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DS6c (Mr Coffey)

CDE: ARTICLE FOR PUBLICATION

1. I mentioned that CDE proposed to publish a Scientific Paper on the effect of chest impacts on pigs. Although not stated in the Paper, the projectiles used were plastic baton rounds. Our normal concern with any articles from CDE is whether they are likely to invoke the anger at the anti-vivisectionist lobby. In this case, the pigs were anaesthetized so this particular problem does not arise. Moreover, this work has a broader medical relevance to the treatment of chest injuries. CDE are, very properly, keen to publish any work which does have such general importance. I put to them the question of whether this Paper would have any significance in the case of Stewart v UK in the ECHR. CDE believe that the work is not in any way relevant to the case; it involves more severe injuries than one would expect from the use of baton rounds in operational circumstances. Stewart was, of course, hit on the head rather than the chest. I believe therefore that publication should go ahead as proposed, but would be grateful to know that you do not see any particular difficulty.

S J CHARLTON
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