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17th September, 1985.

The Rt. Hon. Bernard J. Hayhoe, M.P.,  
Minister for Health,  
Department of Health and Social Security,  
Alexander Fleming House,  
Elephant & Castle,  
London, SE1 6BY.

Dear Minister

I was very sorry to learn that you will be unable to attend the dinner arranged for September 24th to enable your predecessor to meet the Chairman of Abbott Laboratories in his capacity as President of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of the U.S.A. and I greatly hope that you will be able to suggest another date in the near future. The American Pharmaceutical Companies are, as you will learn, much exercised about H.M.G.'s policy regarding prescription drugs and are inclined to suspect discrimination against them. I am therefore convinced that an early discussion between you and Mr. Schoellhorn is important in order to try to clear the air.

Another matter of concern, not of course relevant to the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, is the selection of approved tests to detect the HTLV III anti-bodies. As I understand the position, the Department, after a delay of some six months from the time at which the Abbott and other tests approved