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JDC/EP/MM

28th October 1985

→ Dr A McIntyre  
Scottish Home & Health Department  
St Andrew's House  
EDINBURGH

Dear Archie

I have a note on my desk with a message from you indicating that DHSS have now instructed RTCs to HTLV-III antibody test all existing stocks of products.

The position in the SNBTS is as follows:

- (a) All stocks of products held at RTCs were tested prior to 14th October 1985 deadline.
- (b) We have decided that it would be unreasonable to attempt to test plasma donations currently held in PFC stores. Aside from the massive operational difficulties and cost of this exercise we feel that the heat treatment programmes for factors VIII and IX concentrates and albumin (the major bulk products) are virocidal with respect to HTLV-III. In addition we have instituted HTLV-III antibody testing of all IgG products as part of the trial quality assurance programme.

I conclude that our position is a strong one.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

John D Cash

cc Dr John Forrester