



JS.
c DHE
D/M
DOE
DIN
MAFF

Home Affairs

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 February 1980

You wrote to me on 4 October concerning a report in "The Lancet" of 15 September 1979 about an increase in the incidence of leukaemia in western Lancashire. In my reply of 22 October I told you that I had asked the Departments concerned to study the report, to obtain the latest available date and to seek advice. I am now able to let you have the results which are set out in the attached paper.

I hope that the information in the paper will help to reassure you about the matters discussed in the article. These are not problems which can be settled overnight; the situation will continue to be monitored and further research is likely to be carried out as described at the end of the paper.

As a number of other Members have expressed interest in this subject, I am arranging for copies of the paper to be sent to them.

(SGD) MARGARET THATCHER

S.G. Thorne, Esq., MP.

VS