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Probe on imports of 'killer blood'¹⁵

By JOHN HAMSHIRE

GOVERNMENT health experts have begun investigating the possibility that Britain is importing blood products from America contaminated with the killer homosexual disease **AIDS**.

The action follows the discovery that two men given routine blood transfusions for haemophilia are now seriously ill apparently suffering from the disease.

Disclosure of the men's illness and their treatment at hospitals in Cardiff and London was made exclusively yesterday in the Mail on Sunday.

AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, destroys the body's natural resistance to disease and leaves it vulnerable to repeated attacks from infections and cancer.

It was first discovered among homosexuals in America, who passed it on as blood donors.

The Standing Committee for the Safety of Medicine will be looking particularly into the blood product, Factor Eight, which is derived from donated blood and needed for haemophiliacs to prevent bleeding.

Last night a spokesman for the Department of Health said there was no question of stopping blood product imports.

According to the Department of Health, the advantage of using imported blood products far outweighs the 'slight possibility' that AIDS could be transmitted to patients through Factor Eight.
