

Extract from

*The Scotsman**14 July 1983*

Reassurance on blood products

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9 Queen Street.
Edinburgh.
July 11, 1983

Sir, — In his article today entitled "AIDS crisis causes bad blood in Europe," there is an account of statements made by Peter O'Neill in his publication *Health Crisis 2000*. I have recently been to California and am well aware of the worry there about acquired immune deficiency syndrome which, it is believed, can be spread by blood and blood products. Mention is made in the article of plans for a 221 million expansion of the Central Products Laboratory at Elstree to move towards UK self-sufficiency in blood products.

I am writing as chairman of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Association which represents donor interests, and has a paramount concern about the welfare of recipients, in order to point out that no mention has been made of the Scottish National Protein Fractionation Centre at Liberton. This is a very advanced non-commercial centre which processes blood from Scottish donors on a major scale and produces 27 products originating in human plasma. It has a staff of 130 and its activities obviate the necessity for the importation of blood and blood products.

The staff are well aware of the problems of the AIDS difficulties in the United States and have appropriately modified their processes here. Patients in Scotland should be reassured by the fact that, although the Elstree Centre has yet to be expanded, such development took place several years ago in Scotland and we are virtually self-sufficient

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