

18/24/7

Reference.....

71070

167

AIDS

Thank you for your minute of 21 July 1983. I am afraid I cannot accept that the leaflet should not be seen "as a leaflet which you read and then change your mind about giving blood." To my mind this is precisely what it is intended for although the message has had to be slightly obscured for obvious reasons. Clearly we must bow to Ministers' wishes on the matter of handling the distribution but although I must accept your and better recollection of our earlier discussions I am not sure that Ministers have fully understood the pros and cons. To this end therefore it is essential that the points I raised in my minute to are brought out in the submission so that Ministers can weigh the possible disadvantage of letting "risky" blood slip through the net against the advantage of minimizing any adverse publicity. On purely medical grounds I am convinced that sending out the leaflet with the call-up cards is the only sensible thing to do and indeed this is the independent advice we have received from our consultant adviser whose opinion I respect.

25 July 1983

Med SEB
100 RSQ
Ext 3751

cc

You should be aware of this.

26.7.