

NAT. HEALTH: Exp: Pt 2

P1. file

PRIME MINISTER

cc: Mr. Thatcher

Donald Longmore telephoned me and said that he had written to DT inviting him to lunch at The Garrick. This letter will presumably be awaiting DT's return. Donald Longmore asked me to join the party but I have already lunched with Donald Longmore at the National Heart Hospital and I do not want to intrude on this lunch at the Garrick.

Donald Longmore mentioned to me that the lunch at the Garrick was being given by the fund-raiser for CORDA, the charity which is supporting Donald Longmore's NMR scanner. This suggests to me that Donald Longmore will put to DT some plan for supporting CORDA's efforts to raise the money they need for the NMR scanner, perhaps by suggesting that you give a fund-raising reception at No. 10.

- I can't. The demands for other similar requests would be endless

In case he does, I attach a copy of a letter from Ken Stowe in which he agrees with my view that you should be cautious about this. The NMR scanner is a thoroughly worthwhile project and Ken Stowe has mobilised help to make sure that it goes ahead. But both he and I are nervous about associating you too directly through a No. 10 reception to raise funds for it. In the politically charged world of health politics where so many people are short of money, it would be bound to attract jealousy. As you will see from Ken Stowe's letter, a better way of supporting the project may be for you to open it in due course. Donald Longmore is a zealot for his project, and there is a risk that he could unintentionally embarrass you.

F.R.B.

18 January, 1984



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY**  
Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY  
Telephone 01-407 5522 ext 6981  
*From the Permanent Secretary*  
Sir Kenneth Stowe KCB CVO

PERSONAL

F R Butler Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

13 January 1984

*Dear Colin.*

Many thanks for your kind letter of 29 December and subsequent letter of 10 January.

I have not yet had an opportunity to discuss the question of a fund-raising party for CORDA at No 10 with Mr Fowler but, precisely for the reasons you give, I would advise against it - I think he would share my view. There is an additional point. Quite apart from the undoubted risk of a flood of requests from others with good causes to support, there is the difficulty that whilst CORDA is a reputable charity with eminent backers it is not in the forefront of medical charities and could not claim the same status as, say, the British Heart Foundation. Thus there might also be adverse comment on why CORDA had been singled out.

Should Mr Longmore revert to his suggestion that the Prime Minister opens the unit when the NMR scanner is installed, then this would seem the more satisfactory way of showing support for the venture; there is some risk that Mr Longmore might wish to exploit the funding-raising opportunities of the occasion but that could be lived with. I assume that the need for appropriate discretion could be conveyed to him.

*Yours  
Ken.*

*P.S. Some supplementary detail  
to follow orally.*

DENIS TITMATER  
10 DOWNING STREET

30 Jan

Dear Mr. Langhorne,

I am sorry not to have  
replied to your kind letter  
of 6 Jan before now. I  
have been in South Africa  
for two weeks on business  
and returned to the  
usual round of meetings  
and correspondence  
which inevitably follows  
a two week absence.

I hope You will not  
regard me as -ingratiating  
when I say dislike going  
round hospitals and  
always 'bow out' when  
hospital visits are  
included in 'tour  
programmes' when I  
am accompanying  
Margaret.

I hope therefore You  
will -excuse me from

10 DOWNING STREET

accepting your most  
kind invitation and  
will understand my  
reason for so doing.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely  
Dinah Craik

ps. I do not doubt  
that sooner rather  
than later I will be  
5

in the position of  
hoping that advanced  
Medical Science will  
'keep me alive' for that  
extra time. So be it;  
but I still don't like  
going round hospitals!

ROBIN BUTLER

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30.1.84

Mr Thatcher asked me to let you see this letter which he has written to Mr Longmore, and was grateful for your advice. Perhaps I had better keep this file?

Joy

Joy

Many thanks. If I may say so, I think that Mr. Thatcher's reply is as tactful as it is wise.

Robin.

30.1.84



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

10 January, 1984

PERSONAL

BT1  
To keep you in touch with the correspondence with Mr. Longmore, I enclose a copy of his latest letter and my acknowledgment. As you will see, he is concentrating more on getting the Prime Minister to open the project than on a reception, but I think that we need to be ready with a view on the merits of both propositions.

E. E. R. BUTLER

Sir Kenneth Stowe, K.C.B., C.V.O.



FILE JH



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

10 January, 1984

I have been playing truant for a week and arrived back to find your letter of 6 January. I am so glad that the N.M.R. project is going so well; but please do not form an exaggerated view of my part in it: whatever people say, my experience invariably is that such projects only prosper on the basis of their merits. I will look forward to hearing further about the plans for opening the project.

I am glad that I can reciprocate your best wishes for 1984 with special confidence!

R. R. BUTLER

Mr. Donald B. Longmore



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

29 December 1983

PERSONAL

Many thanks for your letter of 22 December. I told the Prime Minister that a way had been found to ensure that the National Heart Hospital could have the NMR Scanner, and she was delighted.

Mr. Longmore has not yet formally raised the suggestion of a fund-raising party for CORDA at No. 10, but I would like to be prepared because he will no doubt revert to it. My hesitation - apart from the consideration that the Prime Minister cannot give fund-raising parties for too many organisations without debasing the currency - has been based on worries about health politics. Is there not a risk either that people will say that this indicates the inadequacy of funding of the Health Service or that it will stimulate others in the Health Services to come forward with a series of similar good health causes, which the Prime Minister would be forced to turn down?

I am sure that the Prime Minister would value Mr. Fowler's and your advice about this. If your view is that the Prime Minister could safely give a fund-raising reception for CORDA without running into trouble on the grounds I have suggested, I am sure that she will want to consider it sympathetically.

E. E. R. BUTLER

Sir Kenneth Stowe, KCB, CVO,  
Department of Health and Social Security.

M. DONALD LONGMORE

WESTMORELAND STREET, LONDON W1M 8BA

TELEPHONE 01-486 0824

01-486 4811

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

6th January, 1984

Mr. D. Thatcher,  
10 Downing Street,  
London S.W.1

Dear

*M. Thatcher*

You may remember over dinner at Dunphail I suggested you might enjoy a trip around the Heart Hospital in order that you could see some high technology medicine. Robin Butler has been and will tell you what we are about. If you are interested the suggested arrangement would be for you to come in the morning and have a cup of coffee and see a slide presentation of some of the interesting material, followed by a quiet trip around the hospital and a visit to the most stimulating departments. We could then either lunch here or join Mr. Bill Davis who has invited us to the Garrick Club.

If you feel you could tear the Prime Minister away from her many duties, I would be delighted if she could come too, but would not want to be responsible for adding to her already over-committed schedule.

With all good wishes for 1984.

Yours sincerely,

*Donald Longmore*

Donald B. Longmore, FRCSEd  
Consultant Clinical Physiologist

DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGY

NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL

MR DONALD LONGMORE

WESTMORELAND STREET, LONDON W1M 8BA

TELEPHONE 01-486 0824

01-486 4811

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

6th January, 1984

R. Butler, Esq.,  
Principal Private Secretary,  
10 Downing Street,  
London S.W.1

Dear

*Rachel*

*Previous correspondence  
16.12.83*

Thank you for your help with the N.M.R. project. The D.H.S.S. clearly made wide enquiries about us and our project at a number of levels. We are fortunate that Mr. Gordon Higson, who is a well respected scientist in the Department, took charge of our affairs. (Mr. Higson was ably supported by Dr. Abrams, whose reputation I do not know.) Mr. Higson is the man who has backed a number of successful projects, including Godfrey Hounsfield's original CAT scanner and he has been at least part of the driving force behind the British effort in N.M.R. He seems to have made some arrangements to help us fund the project, although I am not quite sure yet what these are in detail.

I spent the Christmas period drawing up plans for the building conversion and by next Tuesday should have a date for the completion of the installation. I will then seek your advice about asking the Prime Minister to open this Unit, which I hope will succeed in keeping us ahead of the Americans and much more importantly will enable us to spare large numbers of people unpleasant invasive investigations leading to a reduction in the amount of painful and expensive cardiac surgery required.

Once again many thanks and best wishes for 1984.

Yours sincerely,

*Donald*

Donald B. Longmore, FRCSEd  
Consultant Clinical Physiologist

NAT HEALTH Exp. Pt 2

NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL

WESTMORELAND STREET LONDON W1M 8BA  
TELEPHONE 01-486 0828  
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DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGY

RONALD LONGMORE



Out No.

Your Ref.

REC'D  
12 11 21  
F-9 JAN 1964

*[Faint handwritten signature]*

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY**

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant &amp; Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522 ext 6981

*From the Permanent Secretary*

Sir Kenneth Stowe KCB CVO

Robin Butler Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

22 December 1983

*Dear Robin.*

Colleagues from here have seen Mr Longmore and discussed with him his plans for securing the first production model from GEC Picker of their latest 0.5 Tesla NMR Scanner. Mr Longmore had been promised by GEC Picker that a charity, CORDA, could have this scanner for £650,000 to install in the National Heart Hospital so long as he could give an undertaking by the end of January 1984 to repay the purchase price to GEC Picker by June 1985. (I enclose a CORDA letter heading and a list of the membership of its Scientific Advisory Council which demonstrate the eminence and breadth of experience of its backers.) We have secured that the scanner will be ordered by the Department of Trade and Industry under their support programme for British industry. This is however on the understanding that CORDA will in fact raise the funds needed - around £½ million on top of what is already promised - both to install the machine and to repay the purchase price in mid 1985 to DTI. Thus although Mr Longmore - or CORDA - will no longer be required to sign a repayment pledge to secure delivery of the machine - it is vitally important that he continue his efforts to raise money so as to repay the capital sum involved. Mr Longmore is hoping that the Prime Minister will host a fund raising party for CORDA at Number 10; I realise that this may not appear to be an attractive proposition. Nonetheless it would be extremely helpful if the Prime Minister were willing to find some appropriate way of expressing her support for this charitable venture.

*Yours sincerely,**Ken.*

# CORDA

DETECTION PROTECTION PREVENTION

The Coronary Artery Disease Research Association (Formerly HEART)  
47 Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DG Telephone 01-834 5000

President: The Rt. Hon. Lord Carr of Hadley, PC.  
Patrons: N. L. Clifford-Jones, FCA  
Dame Honor Fell, DBE, FRS  
Sir Hector Laing  
J. P. MacArthur  
The Hon. D. McAlpine  
Professor Sir Peter Medawar, OM, CH, FRS.  
The Lord Miles of Blackfrirs, CBE.  
The Rt. Hon. Sir Roger Ormrod, BM, BCh, FRCP.

The Coronary Artery Disease Research Association.  
Charity Commission Number 271070  
Registered Number: London 1244831  
Registered Office: The Suite, Hedgerows,  
Hyde Heath, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5RH.

Board of Directors:  
Sir Cecil Clothier, KCB, QC. (Chairman).  
R. D. Cherrington,  
W. F. Davis,  
D. B. Longmore,  
C. A. Roberts, CBE, DL.  
S. N. Steen,  
J. R. Stephenson,  
J. L. Turk.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL OF CORDA - November, 1983

Professor J. L. Turk MD., DSc., FRCP., FRCS., FRCPATH,  
Royal College of Surgeons,  
Lincoln's Inn Fields,  
London WC2.

Mr. D. B. Longmore FRCSEd.,  
National Heart Hospital,  
Westmoreland Street,  
London W.1.

Dr. W. Brigden MA., MD., FRCP.,  
45 Wimpole Street,  
London W.1.

Sir Cyril Clarke KBE., FRS.,  
Royal College of Physicians Research Unit,  
11 St. Andrew's Place,  
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Mr. W. P. Cleland MS., FRCS., FRACS.,  
Green Meadows,  
Goodworth Clatford,  
Andover,  
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Middlesex UB3 1HH.

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London W.1.

Dr. E. Lockey BSc., MD., FRCPATH,  
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London NW1 6QS.



Professor Sir Peter Medawar OM., CH., FRS.,  
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Dr. F. G. Taylor MSc., MB., ChB., MRCGP.,  
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London W1A 1DN.

Mr. M. H. Yacoub MS., FRCS.,  
Harefield Hospital,  
Harefield,  
Middlesex.

Professor G. Walton MA., BSc., FRIC., F.Inst. P.,  
Mullenders,  
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Oxfordshire. OX8 4SH.

Dr. J. R. Vane FRS.,  
The Wellcome Research Laboratories,  
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Beckenham,  
Kent,  
BR3 3BS.

MR. DONALD LONGMORE

WESTMORELAND STREET, LONDON W1M 8BA

TELEPHONE 01-486 0824

01-486 4811

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

16th December, 1983

*Pl file*

Mr. R. Butler,  
Principal Private Secretary,  
10 Downing Street,  
London S.W.1

Dear

*Robin*

Many thanks for your recent letter and for the quite unnecessary thank you letter about your visit to the Heart Hospital. There is a great deal more to tell you about and show you so perhaps in the New Year when you come with Mr. Denis Thatcher I will be able to show you some more.

Your efforts with the D.H.S.S. have certainly proved to be effective. We are having a meeting on Wednesday afternoon next in order that I can present our case. The D.H.S.S. representatives are Dr. Abrahams and Mr. Gordon Higson. I have no idea how senior they are but on the telephone they did sound knowledgeable, which is a good start.

If we do not talk before Christmas, all good wishes to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

*Donald*

Donald B. Longmore, FRCSEd  
Consultant Clinical Physiologist

NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL

DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGY

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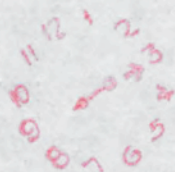
MR DONALD LONGMORE

Our Ref

Your Ref

PL 112

20 DEC 1983





FD SG

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

14 December 1983

We spoke the other evening about the approach which I had received from Mr. Donald Longmore about the funding of the nuclear magnetic resonance machine which he hopes to acquire for the National Heart Hospital; and you kindly said that you would arrange for Mr. Longmore to speak to the right person in the DHSS and let me know what arrangement was being made.

I have subsequently received a letter from Mr. Longmore, of which I attach a copy, with my acknowledgement.

BF | It would be very helpful if we could have a word on the telephone when you know who will be contacting Mr. Longmore on behalf of the DHSS; and I should be very grateful if I could have advice in due course on Mr. Longmore's suggestion that the Prime Minister should open the unit. In terms of intrinsic interest in the development, I think that the Prime Minister might be well disposed to the suggestion that she should open the unit, but she will of course want to be guided by your Secretary of State's advice in relation to the Government's attitude towards this development and the way in which the Prime Minister's opening of it would be regarded elsewhere in the profession.

FSB

Sir Kenneth Stowe, K.C.B., C.V.O.,  
Department of Health and Social Security.

So



cedsg  
cedh88

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

14 December 1983

Many thanks for your letter of 13 December about nuclear magnetic resonance. I had already spoken to Sir Kenneth Stowe, who told me that he was very willing to advise on the proper channels through which you can discuss this with the DHSS: he said that he would arrange for the right person to make contact with you, and will keep me in touch with the arrangements being made.

It is a nice idea that you might invite the Prime Minister to open the unit, but I imagine it is a little early for you to determine a definite date, or for us to commit her to it. May we consider this further when the progress of the project is a bit clearer?

FLB

Donald Longmore, Esq.

610  
DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGY

# NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL

MR. DONALD LONGMORE

WESTMORELAND STREET, LONDON W1M 8BA

TELEPHONE 01-486 0824

01-486 4811

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

13th December, 1983

R. Butler, Esq.,  
Private Secretary,  
10 Downing Street,  
London S.W.1

Dear *R. Butler*

Thank you for your offer to speak to Sir Kenneth Stowe on our behalf about nuclear magnetic resonance (N.M.R.).

We are in a unique position to help British medicine and British industry to retain their advanced positions in this new field. I believe it is important that we should make every effort to prevent the erosion of our lead. We are in danger of being overwhelmed by the massive American investment in research and development, and the even greater American effort to commercialise N.M.R. For these reasons I have deemed it unwise to delay by proceeding through the normal channels to obtain an N.M.R. scanner.

In spite of the position of the National Heart and Chest Hospitals in the forefront of cardiovascular disease management and research, we have only just managed to get a nuclear medicine department (the technique is now obsolescent) and are only just installing a CAT scanner; both of these have been achieved by private subscription. Furthermore the Hospitals are under considerable financial strain and it may even prove necessary to close our superb and loyally staffed hospital at Frimley in order to make ends meet. In spite of these difficulties our enlightened administration and Board of Governors have provided us with a building, as much support as they possibly can, plus a number of key salaries so that the N.M.R. project can proceed with due speed. As a result of my association with the research side of G.E.C. we have been offered the first of the 5 kilogauss machines (rather more powerful than most commercial machines) at a discounted price of £650,000 delivered and installed (worth £1.1 million plus). They have also negotiated an interest-free loan for us, repayable in June 1985.

There can be no-one else in the U.K. in so fortunate a position as our group. For a decade we have been aiming towards early detection and early diagnosis of cardiovascular disease. We thus have an understanding of the earliest stages of its progress. We have been associated with N.M.R. research from the time that the first human images were produced. At that time we started biological testing of the safety of N.M.R. In order to further our aims of eliminating cardiovascular disease we have carefully assembled a team of hardworking people with outstanding expertise in physics, computer programming and biochemistry. In parallel with this we have acquired the computing power and the expertise needed for high-quality documentation and rapid, detailed analysis of all the data we obtain, well ahead of many other groups in the field, centred as they are on physics departments and working in isolation.

During the past two years we have been working in association with G.E.C. Hirst Research, and due to the generosity and co-operation of the Hammersmith Hospital, we have been able to do practical work in the evenings and at weekends. This work has resulted in two major advances:

1. A better gating system. This means that the many projections needed to construct an N.M.R. image can all be taken in the same part of the cardiac cycle to an accuracy of within 5 milliseconds. Other workers are working within an accuracy of 150.
2. Although we are impressed with the work done by Radda and his group in Oxford on the effects of diminished blood flow on the chemistry of muscle, including heart muscle, we believe that it is more important to go further back in the disease process. The best way to achieve this is to try to detect diminished blood flow at the earliest stage. To this end we have already developed very accurate methods of measuring blood flow in small arteries. We are now pressing on to extend these techniques to measure blood flow in the main coronary arteries.

Because we have been associated with fundamental research on the pathogenesis of atheroma, we were pioneers in the use of prostacyclin (John Vane's Nobel prize-winning discovery) in animals and then in man. We are in close touch with drug companies who have organised clinical trials of materials which may reverse atheroma. As soon as it is ready, our N.M.R. blood flow technique will be ideal for monitoring the efficacy of these compounds.

I had hoped that the CORDA charity founded nearly a decade ago by Robert Carr, myself and John Stephenson in order to solve this problem, would be able to finance the N.M.R. project. Although they can fund projects to be carried out in the Unit there is only a remote chance that they can meet the deadline of January 31st by which time the commitment to the £650,000 plus the £100,000

required for the building conversion must be pledged in writing. I appreciate that we are in competition for funding within the D.H.S.S. framework of other N.M.R. projects as well as projects in many other areas. Perhaps our strongest point is the combination of the relevance of what we are trying to do in making health care more cost-effective, coupled with the enlightened attitude of our local administration and the majority of my colleagues who see the importance of this work.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Donald

Donald B. Longmore, FRCSEd  
Consultant Clinical Physiologist

Do you think the Prime Minister  
would like to open the unit in  
June or July 1984?  
DBC.



010 48  
DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGY

# NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL

MR. DONALD LONGMORE

WESTMORELAND STREET, LONDON W1M 8BA

TELEPHONE 01-486 0824

01-486 4811

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

7th December, 1983

Mr. R. Butler,  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London S.W.1

Dear *Rahim* <sup>PBBS</sup>

In answer to your query about the staff of the National Heart Hospital, the breakdown is as follows:

42.9 medical WTE (whole time employees)  
123.5 nursing WTE  
63.3 technical WTE  
6.0 administrative WTE  
35.1 clerical WTE  
12.0 domestic WTE

We have been fortunate in that our administration has managed to find the staff cuts from the administration and ancillary staff and has not blunted the clinical edge too much, although we are taking the unprecedented step of having the hospital closed for three weeks over Christmas. Taking the surgical figures only into account we aim to salvage 15 plus people a week on this cost saving exercise but which also could be said to be murdering by neglect 45 people.

I enjoyed your visit. I do hope you come again with Mr. Thatcher when perhaps you will have a little more time and I can show you more going on.

With all good wishes. Yours sincerely,

*Report will be ready  
by Week End  
D.B.L.*

*Donald*

Donald B. Longmore, FRCSEd  
Consultant Clinical Physiologist