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DATE 28 SEP 1983

THE GUARDIAN

Aids damaged blood suspected in death 3

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A British haemophiliac has died after contracting Aids, it was reported yesterday. It is thought that a batch of contaminated Factor VIII from the United States was to blame.

The patient a Bristol man, has not been named. It is the first Aids fatality to be associated with contaminated imports of the clotting agent. A second haemophiliac, a Cardiff man, is suffering from the disease.

It brings the total number of Aids deaths to nine out of the 20 cases reported in the United Kingdom — 17 male homosexuals, two male haemophiliacs and one woman.

The Haemophilia Society, which reported the fatality, is advising Britain's 4,500 haemophiliacs to keep taking Factor VIII: "The risk of Aids is tiny compared to the risks from untreated bleeding episodes," a spokesman pointed out.

More than half of the 70 mil-

lion units of Factor VIII imported each year come from the States. One per cent of the 2,000 US Aids victims are haemophiliacs.

The death of the Bristol man will increase the pressure on the Government to make Britain self-sufficient in blood products — health cuts this year have meant that the Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree will not be able to meet British demand by 1985, as planned.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, has refused to increase the laboratory's funds, despite warnings from doctors in the spring that Aids was on the way.

The Haemophilia Society is pumping £25,000 into a research effort to find a way of ensuring Factor VIII is Aids-free.

A Department of Health spokesman said yesterday: "The Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre is aware of the death of the haemophiliac. The Blood Products Laboratory should be self-sufficient in a few years."