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JULY 14

Reference BLT 8

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RECOMMENDATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ETC BY INTERNATIONAL BODIES

1. From time to time we submit to Ministers international instruments which involve DHSS interests. It is normal practice during the preparation of these documents to ensure that the UK is not committed to policies which would not otherwise be followed, so that there is, correspondingly, no action to be taken if and when they are adopted.

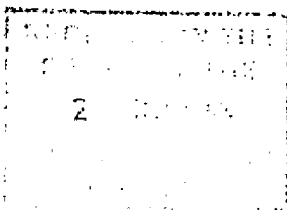
2. However, recommendations or undertakings in international agreements are often of interest to pressure groups etc and it is thought that Ministers may wish to be aware of Recommendation R(83)8 which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 23 June 1983.

3. The subject of the Recommendation is the prevention of transmission of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) from affected blood donors to patients receiving blood or blood products. On the basis of present knowledge it is assumed that AIDS is transmissible by blood and the recommendation aims to ensure that appropriate precautions are taken in the preparation of certain blood products, that specific groups of recipients such as haemophiliacs are accordingly reassured.

4. An information leaflet for blood donors used by the American Red Cross is appended to the Recommendation for the convenience of National Blood Transfusion Services wishing to draw up their own leaflet.

5. The Recommendation does not prevent the United Kingdom from continuing to import factor VIII concentrate from the USA on whom we currently rely for about 50% of our supply.

6. A copy of the Recommendation is attached.



July 1983

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