

NOTE OF A MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 1979 TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS BY TRAVENOL
LABORATORIES FOR THE PROVISION OF BLOOD PRODUCTS

PRESENT: PS(HSS)
Mr Brechin
Mr Dutton
Mr Harley
Mr Jones
Dr Waiter

1. It was established that Travenol's proposals would probably be to process blood plasma donated by volunteers in Britain and provide the NHS with its Factor 8 requirements at no cost. However, Travenol would doubtless then wish to extract albumin and the other remaining components and sell them at considerable profit.

2. Whilst the haemophillia lobby was very strongly pressing for increased production of Factor 8, there were a number of drawbacks to the proposal.

2.1 It was felt that volunteer donors would react strongly against any attempt to use donated blood commercially.

2.2 It might lead to increased pressure to collect plasma only from donors, but this practice (which was common in the USA) was still very controversial and in some respects ethically questionable.

2.3 Although factor 8 was the main component of interest to the NHS, there were some 20 derivatives from blood plasma and the extent of their use and cost in the NHS was not known. Enquiries were being made about the use of these products in the NHS, and a decision on the possibilities for collaboration could not effectively be made until the results were available.

3. It was agreed that officials should meet Travenol's representatives to discuss their proposals in more depth. It was felt that the only real scope for co-operation at the moment would be if they processed the blood plasma collected by the NBTS, and were paid for doing so, but returned all the products to the NHS. This would probably lower their unit costs a little and afford them the prestige of supplying the NHS.

4. PS(HSS) would wish to be kept informed of the outcome of the meeting.

1 February 1979

MRS L FOSH

cc those present

Mr Malone-lee - to see in connection with S&S's visit
to Travenol next week (? Tuesday).
Mr Grimshaw