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His Excellency Mr. Laurent Fabius

Foreign Minister of France,

I would like to present my compliments to his Excellency for the trip to my country, Iran. I am the president of Iran's Hepatitis Network and one of the Iranian scientists in the field of prevention and treatment of liver diseases, especially viral hepatitis.

As you are well aware, history has witnessed the long and effective role of Iran in production and development of science in the world, through the invaluable efforts of Iranian scientists such as Avicenna and Rhazes. Through ages, the undeniable importance of health in sustainable development of countries has only increased.

Now that you have travelled to Iran, I would like to recall the incomplete dossier of the inadvertent affliction of many Iranian hemophilia patients with hepatitis C and HIV as a result of administering contaminated imported blood factors (Institute Merieux, France). Although hepatitis C was discovered in 1990, blood products had been disinfected years before. Unfortunately, those infected batches were used in my country and left a deep scar in the hearts and minds of my people.

For the past 10 years, with the help of Ministry of Health and scientific centers, my colleagues have treated over 5000 infected people, and at the present moment, some 300 infected people need the modern and costly medication. I am positive that all our efforts are in line with developing a healthy community and improving its health level.

I would like to take the opportunity of your presence in Iran to kindly ask you to examine the unresolved issue of contaminated blood products exported by the French institute from a professional, scientific and humanitarian perspective in order to erase the bitter memories of patients with hepatitis C and HIV, and the decease of some of them from the minds of Iranian people.

Yours faithfully,

Prof. Seyed Moayed Alavian

Director of Iran's Hepatitis Network

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