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MAURITIUS

Rheumatic Fever 'Alarming' Among Young

54000090 Port Louis *THE SUN* in French
19 Jun 89 pp 1, 8

[Text] The incidence of rheumatic fever among young people in Mauritius is alarming. That at least is the observation of Professor Alain Cerene, who has operated on a large number of children afflicted with the disease, shared by developing countries. [The patient is] infected by a bacteria called streptococcus, which first attacks the child's throat, and the disease spreads to the heart valves. An operation is then necessary.

The above is what emerged from a press conference held by the health minister Jagdish Goburdhun, during which Professor Cerene explained that, in France, it is primarily the elderly who are required to undergo heart surgery.

Indeed, Dr Balgobin, head of open-heart operations at Northern Hospital, explained to the SUN that we run the risk of disease at both ends. That is, the disease of developing countries, which is streptococcus afflicting the young, and the disease of developed countries, which attacks older people.

However, Dr Balgobin believes that with the medical development under way in Mauritius, streptococcus will become more rare in the coming years.

Thanking the government for having done everything to make things easy for foreign medical teams, Professor Cerene stated that the success rate is higher in Mauritius than in France.

Indeed, the mortality rate in France is 4 to 6 percent, while Mauritius's is only 2 to 3 percent.

Professor Cerene, who is making his fourth visit to Mauritius and has already operated on 110 patients during those visits, described Mauritian medical personnel as competent.

The French team, which is made up of only six members, would not have been able to perform the operations without the help of the Mauritian team.

The minister of health, Jagdish Goburdhun, said that the finishing touches were being put to the Cardiac Surgery Center. The Center will be operational very shortly.

Stressing that operation of the Center will require enormous financial and technical resources, the minister stated that the government knows it can count on the help of Professor Cerene and his collaborators for expertise.

The minister made special mention of the presence of Dr Gunesh on Professor Cerene's team, considering it a positive step in the area of education, for Dr Gunesh is a Mauritian.

Mr Goburdhun also expressed his gratitude to the French team, and especially to Professor Cerene.

All the more so, he said, as the close cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Toulouse University Hospital Center has been fortified by a protocol giving it a legal and institutional basis.

The minister also congratulated the Mauritian staff who are toiling around the clock to make the program a success.

In conclusion, the minister reiterated his thanks to Miss Henri, a member of the French team, who last Monday donated a respirator and electrical syringes to the Cardiac Surgery Center.

It should be pointed out Professor Cerene has already completed the first session of the ninth series of open-heart operations. He operated on 30 patients during this session. He will be relieved by Professor Saksena, an Indian cardiologist currently in Mauritius. The latter will then be replaced by Professor Om Prakash of Holland.

MOZAMBIQUE

5 Percent of Nampula Said To Carry AIDS

54000085b Maputo *NOTICIAS* in Portuguese
26 May 89 p 5

[Text] At least 5 percent of the people residing in the city of Nampula, capital of the province of the same name, are estimated to be carriers of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), but show no symptoms.

This fact was revealed by the daily DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE, which is published in the city of Beira, citing results of a survey which was done by the central AIDS study unit.

In statements to DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE, Dr Ines Zimba, provincial coordinator of the AIDS program in Nampula, regarded this percentage as somewhat high, in spite of the fact that the number of cases diagnosed up until now is relatively low.

Nampula is the country's most populous province, with nearly 2.5 million inhabitants, of whom 9.8 percent are urban, according to the 1983 census.

For Dr Ines Zimba, the gravity of the situation lies in the fact that these 5 percent are people who have the epidemic but show no outward manifestation of it, which impedes timely detection by clinical personnel.

Through last January, two cases of AIDS had been diagnosed in the province of Nampula, out of the 27 known cases nationwide.

Second Phase of Anti-Manioc Scale Campaign Begins

54000085a Maputo *NOTICIAS* in Portuguese
24 May 89 p 1

[Text] Starting this coming month [June 1989] and continuing until May 1992, the second phase of the

biological program to control manioc scale will begin. This program will encompass not only the control operations that are to be set in motion nationwide—continuation of periodic inspections to determine to what degree natural enemies that have been introduced have established themselves, continuation of insect production, and studying and testing ways to transport insects to other provinces—but will also deal with other factors, such as carrying out activities necessary for continuous nationwide personnel training, with the ultimate purpose of doing biological control studies and operations for other pests and in other types of crops.

So the phase to be initiated next month will include continuing the activities of the biological program to control manioc scale, personnel training in both short courses and graduate courses, renovation of greenhouses and laboratories, as well as acquisition of vehicles, equipment, and the funds necessary to operate and support this campaign.

The program envisions that, up until this coming October, the periodic inspections will be carried out in two fields that have already been selected. These inspections are designed to determine to what degree the natural enemies that have been introduced there have become established.

These inspections, which were begun last December, have the purpose of observing the percentages of infestation, and, each working day, samples are collected from 50 plants at random. From these samples, a count is taken of the number of scale insects [cochineal bugs], mummies, parasites, and predators present.

Data on this subject collected up to the beginning of this past March were still insufficient. The percentage of scale insects parasitized by natural enemies (insects that feed especially off this type of insect), varied from 1.2 to 4.4 percent. However, specimens of as yet unidentified hyperparasites are now being collected.

Production of Natural Enemies

In spite of the fact that the program to produce and study insects scientifically designated as “e. lopezi” and “Diomus SSP” is still in the initial stage, there are, nevertheless, indications that we can dispense with purchasing these insects from abroad, particularly those of first quality, whose current national production is nearly 2,000 wasps per week. As for the other species, the results obtained so far suggest that mass production of them is possible. To do so, it would suffice to better equip the existing infrastructures.

Sources connected to agriculture state that the inspections under way since last April, which are scheduled to end this month, will determine to what degree the natural enemies that have been introduced have established themselves in the areas in which they were released, as well as in other areas.

A sample aimed at estimating average production of each manioc plant, which was done in September of last year [1988] when the manioc fields were seriously affected by the scale insect, made it possible to estimate the levels of tuber production losses in the 1987-1988 biennium in the Green Zones of Maputo at between 80 and 90 percent.

However, according to the same sources, this sample has the disadvantage of being very limited—samples were taken from only 50 fields—in view of the area involved.

Presently, a test is under way to try to find the best pesticide and dose to control the scale insect of the deviant variety, at the same time that a comparison is being done between production of manioc that has been attacked by the pest and that which is free of same.

Our sources continue to maintain that only after two more planting seasons will it be possible to determine the impact of this program, at least in the Green Zones of Maputo, if more representative samples are taken from the farmers' collective fields in the upcoming agricultural campaigns, along with the above-mentioned inspections.

ZAMBIA

Cholera Causes Concern in Mbala

*54000065b Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English
2 Jun 89 p 1*

[Excerpt] Cholera, which had been on the decline in Mbala recently is again causing concern following 17 new suspected cases reported within two weeks.

Mbala governor Samuel Wamuwi said this when he opened a two-day cholera control seminar in Mpulungu.

The governor said of the 17 cases reported, eight people had been registered as cholera patients, three in Mpulungu and five in Nsumbu, and were receiving treatment.

The disease, has claimed 32 lives since it broke out at Nsumbu and Mpulungu in February and schools, bars, restaurants and churches have been closed down since then.

“Parents are concerned over the closure of schools in the area particularly those whose children were doing Grades 7 and 9 as they will be required to sit for selection examinations at the end of the year,” Cde Wamuwi said. [Passage omitted]

ZIMBABWE

Health Authorities Report 500 AIDS Cases in 1989

*54000065a Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English
24 May 89 p 3*

[Text] Zimbabwe health authorities have said 178 more cases of AIDS have been confirmed during the first three

months of the year, bringing to 500 reported incidences of the killer disease since 1988.

Deputy health minister Cde Swithun Mombeshora told a ceremony to mark the launching of child immunisation week in Harare yesterday that Zimbabwe's high successful immunisation programme could be reversed "if we fail to prevent and control the spread of HIV infection and AIDS."

"In Zimbabwe we have been relatively successful in preventing the six killer diseases (polio, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus and tuberculosis) as we can now boast of over two thirds of our children under one year being fully immunised as opposed to only a quarter five years ago," Cde Mombeshora said.

But studies by the ministry indicated that "an increasing number of children are being born with HIV infection from HIV infected parents."

"Most of these children will die within the first 36 months of life," he said.

Zimbabwe stood "to lose all the ground we have gained through the expanded programme for immunisation in terms of reductions in infant and childhood illnesses and deaths if we do not redouble our efforts in working to prevent and control the spread of HIV infection and AIDS."

Cde Mombeshora said despite the ministry's AIDS awareness campaign some Zimbabweans still engaged in "high risk behaviour which includes casual sex and sex with multiple partners" as evidence by a significant increase in the number of sexually transmitted disease patients being treated.

The deputy minister emphasised that figures on those who had contracted AIDS were of limited value and did not give the true magnitude of the problem and therefore likely to lull people into a false sense of security.

Report on AIDS Survey

54004812 Beijing ZHONGHUA LIUXINGBINGXUE
ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY]
in Chinese Vol 10 No 2, Apr 89 pp 65-67

[Article by Zheng Xiwen [6774 6932 2429], et al., AIDS Monitoring Center, Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine]

[Excerpts] In 1984, China began AIDS prevention work under the direction of the Ministry of Public Health. After discovery of the first case in Beijing in June 1985, the nationwide AIDS monitoring effort was strengthened. Now, the results for the nationwide AIDS survey from 1985 to 1988 are reported as follows.

A. Results of AIDS Serological Monitoring:

1. Serology Testing Methods: After the collection of blood serum from high-risk groups, for the most part, Indirect Immunofluorescence Tests (IF) or Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) were employed in initial screening. When positive or suspect results were discovered, the Western Blot method was used to confirm diagnosis. There were also a few organizations which employed the Gelatin P-Agglutinin Test (GPAT) and other methods in examination.

2. Numbers of Serological Survey and Positive Test for Each High-Risk Group: From 1985 to 1988 blood serum from a total of 96,549 individuals from groups at high risk for AIDS were examined. For the number of individuals in each category, see Table 1. A total of three AIDS cases and 19 cases which tested positive for the AIDS antibody were discovered, yielding a positive test rate of 2.3/10,000. In addition, 12 batches of imported globulin which tested positive for the AIDS antibody were discovered. In a random survey of 343 users all were found to test negative.

3. The General Situation of AIDS Cases and Those Testing Positive for the AIDS Antibody: For an overview of the three AIDS cases and 19 cases in which positive tests were obtained for AIDS antibodies. Table 1. Results of the Blood Serology Monitoring of High-Risk AIDS Groups in China From 1985 to 1988

High-Risk Groups	Number Tested	Percentage	Number Positive
Foreigners	16696	17.3	18 (3 AIDS Cases)
Chinese Returning to China	5438	5.6	
Prostitutes and Those With Sexually Transmitted Diseases	18195	18.9	
Hotel Workers	9169	9.5	

High-Risk Groups	Number Tested	Percentage	Number Positive
Border Residents	1373	1.4	
Users of Imported Blood Products	1668	1.7	4
Intimated Contacts	214	0.2	
Blood Donors	26438	27.4	
Others	17358	18.0	
Total	96549		22

Occupations: Students studying overseas account for the largest number of cases with eight. Foreigners working in China account for six cases, travelers to China account for three cases and one case was returning to China for medical treatment. Of the four cases which were Chinese, three were students and one was a worker.

B. A Record of Major Events in China's AIDS Prevention Effort from 1985 to 1988.

1. In 1985, the Ministry of Public Health and the General Administration of Customs jointly issued the "Notification of Prohibition on Importation of Number 8 Factor Preparation and Other Blood Products: as pharmaceuticals document number 49.

2. In June 1985, China reported its first AIDS case (a foreign traveler). This patient died at Xiehe hospital in Beijing.

3. On 15 October 1986, the Ministry of Public Health's AIDS prevention work group was established.

4. On 27 February 1987, Premier Zhao Ziyang instructed the Ministry of Public Health to "propose systematic measures to deal with problems of the spread of AIDS into China and its prevention.

5. In August 1987, the Ministry of Public Health formulated the "National AIDS Prevention Program."

6. In 1987, the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine established the "AIDS Monitoring Center" (under the responsibility of the Epidemiology and Microbiology Research Institute) and the "AIDS Research and Survey Center" (under the responsibility of the Virology Research Institute).

7. In December 1987, the AIDS Monitoring Center of the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine organized and convened China's first key provincial and municipal conference on AIDS prevention and control, and defined eight groups of people at high-risk of contracting AIDS.

8. In 1987, the Virology Institute of the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine produced an AIDS

diagnostic reagent and for the first time, isolated the AIDS virus from an AIDS patient.

9. On 14 January 1988, the Ministry of Public Health and seven other ministries and commissions issued "Some Regulations for the Management of AIDS Monitoring."

10. On 28 May 1988, the Chinese Foundation for AIDS Prevention Research was established.

11. In September 1988, the Department of Epidemic Prevention of the Ministry of Public Health organized and compiled the "Handbook on AIDS Prevention."

12. On 1 December 1988, International AIDS Day, AIDS information dissemination activities were initiated nationwide.

C. Several Issues in the AIDS Prevention Effort.

1. The Focus of Monitoring: Although serological monitoring of the eight high-risk AIDS groups should be carried out, at present, the focus of the monitoring should be placed on two groups of people. One category is those foreigners who will reside in China for more than one year, especially students and businessmen coming from areas with a high incidence of AIDS. They have more frequent contact with Chinese people. Another category is the prostitutes, especially those who have had deviate sexual relations with foreigners. It can be predicted that China's first group of AIDS patients will be discovered among prostitutes.

Based on analysis of the three routes of AIDS transmission, one route, i.e., transmission through blood, is not a major danger in China because the importation of blood products has been prohibited. Moreover, foreign blood products have undergone viral sterilization. Apart from this, because China has not yet discovered native AIDS patients, the mother to infant route of transmission is still not a serious problem. Every year there are 20 million foreign travelers coming to China, domestically the number of people afflicted with sexually transmitted disease has reached several hundred thousand. These numbers indicate that transmission through sexual contact is now the most significant route for AIDS transmissions in China.

2. Estimates Regarding the AIDS Infection Situation Among Residents of China:

On the basis of the three patients and 19 infected people already discovered, except for the four Chinese who were infected as a result of the occasional use of imported blood products on display in China—number 8 factor—the other cases were all brought in from outside by foreign visitors or returning Overseas Chinese. It is still not possible to estimate just how many AIDS cases there are in China among native residents (there is a specific definition for AIDS cases), however, it can be inferred that cases of infection by the AIDS virus among Chinese residents must exist and in significant numbers, although

the number is not too large. The reason is that China's serological monitoring of high-risk groups over the past 5 years has only included 100,000 people. If this were to be expanded 10 fold, still more infected people would surely be discovered. The incubation period of AIDS is from 6 months to 14 years with an average of 4.5 years, therefore, a portion of those infected have not, as yet shown any clear symptoms. In recent years the number infected with sexually transmitted diseases has abruptly increased, indicating the seriousness of the sexual transmission route in the spread of AIDS. International contact is daily becoming more frequent and in very many countries worldwide. The number of AIDS cases is still on the rise.

3. Publicity Education: Under circumstances in which there is no effective cure or specific methods of prevention, publicity and education should be placed in the position of first priority. However, presently some localities exploit the sexually transmitted disease and AIDS exhibitions as a method of development. Attention should be paid to this.

4. Diagnostic Reagents: Presently, although batch production of immunofluorescent diagnostic reagent can be accomplished domestically, evaluation and constant improvement of its quality is still to be carried out by those organizations using it so as to avoid missing any positive diagnoses. Only through perfecting domestic, independent production of diagnostic reagent can the number of blood serology tests be greatly increased.

5. Reporting System: Each province and municipality should follow the "AIDS Prevention Handbook" regulations and report each season to the AIDS Monitoring Center of the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine on the AIDS monitoring situation. In addition, how to unify the monitoring reports of the epidemic prevention system and other systems awaits coordination.

6. Funds: Presently, the funds utilized by China for AIDS serological monitoring and research are seriously inadequate. Also, as AIDS funding issued by the Ministry of Public Health can not be designated for a single purpose, it can be diverted by the localities into other projects. As a result of inadequacies in funds and equipment in the public health epidemic prevention organizations on the front line of AIDS monitoring, the AIDS monitoring effort is being significantly affected.

Blood Product Used to Treat Hepatitis B Declared Safe

54004024 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING
POST in English 31 May 89 p 2

[Article by Mariana Wan: "Blood Product Used to Treat Hepatitis B Safe, Says Doctor"]

[Text] An AIDS expert yesterday assured users of Gamma Globulin that the blood product was not a Human Immune Deficiency virus (HIV) transmission agent.

The government consultant and head of the AIDS scientific committee, Dr Yeoh Eng-kiong, said the product, which is used for treating hepatitis B or rabies, was safe.

But he warned the public not to buy the product over the counter or without doctors' or pharmacists' advice.

There have been local reports that Gamma Globulin users have been tested positive for the HIV antibody, but Dr Yeoh said such discoveries were not abnormal and the antibody would disappear within six months.

He said Gamma Globulin, or immunoglobulin, used in Government hospitals went through a sophisticated manufacturing process.

But since the product was imported from many countries, Dr Yeoh would not comment on the absolute safety of Gamma Globulin bought over the counter.

Dr Yeoh gave the warning after releasing the latest AIDS report, which revealed one new carrier of the HIV infection in April, and two new AIDS patients detected in May.

This brings the number of HIV carriers in Hongkong to 144, including 22 AIDS patients. Thirteen of the patients have died, with the other nine being treated or receiving counseling.

Dr Yeoh said the two new patients were both male. One, a non-Chinese, acquired the disease sexually, while the other, a haemophiliac patient, contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion.

The head of the AIDS Counseling and Health Education Clinic, Dr Patrick Li, said other blood products used in

Government hospitals, including clotting factor concentrate and hepatitis B vaccine, had all been proved to be safe.

But he called on blood donors to refrain from using blood donation as a routine AIDS test, although the Red Cross would screen all blood donors for AIDS.

Jiangxi Launches New Campaign Against Snail Fever

*54004814 Beijing XINHUA in English
0822 GMT 17 Jun 89*

[Excerpts] A new campaign against snail fever has been launched in Jiangxi Province, southeast China, as a renewed epidemic of the disease has been noted there.

From 1949, when new China was founded, to the early 1980s, the Jiangxi Provincial Government has spent more than 200 million yuan (about 54 million U.S. dollars) trying to eradicate the disease. [passage omitted]

Since 1983, however, efforts were slackened in prevention work and the disease has been spreading quickly in the province.

According to the relevant department, the number of sufferers has grown to 320,000, many of whom live in nine of the 22 counties that had been initially free from the disease before 1980. Some 80,000 head of farm cattle have also been infected.

In new efforts to combat the disease, the provincial government has earmarked 7.8 million yuan and has also sent medical workers to treat patients and animals. Calls have been issued to all the people to eliminate snails from lakes and rivers so as to get rid of the source of the disease.

HONG KONG

Two More Patients Diagnosed With AIDS

54004027 Hong Kong *HONG KONG STANDARD* in English 31 May 89 p 3

[Text] Another two patients in Hong Kong have been diagnosed as having Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

The new patients, both men, include one non-Chinese, who acquired the fatal disease through heterosexual contact, and a Chinese haemophiliac found to have been an AIDS carrier previously.

This brings the total number of AIDs patients in the territory of 22—nine of whom are still alive.

Releasing the April surveillance statistics on AIDS yesterday, the Department of Health announced that another haemophiliac had been detected as an AIDS carrier.

Dr Patrick Li, head of the AIDS Counselling and Education Clinic, said it was believed that the haemophiliac received the virus when getting blood before the series of strict donor screening measures started worldwide about four years ago.

Dr Li said measures taken in handling blood transfusions since 1985 had already significantly reduced the risk of getting AIDS in this way.

It was not departmental policy to release full details concerning AIDS patients and carriers of the virus.

The department did not want to scare people off and discourage them from being tested for AIDS or receiving treatment.

Up to last month, 143 carriers had been reported in the territory, including 54 haemophiliacs.

Dr Li said the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service had started screening donors for AIDS from August 1985.

It was estimated that only one out of 1,680,000 donors had a chance of being an AIDs carrier and not being detected by screening.

Some haemophiliacs could get AIDS through clotting concentrates which were produced from donated blood.

But, since 1985, most manufacturers had heat-treated concentrates in an attempt to kill the virus.

Another blood product, Gamma Globulin, was injected into people who lacked a particular kind of antibody, and also presented an AIDS threat. Cold alcohol fractionation had been used for four years to combat the virus.

Dr Li said although some AIDS antigen might still be found in certain products of Gamma Globulin, people injected with it were still not in great danger of getting the virus.

After about six months, the antigen would disappear and the AIDS virus tests would be negative again.

He emphasised that the blood products used in all Government hospitals and clinics had gone through all virus safety processes.

However, nothing was absolutely safe and people should only have blood transfusions and receive blood products when it was really necessary.

He rejected claims that the injection of Gamma Globulin would immunise one against disease.

The effectiveness of it would fade gradually and only those people lacking particular antibodies should be injected after seeking medical advice.

Under the Government's surveillance programme started in 1985, 126,240 people had been tested for the AIDS virus.

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service had also screened 551,045 units of blood since 1985, of which eight were found to be positive.

Expert Warns of AIDS Increase

54004028 Hong Kong *SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST* in English 15 Jun 89 p 5

[Article by Mariana Wan]

[Excerpt] The number of AIDS cases in Hong Kong will surge dramatically from the current 20 to more than 300 by 1993, a Government consultant warned yesterday.

Dr Yeoh Eng-kiong, chairman of the Government's AIDS scientific working group, gave the warning after returning from the Fifth International Conference on AIDS in Canada.

Dr Yeoh also warned that the profile of AIDs patients may change, with more intravenous drug addicts contacting the disease than homosexuals.

Cholera Case Sparks Health Fears in Refugee Camp

54004025 Hong Kong *SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST* in English 23 May 89 p 6

[Article by Fiona Macmahon]

[Text] Hongkong's first locally contracted cholera case—a 62-year-old woman from Tuen Mun—was confirmed by the Medical and Health Department yesterday, sparking fears about potential health risks in the Vietnamese refugee camps nearby.

The victim has been diagnosed as suffering from Cholera El Tor. She is in Princess Margaret Hospital in a satisfactory condition, a department spokesman said.

The case has been classified as local as the woman has not travelled abroad recently. Her home has been visited by health officers and disinfected. Her immediate family—son, daughter-in-law and grandchild—have been given preventative antibiotics.

The Tuen Mun area is home to about 8,500 refugees, 5,000 of whom are crammed into the Tuen Mun refugee camp alone.

A spokesman for the Medical and Health Department said the Government was concerned about the spread of contagious diseases within the refugee camps, but added that one of the areas that the department focuses on most is health education.

Health and hygiene programs have proved the most effective prevention for cholera as inoculation has been found to give minimal protection and tends to provide a false sense of security, the department's cholera subject officer, Dr Frank Ng Fok-hung, said.

Cholera is transmitted through contaminated food or contact with infected human faeces, he said.

The department spokesman said they would not be taking any special action in the refugee camps and detention centres.

"We always monitor the situation closely, but there have been no outbreaks of serious diseases in the camps so far this year," she said.

Dr Rachel Wells, a *Medicins sans Frontiers* (MSF) doctor in the Tuen Mun refugee camp, said yesterday there was always a risk of communicable diseases spreading when people were living in cramped conditions.

"There is no doubt that there is a risk, but all we can do is to try and minimise the risk through health education, ensuring that the standards of the toilets are reasonable and checking that kitchen workers are not carrying any diseases."

Tuen Mun camp has an official capacity of 2,900 but has been forced to house about 5,000 refugees and its level of sanitation has been seriously undermined.

During a visit to Tuen Mun refugee camp by the *South China Morning Post* last Friday, toilets in the camp were found to be unfit for human use and children had resorted to using drains around the camp.

Dr Wells said that since Friday a new block of toilets had been brought in and the heavy rain had helped clean the camp out.

She said MSF was aware of the situation and was constantly on the lookout.

—Yesterday 119 Vietnamese boat people sailed into Hongkong, bringing the total number of arrivals this month to 5,758. The highest arrivals for a whole month last year was in July when 5,561 boat people arrived.

VD Cases Increase Among Teenagers

54004026 Hong Kong *SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST* in English 22 May 89 p 6

[Article by Mary Ann Benitez]

[Text] Venereal disease among teenagers is on the rise, especially among young girls, despite sex education and the fear of AIDS.

Experts blame a more liberal society and the easy availability of contraceptives.

The trend has been revealed by a Family Planning Association survey on sexuality among teenagers.

Health Department nursing officer Julia Kong Kiu-fai said: "This is maybe because society is more liberal, contraceptive pills are more available and socio-economic values are changing."

Miss Kong said the risk of contracting the deadly AIDS virus had not deterred teenagers from indulging in sex.

"They know what AIDS is and the mode of transmission but many say it is not easy to contract as there are very few cases in Hongkong. Others say they are too young to get AIDS," she said.

Government figures show that last year, 741 teenagers (450 girls and 291 boys) aged 13-19 contracted venereal diseases.

While the incidence of VD dropped among male teenagers (from 473 in 1987), more teenage girls were affected (up from 380 in 1987).

Among the general population, 87 per cent of reported cases are men.

Generally, VD is on the rise with 14,787 cases last year, compared with 14,121 in 1987 and 11,808 in 1986.

Many young girls have contracted genital warts, or gonorrhoea caused by a bacteria resistant to antibiotics.

Miss Kong said most of the young girls treated at the Government VD clinics were school drop-outs working in night clubs, bars and discos.

The Family Welfare Society and the Catholic Diocese said parents should be encouraged to give their children sex education.

The spokesman for the Catholic Diocese, Father Louis Ha, said: "Sex education should be developed in a better way and promoted in Hongkong society."

The director of the Family Welfare Society, Mr Thomas Mulvey, said: "Young people are being faced at an

earlier age with sexual issues and problems. Family life education involving parents and the whole family is a more important issue."

The head of the AIDS Counselling and Health Service, Dr Patrick Li, said the topic on AIDS should be included in sex education in schools.

He said the presence of venereal disease increased the risk of getting infected with HIV as it allowed easier entry of the virus into the body.

Infected carriers also are more infectious to their partners if they have accompanying venereal diseases.

INDONESIA

Swiss Tourist Dying From AIDS Arrested in Bali
5404318b Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN 5 Jun 89 p A-4

[Excerpts] The lawyer of HPF, a 27-year-old Swiss tourist, being tried for illegal possession of 43 grams of hashish here Friday, asked the court in making a judgement to consider the fact that the defendant is suffering from AIDS, and that he is dying.

The young unmarried man was arrested by the police at his Kuta Beach hotel, some 12 kilometers south of Denpasar, in March 1989, with hashish tucked in his pocket. [passage omitted]

He said he has been infected with the AIDS virus since 1988.

LAOS

Dysentery, Diarrhea 'Epidemic' in Luang Prabang
BK2107110589 Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] An epidemic of dysentery and diarrhea broke out in the northern province of Luang Prabang in March. The affected areas were in Xieng Ngeun, Phonsai Districts; most severely affected was Pakseng. An initial report showed that 1,752 people were affected and some died.

The provincial administration, in this conjunction, spent 5.7 million kip to curb the epidemic. More than 90 medical personnel were also dispatched to fight the plague.

THAILAND

Report Reviews Costs, Dangers of AIDS Epidemic
BK1206151389 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 12 June 89 0530 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, AIDS now poses the most serious danger that is killing human beings. Any person who contracts AIDS will eventually die because there is still no cure for this disease. Although we have already

realized the seriousness of this disease, we are very concerned about the rapid increase in the number of persons contracting AIDS in Thailand. Reporting on the AIDS situation in our country, Dr Surasak Bunyapraphat, director general of the Communicable Disease Control Department, said that since the AIDS virus began spreading in Thailand in 1984, 12 persons have suffered from the third stage of AIDS, which is the most serious stage, and 11 of them have already died. Sixty-seven persons have suffered from the second stage of AIDS, a stage which shows AIDS-related symptoms, and 54 of them are still in Thailand. A total of 6,208 persons have suffered from first stage of AIDS, a stage which contains the AIDS virus but shows no symptoms. [passage omitted]

About 92 percent of AIDS patients in our country are men and the remaining eight percent are women. The major cause of AIDS contraction is drug addiction, which represents about 87.8 percent of the AIDS patients. It is estimated that the number of over 6,000 persons who have contacted AIDS will rise to 24,000 by the end of next year, and the number is expected to reach 100,000 by 1996 if the current AIDS situation continues. [passage omitted]

The Public Health Ministry has received a budget of 40 million baht for AIDS this year. Coupled with the assistance of over 90 million baht from international organizations, we will spend a total of 130 million baht on checking donated blood and the blood of persons who risk contracting AIDS, on disposable hospital equipment, on measures to prevent the spread of the AIDS virus, and on public relations and training campaigns on AIDS. [passage omitted]

Public Health Ministry Announces AIDS Statistics
BK1507064689 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] About 3,000 prostitutes are carrying the AIDS virus, the Public Health Ministry announced yesterday and urged men to refrain from having sex with prostitutes.

Official projections show that about 1,500 men will contract the deadly virus, most likely from prostitutes, in the next six months, Deputy Public Health Minister Suthat Ngoenmun told a press conference.

The number of AIDS carriers in the prostitution community was estimated after random surveys in 14 provinces in June showed increasing numbers of prostitutes carrying the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which causes the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

In some tourist provinces the number of female carriers has increased by up to 44 per cent compared with previous surveys. Other provinces reported increases of between 1 and 5 per cent.

"We believe there are about 3,000 prostitutes carrying AIDS nationwide," Suthat said. Official records say there are 80,000 prostitutes in the country, but social activists claim there may be up to hundreds of thousands, or perhaps even two million.

The surveys show 60 per cent of HIV-carrying prostitutes are under twenty. "They face higher risks simply because they have more customers. Men who like young prostitutes should look out," Suthat said.

The official number of full-blown AIDS cases has increased to 22 with only seven of the victims still surviving. Seventy-six people have developed AIDS-related Complex (ARC) symptoms, while the total number of carriers exceeds 8,100.

The AIDS proliferation among prostitutes was detected after health officials shifted their search for carriers from the intravenous drug users' community which is nearly saturated with HIV to the sex industry.

Dr Soemsak Worakhamin, permanent secretary of the Public Health Ministry, told the press conference that the AIDS spread among drug users still continues and up to 100,000 addicts are facing the risk of getting the disease.

But Soemsak said the AIDS situation in the sex industry is much more worrying.

"In the drug community AIDS will one day find a dead end, but among prostitutes, never," he said.

Suthat warned that all prostitutes, "low class or high class", shared equal risk. He said a well-known businessman had contracted the disease after having sex with high class prostitutes.

"Now everybody can get AIDS if he or she is not careful," the minister said.

Between 1 and 10 per cent of men who underwent tests for venereal diseases at medical centres were found to have contracted the HIV. In each province, the number of infected men accords with that of infected prostitutes.

"The Public Health Ministry would like to ask Thai men to stop going to prostitutes. If they can't do that they must use a condom every time," Suthat said.

Medical officials had avoided publicizing the appalling AIDS figures concerning prostitutes for fear of damaging the country's booming tourist industry.

But, Suthat said, it is time for the government to change Thailand's image as a sexual paradise.

"We should promote tourism in more appropriate ways and campaign more against AIDS," he said.

VIETNAM

Bac Thai Province Steps Up Efforts Against Malaria

BK2906110389 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] During the 1988-89 2-year period, 80 percent of the districts in Bac Thai Province experienced malaria. The number of persons carrying the malaria parasite increased twofold compared with 1986-87. In the mountain district of Cho Don, 95 percent of its villages experienced malaria, and in Dai Tu District, 93 percent. At Hop Tien village, Dong Hy District, where most of the population are members of the Dao ethnic minority group, 28 people were found carrying the malaria parasite in a random check of 250 people.

Facing a rapid, wide spread of malaria, the provincial anti-malaria office organized a course for local public health cadres to improve their work; supplied grass-roots units with more facilities, medicine, and spraying equipment; and gave eight microscopes to Phu Luong, Dai Tu, Dong Hy, Cho Don, and Vo Nhai Districts. The office zoned off areas with several malaria patients and assigned cadres to treat these patients and spray more DDT in the areas. The office also filled up three swampy areas in Yen Ninh village of Phu Luong District, Bang Phuc of Cho Don District, and Hop Tien of Dong Hy District. The province has sprayed DDT in localities to protect 700,000 people from malaria and has provided direct medical treatment to 5,600 patients.

BAHRAIN

Farm Alert Over Deadly Parasite Reported

54004534 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English
24 Jun 89 p 1

[Excerpts] Animal health experts in Bahrain are on the alert for a flesh-eating insect, which preys on sheep and cattle and can cause death to livestock.

The parasite can also affect humans.

The species of American screw-worm fly, known as *Callitroga Hominivorax*, was last reported in Bahrain seven years ago.

But the parasite has recently been sighted in the border area between Libya and Egypt, raising fears that it may spread to other Middle East countries.

Dr Khalid Ahmad, acting head of the Commerce Ministry's veterinary services department, said all animals entering Bahrain via the King Fahd Causeway were normally checked for any infestation.

Controlled

But inspectors were now being extra vigilant, since the recent reports of the insect in the Arab world, said Dr Ahmad.

Close checks were being made on all animals brought into Bahrain, especially those from Iraq, Turkey and Syria, said Dr Ahmad. [Passage omitted]

The insect is about twice the size of a common housefly, with a greenish-coloured body and orange or reddish head.

BANGLADESH

Problems of Implementing Immunization Program Revealed

54500126 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English
2 Jun 89 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hassan Abul Quashem]

[Text] The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), an important programme in the health sector, is now being implemented under the Third Five-Year Plan (1985-90). The programme is aimed at preventing six common infectious diseases—childhood diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, tuberculosis, polio and measles by expanding the area of coverage on a national basis.

The programme aims at immunizing all children by three doses of DPT and polio and one dose each of BCG and measles by their first birthday. The programme immunization of women of child-bearing age (15 to 45 years) with emphasis on the pregnant women with two doses of tetanus toxoid also included World Bank and

Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) supporting it from the very beginning while the USAID joined it as an international partner from 1988.

The programme began in 1985-86 during which EPI covered eight upazilas and the programme has been extended to 190 upazilas and 30 municipal areas in three phases so far. The third phase of the programme will cover the remaining 270 upazilas and 58 municipal towns. The programme has been delayed by one year and is now scheduled to be completed by 1991, official sources said.

The official review shows that the national vaccination coverage has increased ten-fold during the last three years despite the disruption created by the unprecedented floods. The report also shows that 20 per cent of all infants in Bangladesh were fully immunized before their first birthday compared to only two per cent three years ago.

Recent surveys also show that 80 per cent of the infants were immunised in 70 upazilas in the two phases before their first birthday. Boalkhali upazila of Chittagong achieved the highest 85 per cent immunization of children while Jhikargacha and Bograsadar upazila achieved 70 to 80 per cent immunization of infants and Melandah 50 to 60 per cent.

After the implementation of the next phase of 270 upazilas the coverage will increase to 35 per cent.

But in Raojan, which this correspondent visited, the important obstructing factor is the frequent incidence of dropouts from the immunization programme. The DPT and polio, which requires three doses shows that 52.5 per cent children received the first dose and the second dose, the percentage declined to 41.8 and 31 when the turn came for the second and third doses.

Officials said that the public response was not satisfactory. Even some women fear that the doctors are pushing the family planning injection in the name of vaccination, this has scared the rural women about the programme, they said.

Besides, the inadequate number of staff compared to the sanctioned strength and the recruiting system are also hampering the implementation of the programme. Of the sanctioned posts of 45 family welfare assistants (FWA), Raojan has only 38 FWAs, 51 health assistants against the sanctioned 70 while five assistant health inspectors against the sanctioned nine post.

There is a divisional selection board for filling these posts. Headed by the commissioner the board comprises DIG, and DPI, for the recruitment of class III employees. There is no representation from the health sector. This has led to the recruitment of wrong people. In Raojan alone 15 employees after appointment left their jobs as it did not suit their academic and professional discipline. Besides, this system is taking unusually long time causing delay in implementing the project.

USSR To Help Modernize Bangladesh Medical System

54500127 Dhaka *THE NEW NATION* in English
4 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Bangladesh Vitali Stepanovich Smirnov has said that his country will help both government and private organisations to modernise the medical system of Bangladesh.

Speaking as chief guest at a seminar on "Health for all by 2000 AD," sponsored by Lions Club of Dhaka Basundhara yesterday, he said that this goal of the Bangladesh government declared in solidarity with the world health programme would substantially contribute to the welfare of the common man of the country and eradication of ailments.

He said that as it was the responsibility of the government to ensure good health of a citizen, so was one's right to get it. A congenial atmosphere can prevail in a country only when its every citizen possesses a good health, he added.

Referring to the Soviet assistance in the power sector Mr Smirnov said that with the completion of projects now under implementation 50 per cent of power to be generated in the country would come from the USSR-aided projects.

EGYPT

Egypt, Holland Sign Health Agreement

NC1007163889 Cairo *MENA* in English
1334 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Egypt and Holland today signed a health cooperation agreement whereby Holland is to help Egypt eradicate tuberculosis from the country over four years.

Holland is to offer Egypt a 9-million Egyptian pounds grant to improve laboratories and provide health care units with equipment required for examination and diagnosis as well as the training of physicians.

The agreement, signed by Minister of Health Dr. Raghav Duwaydar and the ambassador of Holland in Cairo, is part of the ministry's plan aimed at eradicating communicable, endemic and childhood diseases.

CANADA

AIDS Center Reports Four Cases of HIV-2 Detected

54200063 Ottawa *THE OTTAWA CITIZEN* in English
7 Jul 89 pp A1, A2

[Article by Jane Wilson]

[Text] A strain of the AIDS virus that is less likely to cause the disease but is harder to detect is showing up in Canada.

The Federal Centre for AIDS has reported four cases of HIV-2, according to a report Tuesday at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS.

The strain was carried into Canada by immigrants from western Africa.

Current blood screening by the Red Cross will pick up HIV-2 about 95 percent of the time. The tests were more reliable for its deadlier sister strain, HIV-1.

Researchers think HIV-2 appeared before HIV-1. They cause the same symptoms.

The situation bears watching, said Dr Peter Neumann of the centre. Should the second strain become more common, special screening tests may be needed for the blood supply.

"These first cases of HIV-2 infection in Canada indicate a possibility of HIV-2 spread," says Neumann, in a report presented at the conference.

In all four cases, the infection originated in Africa where it has spread widely among heterosexual men and women. The AIDS virus in North America has spread mainly among homosexual men and intravenous drug users.

"Until we see some evidence this exists in the population, we can't make any recommendations about doing mass screening for HIV-2," Neumann said.

One of the cases was a 27-year-old man, originally from Ghana. He tested positive for the HIV-2 virus when trying to become a sperm donor for a test-tube fertilization program. Another case, involving a 35-year-old man from Ghana, was diagnosed when he complained to his doctor of fatigue, weight loss and night sweats.

The Federal Centre for AIDS did a survey of 600 men visiting sexually transmitted disease clinics across Canada, looking for HIV-2. They found no cases.

Robert Shearer, executive director of the Canadian Hemophilia Society, said he is confident the heat treatment for blood products used by hemophiliacs kills both viruses.

"But will there be an HIV-3, an HIV-4? It's hard enough to deal with what's here already," he said.

Hemophiliacs rely mainly on blood clotting agents as part of their treatment.

Study Links Rare Cancer to Wheat Farm Herbicides

54200064 Windsor *THE WINDSOR STAR* in English
21 Jun 89 p A11

[Text] Some farmers are more likely than their urban neighbors to develop a rare kind of cancer, the results of a study examining cancer and pesticide use in Saskatchewan suggest.

Of the 70,000 wheat farmers studied, the vast majority faced a lower risk of getting non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, said Don Wigle of Health and Welfare Canada.

But in some circumstances the risk increases to almost twice that of the non-farming population, Wigle told the annual meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association.

Farmers who sprayed more than 100 hectares with herbicides or bought more than \$900 worth of fuel oil and gasoline were about twice as likely to develop the disease, he said.

The study, started in 1981 by a team of about 10 researchers, is based on 69,513 male farmers over 35 years old.

From 1971 to 1985, 11,829 of the farmers included in the study died from all causes while non-Hodgkin's lymphoma claimed 103.

Wigle said the study did not determine which herbicides or combination of herbicides might cause the condition.

The study also found some good news for farmers.

It discovered Saskatchewan grain growers are likely to live longer than their city counterparts and have lower rates of death due to infectious diseases or lung cancer.

Wigle said death rates among farmers in the 15-year period were 15 to 20 percent below the urban average.

"You can infer very safely that they have a longer life expectancy than the average population," he said.

More results are expected next year as the study continues. It will look at pesticide use, cancer and other kinds of farming in Canada, Wigle said.

DENMARK

AIDS Fund Chairman Sees Growing Public Apathy

54002501a Copenhagen *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* in Danish
17 Jun 89 p 3

[Text] Every month 20-30 more Danes are registered as HIV positive and among them are a growing number of women and substance abusers.

Despite the bleak figures there is more silence about AIDS than ever— both politicians and the public have apparently accepted the idea of living with the risk of infection. That is the opinion of chief physician Jens Ole Nielsen of Hvidovre Hospital, who is the chairman of the Fund to Combat AIDS.

"When the first woman was infected, it was front-page news. Today 25-year-old girls are dying, but there has been a deafening silence about AIDS this year anyway. The news interest is gone and the politicians are losing interest," Jens Ole Nielsen said Friday at a press conference arranged by the Fund to Combat AIDS.

"Things started out so well with amusing condom campaigns, but the hard work of informing the public about the disease in more detail is not getting done. Therefore we are trying to keep people fired up," he added.

Around 1,700 people have been registered as HIV positive in Denmark and 415 have developed AIDS. It is estimated that the number of infected people will increase slightly this year.

Funding for New AIDS Research Announced
54002501b Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Jun 89 p 2

[Text] The Insurance Society has provided 1.1 million kroner for seven AIDS projects. The money has been given to: Dr Hanne Bennedicté Wieland, Odense, secretary general Jens Christian Nielsen, Valby, Ulla Munksgaard, Copenhagen, Erik Bjerregaard Pedersen, Odense, Dr Claus Bohn Christiansen, Copenhagen, chief physician Paul Lehm Andersen, Risskov, and Dr John-Erik Stig Hansen, Frederiksberg.

The money will be used for such things as analyzing the effect of the AIDS campaign on 16-20-year-olds and developing reliable methods of diagnosing HIV antibodies.

Greenland Syphilis Cases Again on Rise
54002508 Nuuk GRONLANDSPOSTEN in Danish 29 Jun 89 p 8

[Text] Even though the AIDS campaign has had a positive effect over the past couple of years, it nevertheless appears that the number of reported syphilis cases in Greenland rose between 1979 and 1988. In 1988, there were 160 men and 156 women with syphilis in Greenland, while in 1987 the corresponding figures were 385 and 371. In a press release issued by the Home Rule Government Public Health Authority it was stated that the incidence of syphilis cases has again started to rise over the last few years, while gonorrhea cases are declining. The reason for this is apparently that fully developed syphilis becomes evident when early, and therefore unrecognized infection with the disease is no longer masked (possibly cured) by gonorrhea, as both infections manifest similar symptoms. There are thus reasons to be especially alert regarding syphilis in these

years when the incidence of gonorrhea is falling. Meanwhile, only one-fourth of patients with confirmed syphilis manifest any clinical indications of the disease when first seeking medical care. It is therefore very important to have an examination by a doctor in order to be sure, and the Public Health Authority emphasizes that a careful contact tracing is decisive for preventing a further rise in syphilis cases among that population at risk of having a subsequent recurrence.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

BMFT, British Research Council Agree on Joint AIDS Research

MI890232 Bonn BMFT JOURNAL in German No 1, Feb 89 p 6

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

The search for a vaccine and the development of specific AIDS treatments were the major subject of discussion as British and German scientists convened in London to share their experiences. The meeting laid the groundwork for a bilateral agreement between the BMFT [Federal Ministry for Research and Technology] and the Medical Research Council (MRC), a British public research organization.

Ten scientific teams with different medical specialties have agreed to develop a joint project in the AIDS research field. Following a request for proposals issued by the BMFT to promote cooperation between the various institutes on AIDS research, immunologists, molecular biologists, and clinical scientists have formulated a joint program for developing the molecular prerequisites needed to develop AIDS vaccines and therapies.

FINLAND

Stepped Up Effort To Halt Rabies Spread

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 8 Apr 89 p 15

[Article: "Rabies Vaccine to be Given to Every Dog: 186,000 of Finland's 400,000 Dogs Injected against Rabies in a Year"]

[Text] Pets, especially dogs, should definitely be vaccinated against rabies throughout the country. According to officials, citizens have been obtaining shots for their pets from veterinarians in a commendable manner, but not yet sufficiently.

During the past period of nearly a year, veterinarians have vaccinated 186,000 dogs and 64,000 cats. This is a small number, considering that there are 400,000 dogs in Finland according to statistics. There is no information on the number of cats, but it is known that the number of so-called "neighborhood cats" has gone down on account of rabies.

In recent years 270,000 doses of vaccine have been dispensed by the National Institute of Veterinary Science, intended for dogs and cats. In all, the institute has dispensed 338,000 doses for domestic animals.

Saara Reinius, head of the Animal Disease Office in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, says that it is necessary to protect dogs especially, and this is one of the most important steps to protect people from the fatal disease.

A year has now passed since the rabies epidemic broke out among small wild animals in Kymi Valley. The worst site for the disease is near Iitti; the place soon received the nickname "Horror Triangle."

As the epidemic progressed, domestic animals began to be vaccinated, and a campaign of vaccinating wild animals through bait was started in the forests of Southern Finland. The campaign was accomplished in cooperation with the WHO Rabies Center in Western Finland. There the suitability for Finland of Central European vaccines administrable in bait was tested. According to officials, the experiment was very successful.

Campaign Aims at Eliminating Sites

Docent Bengt Westerling of the National Institute for Veterinary Science says that because results have been good the campaign should be continued, and perhaps it will be possible to eliminate rabies sites. There have been a total of 69 cases of rabies in Finland altogether.

The vaccine in bait is effective on both raccoons and foxes. Studies show that over 80 percent of raccoons and nearly 80 percent of foxes in the campaign area have received rabies vaccine protection. According to Central European studies it is enough if the vaccine reaches 60 percent of the animals in the bait area.

When the feeding campaign was started last fall, rabies had spread to Orimattila and Nastola in addition to Kymi Valley. Orimattila is the most westerly municipality in which an infected animal was found last year. The animal was a raccoon.

The vaccines began to take effect within about a month after they were placed, and the number of rabid animals decreased sharply. This year, not a single infected animal has been found in the bait area among the 135 raccoons, foxes, and badgers that the National Institute for Veterinary Science has examined.

During a year's time the National Institute for Veterinary Science has examined over 1,700 animals.

New Bait Area over 8,000 Square Kilometers.

Bait containing vaccine against rabies has now started to be spread by airplane. The flights next week or the following week are an experiment by which officials want to get experience for the future. Theoretically we may confront a situation in wilderness areas of Northern

Karelia where vaccine cannot be effectively spread in any other way than from an airplane.

Spreading of vaccine will be continued over an area covering 8,000 square kilometers and 31 municipalities. The number of bait doses prepared is 120,000, which is three times the number spread last fall. Ground spreading will start on Saturday, two weeks from today.

Aerial spreading will cover an area of 520 square kilometers in the northern portions of Iitti and Nastola, the northern portion of the city of Lahti, and the southern part of Asikkala.

Officials request that teachers and parents of children living in the new vaccine area instruct the children not to touch the bait. The bait is not dangerous, but it is intended for small wild animals.

The bait is a brown cake, 4.5 x 4.5 x 1 centimeters in size, made of fish powder and animal fat. It contains a capsule with live, weakened rabies virus.

Dogs and cats should be confined for a week after aerial or ground spreading, even though the bait is not dangerous for them.

Cattle Should Also be Vaccinated

Experts recommend that cattle in pastures should also be vaccinated in areas within 50 kilometers of a known rabies instance. There is a fee for animal vaccinations.

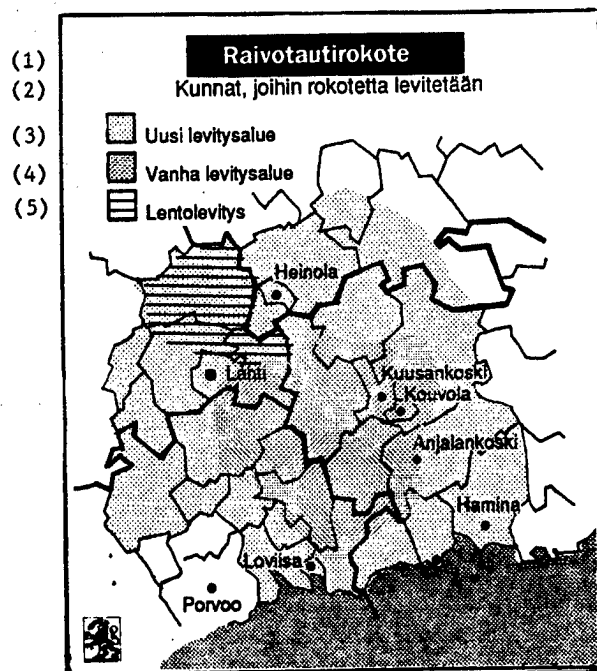


Figure: Rabies Vaccine Area

Key: 1. Rabies Vaccine—2. Municipalities where vaccine will be spread—3. New spreading area—4. Old spreading area—5. Aerial spreading area

About 200 people have been vaccinated in Finland in connection with this rabies epidemic. Most of them have become ill after a suspected animal bite.

No human has contracted rabies. The last person to die of rabies in Finland was a bat researcher in 1985, but he was infected with a totally different sub-type of the virus.

Rabies treatment in Finland has been centralized at the Aurora hospital in Helsinki. Better than average expertise is also found at health centers in the epidemic area. After a suspected infection, one should immediately make contact with a health center. Vaccination is free when it is given to prevent suspected rabies. Wild animals are also to be vaccinated. Vaccine-containing bait is to be spread over an increasingly wide area. Altogether 120,00 food pellets with vaccine are to be spread in 31 municipalities of Mikkeli, Hame, Kymi, and Uusimaa. This will be done partly by hunters and partly by planes.

GREECE

Professor Reports Discovery of New AIDS Strain
54002498 Athens *ELEVTHEROITYPIA* in Greek
8 Jun 89 p 13

[Text] According to reliable sources, Dr. Vasilis Georgoulas, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Crete and head of the AIDS Reporting Center, announced on 7 June, during the International Conference on AIDS in Montreal, Canada, the discovery of a new strain of AIDS.

Dr. Grogoulas discovered the TLV-I AIDS stain in Crete after a detailed study of approximately 5,000 individuals, used as a control group at the AIDS Reporting Center. As is known, the strain was found in four individuals. The TLV-I stain is entirely different from the HIV strain and is connected to a type of leukemia found mainly in Japan and in America.

Dr. Georgoulas pointed out that the infection with this particular strain should not cause any undue concern regarding its effects on the health of individuals because of the long period of incubation that may last 20-25 years. This is in view of the fact that no one is familiar with the effects of the disease and the consequences for carriers in other areas, except Japan and the United States.

This new discovery is an indication of the important scientific work being carried out at the University of Crete Medical Center as well as at the AIDS Reporting Center in Crete that constitutes a hope for the protection of the population.

IRELAND

Paper Reports on Expected, Current Spread of AIDS

Cases Double in 9 Months

54500124 Dublin *IRISH INDEPENDENT* in English
12 May 89 pp 1, 5

[Article by Mairtin MacCormaic: "12,240 Victims of AIDS by 1995"]

[Text] Cases of full-blown AIDS in Ireland are going to double every nine months for the next four to eight years, Health Minister Rory O'Hanlon told the Dail last night. "Assuming this rate of growth, by 1995 there could be as many as 12,240 cases," he said.

"All the indications are that Ireland is heading into an epidemic situation," he told startled deputies. At present, a total of 93 cases have been reported to the Department.

Dr. O'Hanlon said that a total of 24,823 persons have been tested for the virus and, of those, 814 have tested positive.

Of the 93 cases of full-blown AIDS reported to the Department, 36 were either homosexuals or bisexuals; 31 were intravenous drug users; 12 were haemophiliacs; five were homosexual/bisexual drug abusers; four were babies born to drug abusers; three were heterosexuals, and two were undetermined. He said also that of those 93 cases, so far 41 had died.

Replying to Workers' Party leader Proinsias de Rossa, Dr. O'Hanlon accepted there was a very high number of children in this country with AIDS. But he said it was proposed that no child should leave school without the facts about AIDS.

Meanwhile, the testing of blood donations by the Blood Transfusion Service has revealed that 13 donors were HIV positive.

The figures, released by the Department of Health, show that 11 instances happened in Dublin and one in Limerick, while the other person presented himself to be tested for the virus.

According to the *Irish Medical Times*, the Transfusion Board Chief Medical Consultant, Dr. Terry Walsh, emphasises that blood testing is done subsequent to collection and before issuing.

In the Supreme Court yesterday, the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Finlay, set June 7 as the date for hearing an appeal by 33 haemophiliacs, who are seeking to remain anonymous while pursuing damages in the High Court, because, they claim, they were infected with the HIV virus by treatment for their condition.

The High Court had rejected their application for anonymity.

More AIDS Deaths Announced

54500124 Dublin *IRISH INDEPENDENT* in English 13 May 89 p 5

[Article by Jerome Reilly and Chris Glennon: "AIDS Death Claims Jump to Nine"]

[Text] Nine claims have been lodged with insurance companies following deaths here from the AIDS virus and life insurance premiums—already up to 10 percent because of the increased incidence of the disease—are set to rise further.

Irish Life has already paid three claims for AIDS deaths in Ireland at a cost of £42,000. The company has also received five other claims from policy holders in the U.K.

At present a blood test to check for AIDS antibodies is a pre-requisite for life insurance cover of £150,000 or more.

Health Minister Rory O'Hanlon's prediction that more than 12,000 people may have developed AIDS by 1995 means the companies may lower the threshold to £100,000 cover or less as a risk reduction measure.

An Irish Insurance Federation spokesman told the *IRISH INDEPENDENT* that, while there were no plans for an immediate increase, they were closely monitoring the situation.

Blood Donors A spokesman for Irish Life, Mr. Brendan Hayes, said the rate of spread had already meant higher life insurance all round. Irish premiums had gone up by 10 percent on average and by 50 percent in the U.K., where the AIDS population was proportionately higher.

"I don't think they will go up by that much in Ireland because of the nature of the insurance market here but we are watching it all the time," he said.

Further evidence of the rapid spread of the disease has emerged from the latest Blood Transfusion Service figures. In all, 11 people who gave blood were found to be HIV positive when their donations were tested. Two gave their blood donations in Limerick, the remainder in Dublin.

Only one presented himself for the HIV test. The remainder were apparently unaware they were carrying AIDS anti-bodies.

Testing of blood donations is done subsequent to collection and before issuing. If staff are concerned about the donor and their health status, the blood donation is immediately destroyed.

University Opens New Cattle Tuberculosis Study Unit

54500123 Dublin *IRISH INDEPENDENT* in English 27 May 89 p 3

[Article: "New TB Unit To Boost Fight"]

[Text] The opening of a new cattle TB investigation unit at University College, Dublin, yesterday was hailed as a major breakthrough in the fight against the disease.

Joe Rea, chairman of the agriculture authority, Teagasc, said the move will enable the eradication campaign to proceed on the basis of scientific fact. "Our approach to date was like trying to read a newspaper in the dark. We are now switching on the light," he commented.

Mr. Rea added that the lack of information had led to enormous cost, extreme frustration and hardship in previous attempts to curb TB. Teagasc director, Dr. Pierce Ryan, said they would be making resources available to the unit which will be headed by Prof. Dan Collins of UCD. Experts from ERAD will also collaborate.

Agriculture Minister Michael O'Kennedy, opening the new unit yesterday, said proper scientific back-up is vital to the success of any campaign. He said resources now available for the fight are "unprecedented".

ITALY

Higher-Than-Normal Number of Rubella Cases Reported

54002504 Rome *IL MESSAGERO* in Italian 17 Jun 89 p 32

[Article by Giusi Sammartino: "10 Cases of Rubella in 10 Months"; first paragraph is *IL MESSAGERO* introduction]

[Text] According to the doctors, it is an epidemic. Expectant mothers are worried, also because of confusion in the tests. Vaccination is not obligatory.

Doctors of the prenatal immunological center of the Umberto I Polyclinic are talking about an out-and-out epidemic. Rubella, a disease that ought to have been conquered, is the chief complaint. There has been a vaccine for some time. But this spring rubella has again alarmed many future mothers during their first weeks of pregnancy.

Between April and May, according to data from the Polyclinic center, rubella surpassed the small percentages of cases usually encountered during the in-between seasons. In barely two months, it brought the number of [infected] expectant mothers to 10 (half from Rome, the remainder from Lazio and the south.) Since they had clearly contracted the virus, it was necessary to analyze the blood of the baby in the mother's uterus in order to

check for possible effects of the disease (deafness, cardiac decompensation, etc.) on the future newborn child.

Professor Antonio Pachi, director of the IV Obstetrical and Gynecological Clinic of the La Sapienza University, confirmed that "this spring we have had a considerable increase in the number of cases of rubella. The 10 in April and May contrast strongly with only three in our center since its opening 11 years ago. For this reason, it is logical to call it an epidemic, at least as far as Rome and central-southern Italy are concerned, which constitutes our focus of activity. Actually, by now rubella should be a disease that has been conquered, and it should no longer create any fear. There is a vaccine, but in Italy, incomprehensibly, receiving it is not obligatory. Thus, and we have noted it during this period, women expecting a child begin to live in a state of fear if the analysis appears positive, and end up by choosing to have a therapeutic abortion in order not to run any risks."

The analyses provided a further element of confusion in the matter. No less that 87 percent of the pregnant women coming to the immunological center of the Polyclinic were convinced that they had caught the disease, but in the end they were found in fact not to be infected. "Mainly, as far as rubella is concerned," explained Rosalba Paeano, assistant to Professor Pachi, "the analyses happen to turn out positive, but then, after more careful retesting, positive analyses are not confirmed." And it is obviously difficult for these women to accept the second results, mainly because the family doctors, to whom they then return, state that they do not wish to accept responsibility, even after talking with us."

How can it happen that two different laboratories can carry out conflicting tests? "It is not so much a matter of conflicting tests," explains Antonio Pachi again, "but of incomplete ones, with different methods of measuring. There are two types of immunoglobulins—IgG's and IgM's. Only the latter indicate whether the infection exists. The former indicate that the illness has been there but that it is not necessarily active. Furthermore, for rubella it is always useful to repeat the dose of immunoglobulin. If a baby is expected, and there can thus be no further recourse to the vaccine, one must be aware, to avoid excessive concern, that once the 15th week of pregnancy is passed—that is, the fourth month of pregnancy—the risk of infecting the fetus goes down to practically zero, and the baby can be born without problems even if the mother has had rubella." (Those who do take the vaccine should use a contraceptive for a long time to avoid the risk of pregnancy.)

LUXEMBOURG

Aids Incidence, Preventive Measures Discussed
54002497 Luxembourg LUXEMBURGER WORT in
German 23 May 89 p 7

[Text] 1989 is a year of festivities for Luxembourg. Even so, it should also be a year of reflection in view of the fact

that AIDS continues to spread in Luxembourg as well. The result is more sick and dead, more virus carriers, and more danger of infection! This was what was said yesterday at a press conference, which had been called by Johny Lahure, undersecretary at the Ministry of Health, and his closest coworkers, in order to present more details about the 1989 anti-AIDS campaign.

Until today, there have been 18 known incidences of illness in Luxembourg, eight of them ending in death, involving 16 men and 2 women. The number of seropositives, meaning the virus carriers, is estimated at 250-300, of whom about 100 are under the care of physicians.

Everywhere AIDS has spread beyond the original boundaries of certain risk groups and today represents a universal threat, against which exact information and an absolute sense of responsibility for oneself and others so far constitutes the only possibility of defense. The AIDS invasion can only be stemmed if every individual knows the risks, draws the conclusions and, where necessary, alters his behavior accordingly.

Within the framework of the "1989 AIDS Campaign," the Ministry of Health has published a new brochure with the title "In Luxembourg There Are More than 360,000 of Us Who Can Stop AIDS." Illustrated by Roger Leiner, the brochure, with 24 pages in German and French and based on publications by the Swiss Office of Public Health, contains information about the latest level of scientific knowledge, the ways of transmission, specific methods, rules of behavior, and practical tips. It can be obtained from the Ministry of Health by calling the direct number 47 57 47.

The "Sidaids 89" campaign also includes a multimedia action between 23 May and 19 June in the daily press, in magazines, on radio, on television, and at the movies.

In addition, beginning in mid-June there will be nationwide poster advertising in public buildings, pharmacies, doctors' offices, etc., promoting anonymous and free AIDS testing.

For 1989 the World Health Organization has once again declared 1 December as AIDS Day.

The Red Cross headquarters has a permanent advisory office with the telephone number 45 87 37, which also figures on the official "Sidaids 89" logo.

In addition to these details about Campaign 89 to fight AIDS, the undersecretary added more about basic information in various teaching programs—for which they are attempting to achieve mutual agreement with the Ministry of Education—and about the successful "Journée de formation continue," in which 54 teachers voluntarily participated.

At the Centre Hospitalier a laboratory for virus research is being established, which within about 3 months will be able to start its work in applied research.

The employment of four so-called "streetworkers," whose field of work is especially in that environment, and who in part have already begun their activity, was already announced last November.

The methadon program to combat drug dependence which was also announced has been in operation since March 1989 under strict regulation. So far five addicts have been accepted, but six were turned away, because they did not submit to the established rules.

The AIDS virus was discovered in 1983/84. According to information from the World Health Organization there are 151,000 declared cases of the disease, but in reality there are probably over 450,000. The number of seropositive cases, meaning the virus carriers, is estimated at 5-10 million. There is little new to report from one year to the next: The ways in which it is transmitted remain the same; in case the disease breaks out, there is still no hope of recovery, and the virus continues to spread.

For this reason: Get the new brochure "In Luxembourg There Are More Than 360,000 of Us..." read it and take it to heart.

PORTUGAL

AIDS Survey Studies Lisbon Sexual Behavior *54002499 Lisbon SABADO in Portuguese* *10 Jun 89 pp 20-25*

[Article by Concalo Mendes: "Sex in Lisbon" first paragraph is SABADO introduction]

[Excerpts] Given the lack of a vaccine, only "good" sexual behavior can prevent the spread of AIDS. To learn how people make love in the capital city, a team of experts is studying sex in Lisbon.

Has AIDS changed the sexual behavior of men and women? Some say it has. Others, however, insist that the cries of alarm sounded by doctors have not been heeded—just as similar warnings were not heeded when syphilis was killing people. [passage omitted]

AIDS has become part of our everyday consciousness and serves to remind us that men and women not only have dreams, appetites, and desires, but also a body. The campaigns that have been carried out have accordingly concentrated primarily on information about the disease itself, and on recommendations concerning behavior—specifically, sexual behavior—with the well-known condom at the head of the list.

Can we then know whether all the effort expended has had positive results? Is it possible to quantify those results? [passage omitted]

Behavior modification, however, is not something that is done or accomplished lightheartedly, as everyone has discovered. Moreover, our custom is to bar our doors only after our house has been robbed.

In accordance with this good (?) old Portuguese custom, we remain completely convinced that "these misfortunes" happen only to others, and so we don't have to worry.

"The Portuguese are not concerned about AIDS." That statement is made by the sociologist Fausto Amaro, who heads a team that for 1 year has been studying the sexual behavior of the population of Lisbon. "What we have had until now," he says, "is naivete on the part of doctors who believe that people will use condoms merely because they—the doctors—tell them on TV to do so. They could not be more mistaken. All this signifies is that all the campaigns carried out to date—not only in our country but abroad as well—failed to take into account the sexual behavior of the population." [passage omitted]

The study on the sexual behavior of the population of Lisbon was conducted by the Center for Socioanthropological Studies of AIDS, Foundation of Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso. [passage omitted]

The survey is confidential: the only thing it asks is that the responses be truthful—completely truthful. "We have no moralistic point of view," says Fausto Amaro, in reaffirming the eminently scientific nature of his work. This study is all the more important in that its results can give rise to very important directives dealing with the organization of future campaigns to prevent the spread of this disease of the century. "You cannot recommend a particular type of behavior if you do not know the facts," he says.

During the first year of the research a number of exploratory surveys were taken, with a view to making an initial approach to the problem. The objective was to test various methodologies and to gather data that would make it possible to plan the subsequent phases of the research.

One initial conclusion can apparently be drawn immediately: the maxim that says certain things "only happen to other people" continues to dominate our thinking.

This obsession appears not to be exclusive to the Portuguese or, in this specific case, to the residents of Lisbon. An analysis of the surveys showed that 94 percent of those questioned said they know of the various methods of protection against AIDS. Only 45 percent, however, answered that they were taking precautions, and only 4 percent said they were using the aforementioned methods more than a year ago.

The survey showed that despite the campaigns 57 percent of men and 49 percent of women associated AIDS with homosexuality.

With reference to the known methods of protection, 48 percent of those interviewed put condoms at the top of the list. It is noteworthy that 22 percent cited the need "to be aware of health care institutions," putting that consideration in sixth place on the list. Likewise, the

doctors and nurses of two health services in which the pilot survey was conducted (the identity of these institutions was not disclosed to us, for obvious reasons) admitted that they did not have sufficient knowledge on how to handle seropositive individuals.

A rather negative attitude toward rendering care to persons infected with AIDS was detected among health professionals, a majority of whom favored mandatory tracking of specific groups, principally prostitutes, drug dependent persons, homosexuals, and health care personnel. [passage omitted]

"If you know the risks, you can protect yourself," is a maxim contained in one of the announcements published by the AIDS Working Group. The aim is to get this message to the citizenry with ever greater intensity and effectiveness. [passage omitted]

UNITED KINGDOM

Report on Bacteria Causing Food Poisoning Released

54500121 London THE TELEGRAPH in English
2 Jun 89 p 9

[Article by Peter Pallot, Health Services Staff: "Food Poison Bug With Bigger Toll Than Salmonella"]

[Text] A bacterium which caused more cases of food poisoning last year than salmonella was highlighted in a report yesterday. Campylobacter, which is found in chickens and raw milk, produces flu-like symptoms, stomach pains and diarrhoea, which can be severe and may last 10 days.

It is less likely to cause death than salmonella, which is fatal in one case in 1,000. A third food bug, listeria, is fatal in about one case in three.

There were 24,123 known cases of salmonella poisoning last year, compared with 28,714 from campylobacter.

"It is probably not a new problem, but it is newly recognised and it is very important to prevent it," said

Dr Owen Goldring, an immunologist who compiled the report, based on papers by doctors, public health specialists and food industry chiefs.

Campylobacter accounts for 1.1 million of the two million cases of food poisoning a year in Britain of which only one in 39 is reported.

Dr Andrew Pearson, of the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, said that campylobacter outbreaks in which numbers of people were infected were borne by milk, water and poultry.

Sporadic cases were triggered by eating infected chicken and could be contracted through domestic pets. Farmers were at risk through contact with poultry and livestock, he said.

Dr Goldring, managing director of EAG Scientific, called for licensing of 350,000 catering outlets—from hospital kitchens to sandwich bars—where 70 percent of food poisoning cases originate.

"At the moment you and I could set up a sandwich shop and no one could stop us," he said.

It was hardly surprising that a third of wrapped sandwiches bought in London corner shops were found in a recent survey to be contaminated with E Coli, probably caused by staff not washing hands after using the lavatory.

Training of staff was essential. Inspection of food-handling areas, cleaning schedules, drains and chilling facilities should be mandatory, enforced by a body equivalent to the American Food and Drug Administration, he said.

Rather than tackling the problem with a gravity the issue deserved, the Government was "window dressing" in the face of an urgent crisis that demanded action.

Miss Janet Graham, of the National Consumers' Council, called for a change in the law so that farmers could be prosecuted for producing food with high contamination levels.

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