

No war cash for love child

THE South Atlantic Fund has refused to help a young mother who says her love child is the daughter of a Marine Commando killed in the Falklands.

Instead, fellow Marines of Stephen McAndrew have themselves raised money for his 21-year-old girlfriend Dawn Barker and her seven-month-old baby. The Fund's decision was described as 'insensitive' by Plymouth MP Dr David Owen last night.

Dawn and Stephen had been living together in Devonport for more than

six months before Stephen went to the Falklands.

Dawn said: 'When Stephen wrote letters he said he knew the baby I was going to have would be a girl.'

'I showed the authorities the letters, but they kept on and on saying they wanted a letter which said "Will you marry me?"'

When Stephen was killed she had a letter of condolence from his officer.

The Defence Ministry said last night it was seeking a reaction from the fund's secretary.

Hospital blood

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Directors of Britain's blood transfusion centres and the 110 haemophilic clinics have called emergency meetings to discuss immediate action.

They are questioning why Britain imports from the U.S. up to 70 per cent of plasma and blood extracts.

Dr Tony Pinching, immunologist at St Mary's Hospital, London, said: 'It seems madness that our blood supplies are coming from a country suffering from an epidemic of an incurable killer disease that nobody can even test for.'

'Why aren't we buying blood from Switzerland or another country that is AIDS-free?'

The Swiss Red Cross, chief

Spread of the 'Gay Plague'

AIDS started as the Gay Plague, afflicting young men in the over-crowded homosexual ghettos of downtown New York and San Francisco.

But by summer 1981 doctors throughout America were beginning to find other victims of the deadly disease they could not understand — or treat.

Now American authorities list 1,361 victims — from all walks of life and including men, women and 20 children. So far 520 people have died.

producer in Switzerland of the anti-clotting factor needed by haemophiliacs, said this weekend they would welcome requests from Britain for 'clean' plasma.

But health authorities here consider such measures only a stop-gap. By 1986 they hope Britain will be self-sufficient in blood and all its side products.

Many doctors feel 1986 will be too late now that the killer disease which knocks out the body's own defence mechanisms, has crossed the Atlantic.

Official statistics, criticised for understating the problem, list only 14 cases — with five deaths, including two women — in Britain.

But Professor John Hobbs at the Westminster Hospital, London, says he has seen 50 in his wards and has 14 patients with the disease.

Bond winners

THIS week's £100,000 Pre-

Scramble for June 9 poll

By PETER SIMMONDS Political Editor
PRESSURE is mounting on Mrs Thatcher to hold the General Election as early as June 9... and that would mean plunging Britain into the campaign in only ten days' time.

A blueprint for the early poll is thought to have been drawn up by Tory election strategists.

It would mean the Prime Minister would be unable to join President Reagan and

other Western leaders for the economic summit in America at the end of May.

The election strategy will be discussed by Mrs Thatcher and her Inner Cabinet at Chequers next Sunday.

If approved — and key Cabinet Ministers are all now backing a June poll — Parliament would be dissolved on or by May 13.

The announcement of a General Election would come in a statement from Downing Street within 48 hours of the Chequers summit, expected to be attended by Tory Party chairman, Cecil Parkinson, Home Secretary William Whitelaw and Chancellor Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Mrs Thatcher is now said to have a full hand of cards all with June written on them.

Even those who once backed October, now find it hard to envisage Mrs Thatcher applying the brakes now without damaging party morale, which would have to be cranked up again for the Autumn.

At the heart of Tory battle plans is the argument that if Mrs Thatcher decides a General Election is in the national interest now, there is no point in delaying.

Manifesto

The Tory manifesto is well advanced. Sections are understood to be in the hands of Cabinet Ministers for detailed study.

Sports Minister Neil Macfarland, meanwhile, will announce an election sweetener on Wednesday — a £1 million plan to get youngsters off the streets, during the summer holidays by providing more sports and play facilities.

Social Security Minister Hugh Ross yesterday accused CND leader Monsignor Bruce Kent of damaging the Catholic Church because of the company he keeps.

Labour Left say Foot must go

By CHRISTOPHER LEAKE
A SECRET survey among Labour's hierarchy has resulted in a shattering vote of no confidence in Michael Foot.

The poll was carried out six weeks ago among the Shadow Cabinet, National Executive Committee members, senior backbenchers and key trade union leaders.

And Mr Foot has now been told that some of his staunchest supporters on the Left want him to go.

Health

They accept that if the election is in June he will have to stay, but be replaced immediately afterwards.

Bill Keys, Left-wing general secretary of the print union Sogat '82 and a leading light in Labour's fund-raising organisation.

A leading member of the organisation, Trade Unions for a Labour Victory, said that if the election is not held until October Mr Foot will be asked to step down.

The resignation could take place on the grounds that Mr Foot was unwell, he said.

It would then be a 'certainty' that Mr Healey would be elected leader, the source said.

Labour and union chiefs are to meet on Friday to ask trade unionists to donate an extra £2 million to the election campaign fund. This is in addition to the £3 million already required.



RAH: Letters about baby