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Mr Finnie

Copies to: Dr McIntyre  
Mr Macpherson

GRO-C 8710

CHARGING PRIVATE SECTOR FOR BLOOD ETC:  
DISCUSSION WITH INDEPENDENT SECTOR

I refer to your minute of 6 October.

While there may be grounds for assuming that the small private sector in Scotland will accept any decisions which have been reached in the south, this would not necessarily apply to the SNBTS or to SHHD in relation to its blood transfusion interest. Therefore while views reached in discussions between DHSS and the Joint Liaison Committee for Independent Health Care may be useful to us in determining the attitudes of the private sector, I think it should be clear that neither SHHD nor the SNBTS could be committed by policies adopted by DHSS.

It may be that we shall find it acceptable to follow a uniform UK policy but in the field of blood transfusion nothing is predictable or non-controversial and I think we have to reserve our position. I have no doubt that you and Mr Godfrey could reach an understanding on the presentation of the Scottish position.

GRO-C

A E BELL  
7 October 1981

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