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RM/HD

14 December, 1981

Dr. John D. Cash,
National Medical Director,
SNBTS,
Ellen's Glen Road,
EDINBURGH.

Dear John,

Future of Freeze Drying Plant at Law

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| PROTEIN FRACTIONATION CENTRE | |
| Received: 17 DEC 1981 | |
| File No: 241 - Directors Meeting ✓ | |
| Forward to | Action taken |
| John Watt | ✓ |

This morning I had a visit from Mr. Stuart Grant and Mr. McGowan, a draughtsman from the Scientific & Technical Branch of the CSA. This was following an earlier meeting at which it was decided that drawings should be prepared to show the position of the new autoclave, the distillation apparatus, the bottle washing machine and the capping and assembly area for the freeze drying of plasma.

In view of the discussions at the Directors' meeting last week, I felt it important to tell Mr. Grant that there was a strong feeling that, after all these negotiations with himself, Mr. Joe Smith, the Medicines Inspector and ourselves, the Drying Plant at Law will close despite the time which has been spent by senior staff at this Centre. Mr. Grant was naturally upset that the autoclave which he has now purchased on our behalf and which was the subject of correspondence between himself and Miss Corrie, is now no longer suitable for our purposes.

Similarly, the need to develop the old kitchen area and to rebuild internal walls etc. will no longer be required and we will lose the element of VAT exemption from the original proposals.

Recently I wrote to Miss Corrie to say that I would spend the balance of the unexpired money originally allocated for the autoclave in this financial year. I have proceeded to do this. I am now left with what is becoming worse than a Whitehall farce! We have had all sorts of people chasing around preparing drawings and specifications for what would

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CONTINUATION - Dr. John D. Cash

appear to be a non-existent demand. To go back to the suppliers of the autoclave is going to mean, almost certainly, a financial penalty and a forlorn hope that they can find a buyer for the partially assembled equipment and replace it with a smaller autoclave designed for our other needs.

I understand from Mr. Grant that there must be a decision about this by the end of December. The option therefore concerning the drying plant and its future is much more pressing than allowing for any kind of systematic analysis by the Protein Fractionation Centre. My staff are now in the mood that they would be well rid of the drying plant at the earliest opportunity to allow them to get on with other important tasks.

As well as the obvious financial loss with the autoclave, we will have the financial losses of a washing machine not yet installed, a Usifroid shell freezer and numerous other bits and pieces of newly purchased obsolete equipment. As I said in an earlier letter, the decision about the drying plant should have been made 18 months ago when the question was specifically asked by staff in the West of Scotland before they agreed to embark on these long and protracted diversions.

To compound the agony, Mr. Grant took the opportunity of looking at the Hepatitis autoclave and its replacement for which, I understand, Miss Corrie is trying to obtain money at this moment! This latter autoclave requires special design features and requires special accommodation.

In the event of the drying plant being closed, then we must urgently rethink the siting of these autoclaves and this is even more important in view of the imminent visit of the Medicines Inspectorate who will be far from pleased over the decision on his report. The whole matter has become a nightmare!

Yours sincerely,

John D. Cash

Director.

cc. Scottish Directors
Miss Corrie

PS. In view of the shortage of time, perhaps you or Miss Corrie should notify Mr. Grant directly and advise the Medicines Inspectorate.

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