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*H. Fanning*  
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AIDS IN BLOOD PRODUCTS

Thank you very much for the helpful suggestion in your minute of 6 October, about which we spoke on the 'phone today.

Although you considered that it would be more appropriate to address such an enquiry to the Swiss Government, we agreed that, in the interests of speed, I should go ahead with my letter to Prof. Hässig.

I understand that, on [REDACTED]'s return to the office, you will be considering with him how best to request the same information from those countries worldwide which have a system of non-remunerated blood donation. Possibly this could be through the WEC, with its links with the League of Red Cross Societies.

We are all aware, I think, that this global approach is purely cosmetic (as, indeed, is the letter to the Swiss Red Cross, but this is a rather special case). I assume we are content that the British Government should, in making these enquiries, appear to be somewhat ill-informed? All the evidence we have and all the expert advice we have received indicates that the type of material we are seeking is simply not available. I am not suggesting for a second that we should not pursue this approach if it is felt that [REDACTED]'s statement to the Sunday Mail warrants it; I merely reflect on how such approaches may be received.

I attach a copy of the letter which I have sent to Prof. Hässig for your files.

[REDACTED]  
MED SEB  
Room 1025A HANH  
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7 October 1983

cc [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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