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Glasgow and West of Scotland
BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

TELEPHONE NOS. WISHAW 73315/8

TELEX No. 779483

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
JOHN WALLACE B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P.G., F.R.C.PATH.

AT LAW HOSPITAL,
CARLUKE,
LANARKSHIRE.
ML9 5ES

JW/HD

25 October, 1976

Dr. A.D. McIntyre,
Scottish Home & Health Dept.,
St. Andrew's House,
EDINBURGH. EH1 3DE.

Dear Dr. McIntyre,

Haemophilia

I promised to keep you informed of the outcome of the meeting to be held in Sheffield on 22 October, 1976. I enclose a copy of the Agenda and I am sending copies of this letter to Dr. Cash and to Mr. Watt. Doubtless they will keep you informed if they disagree with any aspects of my report, or feel that I have omitted points of importance.

Formal consideration of the items in the Agenda did not progress beyond Item 3. Items 4, 5 and 6 were however discussed at length as a sequel to our discussions on Item 3.

Early in the meeting, Dr. Cash and I stated the desirability of setting a target for the UK. We repeated and emphasised most of the points which had been made at our recent meeting held on 4 October, 1976. We advocated a reasonable and realistic target which might have to be reviewed in a few years. We considered that, with competing clinical demands for blood and for blood products, that haemophiliacs should be advised to live within the limits of their disability.

It became clear from the subsequent discussion that arguments and proposals were being advanced from each of the three angles of the triangle represented in the meeting, namely the Directors of Haemophilia Centres, the Directors of Regional Transfusion Centres and the Directors of Fractionation Centres.

I have no doubt that the Directors of Haemophilia Centres wish to have a product which, in terms of factor VIII content, is more concentrated than cryoprecipitate. Some of these directors would like to move quickly to intermediate concentrate and think this could be achieved by taking two simultaneous steps. These would be the purchase of commercial concentrate and the sending of all available fresh plasma from the regional centres to the fractionation centre. This, of course, is not a new concept and it has been advanced on several occasions in Scotland during the past few years.

Several /

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CONTINUATION - Dr. A.D. McIntyre

Several proposals were made by Regional Transfusion Directors, none of which was new. The points included improved quality of cryoprecipitate and of fresh frozen plasma, the withdrawal of a fixed volume of plasma from every fresh donation, and collecting blood from volunteers oftener than twice a year. It was clear that whichever policy was adopted, money would be required to implement the scheme. This money might be needed for additional packs, for improved accommodation or for extra staff. The tone of the discussion indicated to me that there are wide differences of opinion among the Transfusion Directors in England as to the best way of tackling the problem.

Some regional transfusion directors gave the impression of being highly critical of the fractionators. Indeed I felt that the discussion throughout the meeting was over critical and not sufficiently constructive. The fractionators were being pressed to give accurate figures for fractionation capacity. Dr. Maycock eventually stated that Elstree and Oxford together could produce 15 million units of freeze dried factor VIII per annum. Mr. Watt felt that, at present, he could produce 12 million units per annum but this could be increased rapidly if the quality of fresh frozen plasma rose and a small capital sum was spent on improved accommodation.

It looked as if the meeting was going to end without any firm decisions being taken. As a result of a last minute effort, it was agreed that the immediate UK target should be 40 million units per annum, but this should be increased within a few years to 50 million or even 55 million units. Dr. Maycock also recommended that as far as distribution was concerned, the arrangement in England should be discussed regionally by the Directors of Haemophilia Centres and the Regional Transfusion Directors.

I hope this is a fair summary of the discussion, but as I have indicated, both Dr. Cash and Mr. Watt will be able to elaborate. I would be happy to discuss any aspects of the matter with you.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,

John Watt

Regional Director.

PROTEIN FRACTIONATION CENTRE	
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Return to	Action taken
Mr. Watt	