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**OPINION**

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**1994 OCTOBER 18TH**

OPINION ON ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR HIV-  
INFECTED HAEMOPHILIACS OF FOREIGN  
NATIONALITY

The National AIDS Council has been informed of the paradoxical official situation of foreign haemophiliacs who have contracted an HIV infection on French territory and subsequently returned to their country of origin. Six cases typifying this situation have been referred to the National AIDS Council. The patients concerned have received compensation from the French Transfusion and Haemophilia Compensation Fund under Article 47 of the statute of December 31, 1991, but they cannot obtain a visa or a residence permit, which is a prerequisite for access to appropriate healthcare and welfare. It seems likely that several dozen sufferers find themselves in this situation. It would be desirable to compile a complete list of them.

The National AIDS Council recommends that the competent authorities ensure without delay that they are afforded the opportunity of residing in France under conditions allowing them to obtain high-quality healthcare comparable with that provided to all infected haemophiliacs.