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cc Bly

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*From the Private Secretary*

5 December 1986

**AIDS**

Thank you for your letter of  
3 December. The Prime Minister has noted  
these corrections.

P. A. BEARPARK

Mrs Gwyneth Lewis,  
Department of Health and Social Security

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*From the Chief Medical Officer*

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3. December 1986

AIDS: BRIEFING TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Following Sir Donald Acheson's visit with Mr Fowler to WHO Geneva he wishes to correct the briefing he left with the Prime Minister with the following particulars:

(i) in the USA the first stored blood sample so far discovered to have antibodies to HIV was taken from the person concerned in 1977 not 1979.

(ii) antibodies have been found in a few samples of stored blood in Zaire in the late 1960's.

Although this suggests that the virus came from Africa rather than the USA this is not conclusive as the numbers of samples available for study from high risk groups from the 1960's are small.

GWYNETH LEWIS  
Private Secretary

