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*From the Master*  
*Sir Terence English KBE FRCS*

11th March 1996

The Rt Hon The Rt Hon Nick Harvey MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

*Dear Mr. Harvey,*

Further to my letter of 25th January in reply to yours of 18th January, since writing to you I have been trying to trace the key correspondence referred to in your letter. I regret that thus far I have been unsuccessful, but I have spoken to various individuals who were concerned with the matter at the time, the most important of whom is Dr John Zorab. He, like me, recently retired from the NHS at which time, like me, he had to clear out his office. However, he does recall having come across our correspondence and believes that he wrote to me probably in 1990.

He tells me that his letter to me arose from a casual meeting he had had with Dr Bolsin when they happened to meet at a private hospital where they were both working and at which time Dr Bolsin expressed to Dr Zorab his general concern about a higher than to be expected mortality rate for paediatric cardiac surgery at the BRI. Dr Zorab is insistent that this was a general statement and that no reference was made to specific operations being attended by a high mortality rate. Dr Zorab told Dr Bolsin that he would write to me in my capacity as President of the Royal College of Surgeons, which he then did. I apparently responded by saying that I felt the only way the Royal College of Surgeons would be able to help would be through the Specialists Advisory Committee who would look into the matter at their next visit. Certainly, my impression from Dr Zorab's letter was that there was no great urgency.