23 May 1983

NELECTION AND AND

Mr David G Watters, Co-ordinator, The Haemophilia Society, P.O.Box 9, 16 Trinity Street, London SEl IDE

Dear Mr Watters,

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I make two points in reply to your letter of 9th May, and I am sure you will understand our worry about the health and safety of members working with blood and blood products.

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Firstly, I am so sympathetic and I have spoken with haemophiliacs in ASTMS. There is the risk of Hepatitis: a vaccine is available for staff, but there are doubts about this, and we have been unable to obtain any satisfactory information as to how safe it really is. The DHSS is completely unhelpful and on 9th December 1982, Mr E L Harris, Deputy Medical Officer, Department of Health and Social Security, replied to us refusing to answer a number of questions about this.

We have not written to the Secretary of State, Mr Horman Fowler and hope he will be more forthcoming, especially in view of the current concern about AIDS being transmitted via blood or blood products, i.e. there is the possibility, however remote, of AIDS infecting the vaccine intended to protect members from hepatitis. You will understand our insistence that this issue is satisfactorily clarified.

Secondly, we appreciate your concern about the effect of a ban on imported blood products, and we are anxious that the UK move to self-sufficiency is a matter of great urgency: this is probably the best solution to the problems of health risks and the "balance" you mention.

However, after campaigning very successfully for a substantial increase in UK production, we were horrified to learn only a few days ago that budgets at the Blood Products Laboratory, Elstree, were being cut by 10% on official instructions. You would expect us to be alarmed by this and we are. But, if our members could be completely assured that the Hepatitis vaccine now available, is in every respect safe, and if all concerned were confident there would be genuine and rapid progress towards self-sufficiency, obviously, our worry would disappear, and we intend to continue our campaign to achieve this.

ME 7/192/19/11/0/11 23 May 1983 Mr David Watters · 中心有一种的第一体,由于全国的人化一点 The second state of Perhaps we could both look at the matter again when the outcome of the General Election is known, because I know that a Labour Gobernment wants self-sufficiency in blood products, and is entirely supportive of this approach. Yours sincerely, T and the first contact to add to their at the second of t leasurable trade the lawest he entered for manager could be When the company of the control of t Ref: CJ/GK/AT The square of the state of the The First Audit and restriction to the second state of the second completed was weared out they say the say the many elections the state of the second of the second of The state of the s the state of the second Avenue Calabidate and Calabidate Company of the control of the con A . In Property Sense 1 Sense 1 Comment of the Comm is the control of the property of the control of th The Franciscon that the transfer of the transfer to be all the analysis of The paragraph of the engineer a territy to the contraction of the one of the contraction all part but reduced by land a face of the lips of the property INCOME STRONG STAR THE AND STORY FROM PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR decipation to the ter top, our misson of the track of the track ASTM0000041 0002