

LTSB.

# Plea to donors in AIDS alert

EVENING  
NEWS

21.12.84

By 'NEWS'  
REPORTER

The Scottish blood transfusion service today appealed to four groups of people NOT to give blood following an AIDS scare.

Test in Edinburgh have shown that 15 Haemophiliacs have developed antibodies to the AIDS virus.

But Dr Brian McLelland, director of the Edinburgh and South-east Scotland Blood Transfusion Service, stressed that this did not mean they would necessarily develop AIDS.

He said that anyone, man or woman, could contact the disease — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — but certain groups were more at risk.

The four groups who should not donate their blood are: practising homosexuals; anyone who injects themselves with drugs; people from countries in central Africa or Haiti; sexual partners of any of the above groups.

The 15 haemophilic men in Edinburgh are believed to have been exposed to the AIDS

virus from taking Factor 8, a blood clotting agent made from plasma taken from a number of donors.

The chances of getting AIDS from a blood transfusion are still extremely remote, particularly in Scotland which is virtually self sufficient in blood.

## VULNERABLE

Dr. McLelland said: "The 15 people were discovered as the result of routine testing of those most vulnerable because of their reliance on frequent transfusions."

The situation was explained to haemophiliacs at a meeting with medical experts in Edinburgh this week.

All of them will be carefully monitored and hopefully none of the 15 exposed cases will develop the disease.

Leaflets explaining the dangers are being issued to all blood donors.

20.10.2070

copy Dr C. Ludlow.

Christopher → this is the only documentation  
that I have of the meeting in LSST, RIE  
in December 1984.