manchester, Oxford and Sheffield and the Directors of the Blood Transfusion Centres at these Cities, by Dr. Maycock and by representatives of this Department to discuss the supply of HAHG and Christmas Factor concentrate. Dr. Winner explained the plans for increasing production of these factors:

i Production at Elstree would be expanded when new construction there was completed. This was forecast for the summer of 1969

ii A laboratory was to be constructed in Oxford and should be in production in 1968

iii A relatively large fractionation laboratory was to be built in Edinburgh which would also fractionate blood from the north of England.

Dr. Maycock told the meeting that all Blood Transfusion Centres except four were making some cryo-precipitate and among the conclusions of the meeting was one that the production of cryo-precipitate should be encouraged as an interim measure. The full conclusions reached were:-

i Cryo-precipitate could be used as effectively in the treatment of haemophilia as fresh frozen plasma.

ii In view of the disadvantages of cryo-precipitate the Ministry should be invited to expedite urgently the provision of facilities for fractionation.

iii As an interim measure the production of cryo-precipitate should be encouraged. This was best done at a Blood Transfusion Centre in touch with a haemophilia centre rather than at individual hospitals.

iv The need existed for further production of Christmas Factor at the present time. However, expansion of fractionation facilities sufficient to meet the requirement for HAHG would eventually result in a surplus.

v It would not be practicable, nor in accordance with Ministry policy, to invite commercial production of concentrates.

vi The need for animal AHG was not extinguished. It was still the best stand-by for major surgery, and the tendency to change to cryo-precipitate was wrong. Supply Division should ensure the continuance of manufacture.

5. At the Meeting in October, 1966, the varied quality of the listed Haemophilia Centres was criticised. Dr. Winner invited Dr. Biggs to formulate advice on the minimum facilities to be provided in such a centre. A paper incorporating her advice was prepared and considered at the Meeting of S.A.M.Os on April, 1967. (A copy of this is attached at Appdx III). Since S.A.M.Os raised no objection to the advice contained in that paper, it was incorporated in a revised draft H.N. This is the paper which was before the J.C.C., S.A.M.Os and Secretaries in October, 1967.

GRO-C

H.M. ARCHIBALD.
20th November, 1967