Ref: PJ/LM

8th July, 1985

Professor P. M. Mannucci,
Centro per lo Studio e la terapia
dell' emofilia et delle malattie emorragiche,
Universita degle Studi di Milano,
Ospedale Policlinico,
Via Pace, 15-20122,
MILANO,
ITALY.

Dear Pier,

I am in a quandary and would be extremely grateful for your advice. With your approval our local Health Authority put the factor VIII tender for this year out to the commercial companies licensed to import concentrates into the United Kingdom. The lowest tender was one submitted by Travenol for heat treated factor VIII material. Whilst considering the options open to us, and in view of the results from the trial which you and your colleagues conducted in Europe, I sought the advice of Peter Kernoff. I enclose a copy of the relevant correspondence.

I am now left with the ethical dilemma of knowing that whilst it is probable that all the concentrates contain non-A non-B hepatitis, it is only from the Travenol product, and this because they were willing to put it to trial, that we know there is something like an 80% chance of it being contaminated by the viruses of non-A non-B hepatitis. A tender for 2 million units has been awarded to Travenol and naturally I have been pressured by my Health Authority that I must make a decision in the near future as to whether it would be clinically ethical to use their material in patients with severe haemophilia. I hope all goes well with you and that at least some DNA has been effective in vivo by the time of your conference next year.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

PETER JONES
Director

P.S. I have just received a copy of your paper published in the Lancet on 6th July.

cc. Dr. P. Hamilton
Mr. P. Hopley
Professor M. Rawlins
Mr. B. Dowdeswell
Mr. Rich