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JPRS Report

Epidemiology

AIDS

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Epidemiology AIDS

JPRS-TEP-90-016

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30 October 1990

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Danish Anthropologist On AIDS And Children

90WE0312A Copenhagen INFORMATION in Danish
17 Jul 90 p 6

[Excerpts by Asger Werner Hansen: "Half Million Children Affected By AIDS"]

[Text] Africa south of the Sahara is the region of the world that is hardest hit by AIDS. This year there are already about 200,000 orphans. In just two years the figure will have risen to 0.5 million.

The old people here are tired of digging new graves. Here there are houses with no one but children. This was stated in a recent report from the Rakai and Masaka districts of Uganda. There are 40,000 orphans registered in these districts.

Africa south of the Sahara is still the region of the world that is hardest hit by AIDS and at the beginning of the year the WHO estimated that there are now about 200,000 orphans. It is estimated that by 1992 the figure will top 500,000 and then reach at least 1.5 million in 1995.

No one has a clear idea as to what can be done about this trend. But the situation is still a reflection of the AIDS epidemic's serious social, economic, and cultural consequences for the African Continent—especially the hardest hit countries surrounding Lake Victoria in central Africa.

An increasing number of young adults have been or will be infected after giving birth to several children. In most cases, these children will be orphans within three to 10 years. The very young and very old will then remain, having in common the fact that they are unable to work the land, to produce the food they need.

Moreover, they will not have the financial means necessary to give their children even a minimal education.

The African extended family has always been strong enough to secure the basic welfare of its members and to provide a safety net in case of sickness, misfortune, or death. It still is, to a certain extent, but now this structure is also threatened.

This is particularly true in countries such as Uganda and Mozambique, where the AIDS epidemic is following in the wake of many years of devastating war. A heavier and heavier burden rests on fewer and fewer members of the family network in the most hard-hit regions, where pressure on the local authorities is also becoming too heavy. Children and young people experience extreme grief. In addition, there can be physical and psychological deprivation if they are isolated for fear of infection or as a result of the social stigma that is often linked to AIDS.

In various parts of the world there is increasing evidence that the ratio of men to women infected with the HIV virus is changing and that women comprise a growing percentage of the AIDS cases.

In various regions of Africa there are more women than men who have been infected with HIV and the rate is increasing by 2 to 1. In the Caribbean region as a whole, the male-to-female ratio has dropped from 6:1 1986 to 2.4:1 in 1989. In the United States women accounted for six percent of the AIDS cases in 1984, compared to 10 percent in 1989. Heterosexual spreading of the disease accounts for 29 percent of the AIDS cases among women. Of these cases, minority groups are particularly affected. Many of them have partners who are IV drug users or they are drug users themselves. A smaller group of infected women come from the American middle class, which does not see itself as a high-risk group. In Western Europe, women now account for 13 percent of the AIDS cases.

This general increase shows that, ultimately, it is the behavior of a woman and her partner—not race, ethnic background, or class—that determines the probability of HIV infection. But cultural, ethnic, or economic factors create significant social and psychological barriers for many women's attempts to reduce their risk of infection. For many women, these barriers include poverty and powerlessness. It is purely a matter of survival for a woman and her children in areas that are characterized by poverty, unemployment, and drug abuse. In addition, women may be sexually powerless with respect to men, on whom they are often economically dependent.

This is a global situation for women, although to varying degrees. Many women out of a group recently studied in Uganda's capital city of Kampala indicated that it was probable they would contract AIDS because, as they put it, they were "unable to control the actions of their male partners."

In addition, many years of war and terror in Uganda have made the situation of women there extremely uncertain and threatened. Finally, women have a low status, which begins when they are still children.

Throughout the world, health authorities have warned that prostitution is a possible source for the spread of the HIV infection and, often without reason, prostitutes have been blamed for the spread of the disease. In the Western world many prostitutes have used condoms for years to protect themselves from venereal disease. In poor sections of the world, however, prostitution is primarily responsible for the spread of the HIV infection. In these countries, women traditionally have been unable to obtain condoms or the men have rejected the use of condoms. Moreover, in these countries prostitutes are even more without legal rights than in the West. It is here that women are at the greatest risk and, in most cases women are driven to prostitution by poverty and lack of legal protection. Most of them are the mothers of children whom they love and support.

In poor sections of the world the number of prostitutes who are infected with HIV is increasing explosively. The same is true of the number of women involved in prostitution. In Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, the number of prostitutes is estimated at just under one million women. In Tanzania's capital city of Dar Es Salam the number of prostitutes is increasing by an estimated 10 percent per year. At the same time, in Tanzania it is difficult to get women involved in AIDS control programs, since officially prostitution does not exist in Tanzania. The same is true in India although, in some cases, this has not prevented authorities from cruelly locking up HIV-infected prostitutes in cages and putting them on public display.

With regard to the use of the often unpopular condoms, investigations in both Zaire and Kenya now show that where condoms are available to prostitutes there is a sharp increase in the use of condoms and a corresponding reduction in new cases of HIV infection. Moreover, this knowledge spreads quickly among the prostitutes, who have proven to be quite good at educating one another.

AIDS also threatens children directly. This applies to children who contract the HIV infection from their mothers during pregnancy and also to young people who are having their first erotic experiences.

The WHO estimates that in 1992 at least 250,000 children in Africa south of the Sahara will be infected with HIV from birth. In Uganda nine percent of the AIDS cases in 1988 were children under five years of age and it is believed that during the 1990's AIDS will be the greatest direct cause of childhood mortality in Uganda. For some African countries, this trend will mean that three decades of progress in health care for children will be wiped out.

In addition to this, there is the enormous problem of finding sufficient care for the surviving children and providing the basic care, counseling, and social assistance to AIDS victims in their own homes.

The entire demographic pattern is changing in the hardest hit regions. For the first time in the history of the Haya people, their society is predominantly one of children and old people, according to Jerald Ndyekobora, village chairman of Kashenyi in the Bukoba district in the Kagera region of Tanzania. Half the people in the district are now children who need food, clothing, and education. They are dependent on the old people who cannot provide the children with their basic needs, no matter how hard they work.

When an HIV-infected woman is pregnant, it is assumed that there is a 25 to 50 percent chance that her child will be infected during her pregnancy, for as yet unknown reasons. Nevertheless, the majority of the HIV-infected women who are pregnant in the United States choose to give birth to their children, despite the availability of abortion. This has surprised many physicians. However, this does not surprise black gynecologist Janet Mitchell,

who works at a hospital in the Harlem section of New York. She believes that this surprise on the part of physicians demonstrates a lack of understanding of women's overall situation in life. In other words, women are deprived of everything in society, except their fertility. Instead of looking at the overall needs of women, many people simplify the situation and look at women only as bearers of the HIV infection.

If we look at Africa, we see that abortion is both inaccessible and culturally unacceptable to both sexes. In cosmological terms, children are part of the continuing life cycle and children are social security for the future. Furthermore, the risk of infecting one's child with HIV is seen in the context of the child's overall chance of survival in an environment where many life-threatening diseases can strike the child at an early age. The women must also consider the fact that their men may leave them if they refuse to bear children for them. In Africa it is important to have children.

Inter-African AIDS Workshop Opens in Ivory Coast

*AB2709125690 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN
in French 27 Sep 90 p 3*

[Excerpts] Representatives of some 15 countries, including financial backers, under the auspices of the World Health Organization, WHO, have been meeting at the Novotel since Monday, 24 September at the second interstate workshop on the epidemiological monitoring of AIDS. AIDS policy makers are meeting at this same venue which last year hosted a similar workshop on the same subject. This year's meeting is of a higher level and throughout this week participants will be exchanging their experiences and discussing various detection tests, drawing up conventions, and so on. This workshop, therefore, is expected to be an enriching one, more so because experts from Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Guinea, Comoros, Djibouti, Algeria, Togo, Tunisia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Chad, and Niger have come to Abidjan with the results of their personal research. [passage omitted]

Dr. Paul Sato, head of the monitoring, projections, and studies on the impact of the world program on AIDS control, who came from Geneva, recalled that there are, presently, an estimated 5 million HIV positive persons in Africa. There has, therefore, been a 100 percent increase in AIDS cases, because WHO had hitherto estimated the prevalence of the HIV positives at only two and a half million in Africa. This increase in percentage has occurred within a period of only two years. That is why the importance of such a workshop, which has brought together officials from West and North Africa, cannot be overemphasized. Their mission is to draw up (sometimes to review and correct) action plans to improve or establish new systems of monitoring the infection, after identifying and planning the areas and groups at risk. [passage omitted]

ANGOLA

AIDS Patients Lack Access to AZT

91P40004 Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS
in Portuguese 17 Sep 90 p 14

[Text] One-fifth of all recorded AIDS cases in Angola are in Luanda. Doctors, struggling without AZT medication, are giving routine treatment to their patients. Luanda had 18.8 percent of the fatal AIDS cases, followed by the provinces of Zaire (17.6) and Uge (17). According to the director of the National Anti-AIDS Program, Elsa Montez, the concentration of AIDS cases in the north could possibly be linked to its proximity with Zaire.

Of a total of 176 cases registered in Angola, 136 were fatal. The age groups most affected are those between 20 and 59 years, comprising 91 percent of the total cases.

Because of the unavailability of the AZT drug, which slows the development of the disease, patients in Luanda are "treated routinely." Angola does not have access to this drug because of its high cost, said Elsa Montez. She added that some of the preventive measures being taken to avoid the risk of contagion are mobile labs for the control of donated blood and notices warning against the use of improperly sterilized equipment. Condoms, which can be bought on the parallel market, "are not enough to protect people from AIDS because they are not adaptable to all climates and temperatures," she said.

AIDS Kills 136 of 176 Reported Cases

MB1709205090 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese
1923 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] A total of 136 people, out of 176 reported cases, have died of AIDS in Angola.

Speaking to ANGOP on 16 September, Elsa Montez, director of the National Program of Struggle Against AIDS, said the provinces most affected by the disease are Luanda (capital), Zaire, and Uige. She said laboratories have been created in Luanda to control blood donors in order to prevent the transmission of the disease.

BENIN

AIDS Seminar Ends 15 Sep

AB1809114890 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Excerpt] AIDS in Benin: Nearly 60 persons have died from the infection, out of 124 patients enumerated in the health institutions. AIDS is threatening the entire people: 10,000 to 15,000 persons are carriers of the virus in the country, and it is to fight against this scourge that a seminar was held on Thursday, 13 September at Djougou for social and professional workers in the health sector from the Atacora Province. The seminar ended this morning. Isidore Zinsou reports from Djougou:

[Begin Zinsou recording] There are about 40 social and professional workers in the health sector participating in this departmental training seminar on AIDS in Atacora Province. No part of our country has been spared by the disease. The fast rate of the spread of the AIDS virus is currently disturbing specialists on AIDS issues in our country, to the point that one wonders what tomorrow has in stock for us. It is even more disturbing and agonizing because some Beninese people, probably poorly informed, continue to play down the danger of the disease by simply comparing it to infections like malaria and other diseases, which on the other hand are curable diseases. One can, therefore, understand the concern expressed by Professors Isidore Zohoun, Eusebe Alihonou, and Bruno Monteiro, who, in the course of their various lectures at Djougou, stressed that whereas malaria can be cured or prevented, it is impossible, for the time being, to cure AIDS victims. [passage omitted] [end recording]

GHANA

AIDS National Advisory Council Inaugurated

90WD0326 London WEST AFRICA in English
27 Aug-2 Sep 90 p 2372

[Text] A 30-member National Advisory Council (NACA) on AIDS has been inaugurated in Accra. Membership of the council and sub-committees is drawn from the ministry of health, the Ghana Nurses Association, the Ghana Registered Midwives Association, the ministry of information, the Ghana Armed Forces Health Directorate, the Pentecostal Churches, the Muslim Representative Council and the Christian Council of Ghana. The NACA is to advise the government on measures that can be taken by various ministries and organizations on policy matters relating to the control of AIDS. It will also identify resources for the prevention of AIDS and encourage research activities and promote education on the control of the disease. The Secretary for Health, Nana Akuoko Sarpong spoke at the inauguration.

IVORY COAST

New AIDS Drug Introduced

AB0110102290 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN
in French 28 Sep 90 p 3

[Excerpt] Since the day it was discovered, AIDS has to this day defied mankind, scientists, and medicine, and yet none wants to give up the battle so each day a few research results appear providing a method of treatment or a short-term remedy. It is in this vein that a Belgian group of researchers has experimented a product, Immuno Vanda, which has the property of treating AIDS patients clinically. On Wednesday, 26 September, at the Hilton Hotel, Dr. Bernard Marichal presented this new medicine which, he said, is nontoxic and cheap. Less than 150,000 CFA francs is needed for a clinical cure, in other words, to improve the AIDS patient's condition.

"Immuno Vanda," first, reinforces the patient's immune system and, through its antiviral qualities, strives to destroy the virus.

The drug has been experimented for six years in Europe and is reported to have yielded good results there. In Africa, where it has been used only for three years, the observations are the same. The product will be marketed as soon as our country's health authorities give the green light for its sale.

The treatment must be continued over a period of nine months, until the desired results are achieved. The seropositive patient is expected to take one powdered capsule a day but if he is at the advanced stage of the illness then the dose should be one capsule in the morning and another at midday. Although this drug does not provide a biological cure, it is capable of providing a little relief and restoring the patient's smile, and it also reduces the effect of opportunist diseases. [passage omitted]

KENYA

AIDS Projection Exceeded Cases Reported

90WE0360A Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
29 Aug 90 p 2

[Article by Otula Owuor]

[Text] The Director of Medical Services, Professor Joseph Oliech, yesterday presented chilling statistics about the spread of AIDS in Kenya.

He said it threatens up to 200,000 healthy carriers.

He also warned that it could disrupt plans aimed at health for all by the year 2000.

Prof Oliech was officially opening a consultative workshop on AIDS management for senior health officials in Nairobi at the Silver Springs Hotel.

He said that the highest number of AIDS cases is to be found at the Coast, and in Nairobi and Nyanza provinces, in that order.

Prof Oliech said that although by the end of May only 9,139 people had developed AIDS symptoms, and not 12,000 as earlier projected, there may be between 160,000-200,000 healthy carriers in the population. He warned that everyone must join the war against the disease.

He said that some of the emerging anti-AIDS drugs, including Kemron, were welcome and give an added dimension to the treatment of AIDS patients even though prevention was more important than the drugs.

He said that even though the level of awareness about AIDS had increased, behavior had not changed and more clinical studies of Kemron were continuing.

Prof Oliech emphasized that Kemron was a Kenyan innovation.

During the discussion, Mrs M. Gatei, said that the National AIDS Control Programme had been successful in its activities which included the installment of 74 AIDS screening machines and the establishment of four centers in Kakamega, Kisumu, Mombasa and at the Armed Forces Memorial Hospital—where confirmatory tests on AIDS could be carried out.

Mrs Gatei said that AIDS prevention programmes were presented in 18 languages.

Dr N. Achola said that AIDS tests have nowadays become more accurate by up to 95 percent, unlike the case not long ago when false results were published about the prevalence of the disease in Kenya.

The Director of the Kenyatta National Hospital, Dr Nelson Agata, said that over 40 percent of tuberculosis patients also have AIDS.

Worldwide Use of Kemron Said To Be Sought by Experts

91WE0002A Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
14 Sep 90 pp 1-2

[Article by Otula Owuor]

[Text] A major international effort is under way to make Kemron, the anti-AIDS drug developed by Kenyan researchers, available worldwide.

A meeting to discuss this ended last week at the headquarters of the World Health Organisation in Geneva, Switzerland.

The meeting was chaired by the WHO Director-General, Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, and attracted leading manufacturers, doctors, and drug regulatory agencies, including Food and Drug Administration officials from the United States.

The Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) yesterday issued a press statement saying that Kenya was represented by the Director of Medical Services, Professor J. Oliech, and Dr Davy Koech, the Director of Kemri and principal investigator in the development of Kemron.

"The meeting formulated guidelines for further clinical trials on Kemron and other forms of interferons thus paving the way for the availability of Kemron in other countries," the Kemri statement said.

The experts, including the Director of the Global Programme on AIDS, Dr M.H. Merson, agreed that trials should involve materials of internationally accepted specifications prepared by competent research-based pharmaceutical manufacturers with high quality-control norms.

The statement, signed by Dr Koech, said that, "we would like to make it clear that there has not been any misunderstanding or disagreement between Kemri and other collaborators namely, the Hayashibara Biochemical Laboratories of Japan and the Amarillo Cell Culture Company of the United States."

Each institution has had a clearly delineated and specific role in the entire research collaboration, the statement, which referred to recent press reports on a controversy between Kemri and other collaborating institutions, said.

Government Claims More Than 9,000 AIDS Cases

*EA0610200090 Nairobi KNA in English 1735 GMT
4 Oct 90*

[Excerpts] Mombasa—The director of medical services, Professor J. S. Oliech, has called for concerted efforts from all wananchi [citizens] in the management of HIV infections and AIDS. [passage omitted]

Prof. Oliech made the call today when he officially opened a three-day workshop on the management of HIV infections and AIDS in a Mombasa hotel. The participants are senior health workers from the government and private sectors in Coast Province. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Prof. Oliech has disclosed that the number of reported AIDS cases in Kenya has risen to a total of 9,139 as of June 1990 since the first case was diagnosed in 1984. He said so far Coast Province, Nairobi, and Nyanza Provinces were leading in AIDS cases in that order and called for intensified efforts in counselling, saying that counselling was an important tool in AIDS management, as it helped to create public awareness.

MADAGASCAR

FRG Gives Medical Supplies To Fight AIDS

*90WE0324A Antananarivo MIDI MADAGASIRAKA
in French 7 Aug 90 p 5*

[Text] The Federal Republic of Germany has just donated medicines worth 55,000 DM [Deutsche mark], or the equivalent of 55 million Malagasy francs, to the Health Ministry's Program To Combat Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and AIDS.

The gift was channeled through the GTZ, a German aid organization that participates in carrying out the program.

In addition to helping to finance nationwide seroepidemiological studies, the FRG has also offered condoms and audiovisual materials and has helped test blood donors in 10 Malagasy localities.

All works to be added to the credit of German development cooperation.

Two seminars for health professionals, also part of the National Program to Combat STDs and AIDS, will be held at the end of 1990. They will be hosted by two faritanys [translation unknown].

The donated medicine was accepted on behalf of the Ministry of Health by Dr. Randretsa Martial, head of the STD and AIDS program; the German side was represented by Dr. Kirsch, GTZ consultant.

As you can see, cooperation between Madagascar and the FRG in the area of health care is alive...and well.

MALAWI

AIDS Cases Rising at 'Alarming' Rate

*MB0610194690 Blantyre Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 6 Oct 90*

[Text] The manager for the AIDS control program in the Ministry of Health, Dr. George Liomba, said today that the number of AIDS victims was rising at an alarming rate. Opening the second [words indistinct] contest in Blantyre, Dr. Liomba said in November last year over 7,000 cases [words indistinct] were reported in the country, compared to only 17 in 1988.

He noted that those affected ranged from the ages 20 to 49, which, he described as the socio-economically productive group. He said deaths caused by AIDS disrupt the social and economic development of the country. He called on people to follow [words indistinct] that will help prevent the [words indistinct] of the disease.

During the contest [words indistinct] and a cash prize of 1,000 kwacha.

MALI

AIDS Figures for Bamako Cited

*AB2309164590 Bamako Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 20 Sep 90*

[Excerpt] AIDS figures are becoming increasing dangerous in our country. This was the observation made yesterday by the Mali AIDS Prevention Committee. Within the first half of this year, 104 cases were counted only in Bamako District, according to Professor Ali Djumah, chairman of the Mali AIDS Prevention Committee. [passage omitted]

MOZAMBIQUE

Experts Review Severity of AIDS Situation

*90WE0343A Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
11 Aug 90 p 4*

[Text] Two years ago, when the number of people with AIDS could almost be counted on your fingers—there were just 20 of them—, we used to say in a tone of

self-reassurance that "there is no problem." We needed this self-reassurance in order not to be overwhelmed by the fear that has always taken hold of communities when the disease has stricken them, and so that we could forget the inevitable death that contracting AIDS still guarantees. Now we can no longer pretend, nor can we forget that people are dying of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, because fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, and other relatives have already been taken from us. In the next two years, if we continue to ignore the recommendations of the health authorities with regard to prevention, we will be the ones—you, I, and the guy next door—who will prematurely follow the path to what we call "fate"—death—as a result of AIDS. Through this past 30 June, 120 cases have already been diagnosed, but just as many more remain to be diagnosed due to lack of capability. The real number of people with the disease at this moment must be two or three times higher than the current official number, according to what officials of the program have assured "Love and Health."

Of this total of people who have the disease, some are currently hospitalized in various health units in the southern, central, and northern parts of the country. Taking into account the precarious food and health conditions and the difficulty in acquiring proper medicine, half of the people who have acquired the disease have already died.

On the average, in a country with good or even minimal conditions of medical assistance and medical supplies, a person who has AIDS can live between three and five years. However, at this moment in Africa, and in Mozambique in particular, this three-to-five year life expectancy for a person with AIDS is unlikely, given the shortages and difficulties of various types that everyone has lived through and/or experienced.

If the picture of people who have contracted AIDS in the country is now beginning to worry the community, their families, and their friends, the picture of those who have tested positive—people who do not have the disease but do have the virus that causes the illness, the HIV virus—this picture is now beginning to be alarming, mainly because, in the cities, people are continuing to behave without the slightest care or respect for life. They are continuing to be promiscuous and to ignore preventive measures, specifically, the use of condoms. And they are continuing to become infected hour after hour, day after day.

For a less frightening calculation, we can tell the reader that the number of people who have tested positive for the virus is approximately 150,000. In practical terms, this figure means that we have in our country a number of people infected with the HIV virus that is equal to or higher than the number of inhabitants in a suburban neighborhood of the city of Maputo or of a district of the province of Gaza or Maputo, according to data from the last census in 1980.

Clinical Research Will Be Intensified

The data which have been accumulated up through the month of June regarding the number of cases presents an epidemic curve similar to the graph of cases accumulated throughout the world.

It is obvious that the number of cases diagnosed is lower than the real number of people suffering from the disease, and in Mozambique, as occurs in other countries, this situation is due to our very limited clinical research capability. This is an area of activity that is going to be developed beginning with this phase within the framework of the programs that were approved in the latest seminar on evaluating and programming efforts to combat AIDS over the course of the coming 18 months.

During the first phase, obstacles to clinical research have affected practically all the provinces, but especially the province of Inhambane, which has not reported a single case to date. However, for the last two years, the provinces of Maputo City, Manica, Tete, and Cabo Delgado have been doing serious work, a fact demonstrated by the number of cases already reported.

A reading of the numbers by sexes shows that the progression is annual and one concludes that the data from the first half of this year are higher than those of last year. One is even left with the idea that they have doubled.

Men are more widely infected than women. And that should not be surprising because, according to the latest census of population, the proportion of men to women is one man for every two women. Going back 10 years, and even though we do not have recent data available, we calculate that this ratio is holding steady, at least to judge from world statistics.

The incorporation of the clinical support component within the AIDS Combat Program, beginning with this phase, may help establish a more appropriate parameter of the ratio of infection between men and women.

Still by sex, the greatest number of cases of the disease occurs in men and women between the ages of 20 and 39. This is, of course, the group that is classified as the most sexually active. Although based on the conclusions of a study we can say that the most sexually active group is the one that is suffering the most from AIDS or is the most widely infected with the HIV virus, we can also find people infected with the virus who are between 18 and 20 years of age, and between 40 and 60 years of age, and also within heterosexual relationships.

Many Turn a Deaf Ear

Public education campaigns that have been carried out from the beginning up to this phase show that a good percentage of citizens are familiar with what AIDS is, how it is transmitted, and how it can be avoided. However, in practice, in the cities, principally in

Maputo, many citizens are turning a deaf ear to the problem and are continuing to forego preventive measures.

In the city of Maputo, a poll that was taken recently shows that 99.5 percent of the city's citizens know what AIDS is, how it is contracted, and how it can be avoided. One-half of one percent refused to talk about AIDS and DTS [expanse not given] because they considered that these were matters "that touch on intimate areas of people's lives and these are matters that cannot be talked about under any circumstances."

Among the percentage of people who refused to talk about AIDS, for varying reasons, one finds mostly the displaced people who, coming from the countryside in search of safety, food, and employment, end up doing a little bit of everything here.

In surveys on Knowledge of Attitudes and Practices (CAP), which have been taken in several provinces, it was concluded that the number and the percentage of people who know how AIDS is transmitted is greater than the number and percentage of people who use condoms and accept the fact the reducing the number of sexual partners is essential in order to avoid the disease.

In order to circumvent the advice concerning the need to reduce the number of sexual partners and advice urging the use of condoms during casual sexual contacts, one now hears questions such as: "Don't you trust me?" and "Don't you love me?"

Let us remember that not trusting someone is a good thing, because it makes it possible for one to protect one's own health and that of one's partner. Using a condom means making love responsibly. Only the use of a condom guarantees, at least 95 percent of the time, that we can make love without running the risk of becoming infected, because high-risk love-making is just not worth it.

It is therefore imperative that in all casual sexual contacts we make use of condoms in order to avoid HIV infection, from which AIDS can result.

AIDS Kills 11 People in Manica Province

*MB2109110990 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0400 GMT 21 Sep 90*

[Text] Of 31 cases diagnosed so far in Manica Province, 11 people have already died of AIDS.

The Manica Province health director said at the opening of the health sector's 10th expanded consultative meeting yesterday that another 13 AIDS cases in Manica Province await confirmation.

SOUTH AFRICA

Heterosexual Pattern of HIV Cases Prevails

*90WE0341A Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English
18 Aug 90 p 14*

[Article: "HIV Pattern 'Now Mainly Hetero in SA'"]

[Text] Distribution of the HIV (Human immune-deficiency virus) now mainly follows a pattern of predominantly heterosexual distribution in South Africa, after 25 new cases of AIDS have been brought to the attention of the Department of National Health and Population Development.

A statement from the department yesterday said of the 25 new cases brought to the Department's attention since June 21 this year, seven were homosexual or bi-sexual males and 18 were heterosexual.

"These statistics confirm the observation that the HIV distribution now mainly follows a pattern two, i.e. predominantly heterosexual distribution in South Africa."

A total of 455 cases of AIDS have been reported in SA [Republic of South Africa] since 1982, of which 125 were reported this year.

It would seem that in South Africa, homosexual males adjusted their high-risk lifestyles—fewer sex partners and/or the use of condoms—when they became aware of the threat.

These lifestyle changes led to a levelling-off of new AIDS-cases in this group.

However, the feeling of reassurance amongst American gays had led to a regression to earlier dangerous practices and indications were that HIV-infection was on the increase again in this group.

The Department stated that safer sex practices should be introduced to all casual sexual relationships or relationships—including marriage—where more than one partner is involved.

"The HIV has entered the heterosexual community and anybody who has more than one sexual partner could be a risk. The gay community has shown that prevention is possible."

Scientists and economists predicted disastrous consequences for the country as a whole if dangerous sexual practices were not ceased, the Department stressed.

Transvaal Leads in Reported AIDS Cases

*90WE0341B Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English
18 Aug 90 p 14*

[Article: "Transvaal Leads in Reported AIDS Cases"]

[Text] A total of 228 cases of AIDS from the 455 cases reported since 1982 in the country, have been reported in the Transvaal.

According to statistics from the Department of National Health and Population Development 187 cases were recorded in Johannesburg.

In the Cape 82 cases, in Natal 132 cases and 13 cases in the Orange Free State were recorded up to August 8 this year.

Altogether 245 cases were transmitted homosexually and 153 heterosexually.

Tuberculosis Killing Cape AIDS Victims

*90WE0341C Cape Town THE ARGUS in English
25 Aug 90 p 2*

[Article by Jocelyn Maker, Weekend ARGUS Reporter: "TB Biggest Threat to Cape AIDS Victims..."]

[Text] Tuberculosis, which has become an epidemic in the Western Cape, will be one of the main infections that will eventually kill people with the AIDS virus.

About five in every 1,000 people have TB and almost half will end up with full-blown AIDS within eight years of infection, researchers have estimated.

Although AIDS is rampant in many African countries and the Cape has the second-highest number of reported cases, there is hope.

The epidemic is still in its early stages in South Africa and much can be done to fight the spread of the deadly virus.

Three AIDS experts from the Medical Research Council—the deputy president Dr Walter Prozesky, senior-biostatistician Dr Robert Schall and Dr Malcolm Steinberg, senior epidemiologist in charge of the AIDS research programme—have expressed optimism.

AIDS Education

They say a massive AIDS education drive involving young children in schools, their parents and teachers is needed to fight the disease.

Education authorities have been urged to encourage programmes on prevention and to remove barriers on sex education.

The researchers believe the government needs to be encouraged further in fighting the spread of AIDS and that more funds should be given to communities to make the campaign effective.

"We still have time," said Dr Prozesky. "We are behind in the epidemic and we can learn from what has happened in other countries."

A recent two-week awareness programme at a Guguletu school was a good example of the type of AIDS education needed. Researchers believe these programmes are among the most effective ways of reaching pupils and parents.

"The (staff and parents) were courageous enough to go forward and they had the support of their principal and an enthusiastic guidance teacher," said Dr Steinberg.

The programme at the school is to be assessed by the Medical Research Council and the findings applied to other schools.

The AIDS fortnight was launched once parents, teachers and pupils had agreed to it.

ANC Opposes AIDS Testing of Returning Exiles

*MB0509070990 Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English
31 Aug 90 p 3*

[Report by Chris Bates: "ANC Against AIDS Tests for Exiles"]

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress] was "absolutely opposed" to the compulsory testing of returning exiles for the AIDS virus and had implemented a comprehensive AIDS education campaign as soon as the killer disease became evident in Africa.

This was said by a senior ANC spokesman in Johannesburg yesterday.

She was reacting to news that six HIV-infected ANC Umkonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation—ANC military wing] prisoners had been transferred from the Pollsmoor Prison hospital to jails nearer their homes on Monday [27 Aug].

A seventh prisoner, originally a Uitenhage resident, was transferred from Pollsmoor Prison to Somerset Hospital on Monday and is in a "seriously debilitated" condition, lawyers representing him said yesterday.

The ANC spokesperson said her organisation totally supported an individual's right to a private life and called for the immediate release of imprisoned AIDS sufferers who needed "extra care and attention".

Imprisonment made it "virtually impossible to come to terms with your own mortality", while the disease demanded as little stress as possible, she added.

ANC members were "highly responsible", and she hoped that individuals who suspected they might be infected with the virus would voluntarily go for testing.

"There can be no question of compulsion," she emphasised.

As soon as AIDS became evident in Africa the ANC has embarked on a policy of education which included teaching how the disease was contracted and how to avoid it, she added.

Prisons Services public relations directorate chief Brigadier Erica van Zyl said in July this year there were 48 AIDS-carrying prisoners in SA, 17 of them at Pollsmoor. Seven of the Pollsmoor AIDS victims were security prisoners.

Official Cites 'Alarming' Increase in AIDS

*MB2009163090 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1547 GMT 20 Sep 90*

[Text] Durban—More than 100 new AIDS cases—including infants—are being identified in Natal every month while there are now up to 10 AIDS patients in King Edward VIII Hospital at any one time and several deaths each month.

These ever-spiralling figures were revealed on Thursday [20 September] by Natal's member of the national AIDS advisory group, Prof Denis Pudifin, who described the increase in numbers of infected heterosexual blacks as "alarming".

He says there are now 2,140 known AIDS-carriers (HIV-infected people) in Natal, but this reflects only the tip of the iceberg, as there are many healthy carriers who have not been tested and who are unaware that they are in fact AIDS-carriers.

It is believed that more than one percent of the Natal/kwaZulu black population (estimated to be at least six million people) are now HIV-infected, which means that there are probably at least 100,000 HIV-infected people living in the province.

The head of the national AIDS advisory group and South Africa's recognised AIDS expert from the South African Institute of Medical Research, Dr Ruben Sher said on Thursday that the AIDS situation in South Africa could be even worse than the situation in AIDS-ravaged neighbouring African states.

"I think the South African AIDS situation could be even worse than in other African countries because of the mobility of blacks in South Africa (black taxis), the migration system, violence (which increases the incidence of rape) and vast unemployment which leaves people with nothing else to do other than have random sex, the closure of black schools (which encourages sex among teenagers) and other cultural factors," said Dr Sher.

Dr Sher said that ignorance, denial and a resistance to changing people's sexual habits were also major contributing factors in the spread of AIDS in this country. HIV-infection in the gay community had "petered out almost completely because of their co-operation and caution", but the spread was just beginning in the black heterosexual population, he said.

The secretary for health in kwaZulu, Dr Daryl Hackland said: "We have reached the stage where the escalation curve is almost vertical. The situation worsens by the day."

According to Prof Pudifin, slightly more women than men are being identified as HIV positive with an increasing number of children—up to four a month—who have congenitally acquired AIDS from their mothers.

"AIDS is rapidly worsening in the heterosexual population, which is what was expected—and there is no indication of any slowing down. The ever-rising figures are alarming. Education programmes are obviously not having any real impact and more than ever community-based organisations and companies need to educate their own people," said Dr Pudifin.

Health Department Issues Report on AIDS

*MB0110200490 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1943 GMT 1 Oct 90*

[Text] Pretoria—Altogether 499 AIDS cases, in which 299 people died, have occurred in South Africa since 1982, according to the Department of National Health and Population Development.

In a report based on anonymous data supplied by the SA [South African] Institute for Medical Research and released in Pretoria, the department said the two cases and two deaths registered in 1982 had increased in 1990 to 169 cases and 32 deaths for the first eight months ending on 21 September.

The department added that from August 10 this year it would release routine AIDS table on South African cases only. Details of people who came to the country for diagnosis and/or treatment for AIDS, or who fell ill while visiting the republic, would be available on request.

It said the highest incidence of the disease, according to age and sex, had occurred in the 30-39 age group—131 males and 23 females. Thirty children—19 boys and 11 girls up to nine years old—had also contracted the disease.

The most cases were reported in Johannesburg (194 cases and 117 deaths), followed by Cape Town (81 and 46), Durban (78 and 19), kwaZulu (26 and 0) and Pretoria (20 and 15). Towns with only one case reported and no deaths include Boksburg, Bushbuckridge, Carletonville, Daveyton, Krugersdorp, Orkney, Pietersburg, Kimberley, Estcourt, Ladybrand and Upington.

Of the 499 total cases reported, whites accounted for 271 men and seven women, blacks for 100 men and 100 women, "coloureds" for 13 men and four women, and Asians for four men. The majority of whites were homosexual or bisexual men (244).

Official Says National AIDS Cases Exceed 500

*MB0310211990 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1900 GMT 3 Oct 90*

[Text] The official number of AIDS victims in South Africa has risen to more than 500. Forty-four cases were reported since June.

Port Elizabeth district surgeon Dr. Ettiene du Plessis said that 499 of the victims were South Africans and that the remaining 36 were foreigners living in this country. Two hundred and fifty-one have died.

The average age of AIDS victims in South Africa is 25.

AIDS Increase Among Children 'Alarming'

*MB1110175690 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1743 GMT 11 Oct 90*

[Text] Pretoria —Forty new AIDS cases were reported in South Africa in the past six weeks, the Department of National Health and Population Development said on Thursday.

The total number of reported AIDS cases in South Africa since 1982 has reached 499, and now covers all age groups. Thirty six were non-South Africans, the department said.

The increase in AIDS cases amongst children is alarming, the department said in a statement released in Pretoria.

There are six new AIDS cases amongst children aged 0-9 years in the past six weeks, bringing the total to 30 since 1982. In the 70-plus range there are now three AIDS cases, while the 30-39 age group has the highest number of reported AIDS cases—154.

The statement said men account for 388 of the total AIDS cases and women 111. Homosexuals account for 259 of the total.

According to the department, whites make up 278 of the total, blacks 200, so-called coloureds 17 and Asians four.

Because of discrimination against AIDS sufferers in South Africa, the department is preparing a publication for people titled: "How To Deal With an HIV-Infected Person or AIDS-Sufferer".

"It seems that, due largely to ignorance, severe stigmatization of and discrimination against AIDS sufferers and known HIV-infected persons take place," the department statement said.

"Infected children have on occasion been refused school attendance," it added.

Meanwhile, a national meeting of AIDS training and information centres (ATICS) in September in Durban discussed AIDS prevention strategies for the future.

Several resolutions were passed which dealt, amongst other things, with the need for communities where the centres are based to become more involved with the centres.

ATICS, which are community-based in most of the large metropolitan areas in the country, are open to all and give counselling to HIV-infected persons and AIDS sufferers.

They are also responsible for disseminating AIDS information and for training AIDS educators.

SWAZILAND

Health Ministry Releases AIDS Statistics

*MB0510065790 Mbabane THE TIMES OF
SWAZILAND in English 5 Oct 90 p 28*

[Report by Gordon Mbuli: "AIDS Killed 17 People"]

[Text] Seventeen people have now died of AIDS in the country since the disease was first reported here in 1987.

A total of 27 others are now lying in the hospital waiting for their death.

A further 248 people have been confirmed as carriers of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which gives rise to AIDS.

These are the frightening latest statistics released yesterday on the extent of the spread of the killer disease, by the Ministry of Health.

The figures indicate an increase of 41 in the number of people who have been confirmed carriers between July and September this year.

Up until July the official number of carriers stood at 207 people.

Between 1988 and June this year, only seven people were reported by the Director of Health Services, Dr. John Mbambo who explained in a statement that up until now, there has been a serious under-reporting of cases of this disease which greatly understated the extent of the scourge.

He explained that the reason for this was because of some problems that were faced by the central laboratory in Manzini which is responsible for testing blood samples.

He said this mistake has been corrected by a World Health Organisation (WHO) expert who arrived in the country this year to assist in determining the extent and magnitude of this scourge and will set up a mechanism to improve the reporting system.

"This figure was confirmed by a World Health Organisation (WHO) expert, Dr. William Osei, an epidemiologist, who is in the country to provide expertise to the AIDS prevention and control programme.

TANZANIA

54 Die of AIDS in Mbeya Region

*EA1909073290 Dar es Salaam External Service
in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 90*

[Text] Mbeya—54 people have died of AIDS in Mbeya Region between January and June this year out of 907 AIDS cases recorded in the period. The Mbeya regional AIDS coordinator, Ndugu [Comrade] George Mwasenga said this has brought the number of people who had died of AIDS to 177 since the first AIDS case was reported in the region in 1986. He said Mbeya municipality was leading with 37 deaths, followed by Chunya with 15 deaths, while Mbeya Rural District, Kyela, Rungwe and Ileje Districts recorded one death each. No death was reported in Mbozi District. Ndugu Mwasenga said apart from 11 seminars on AIDS held in the region, his office, in collaboration with the organization of the FRG, was organizing a series of seminars on AIDS for traditional midwives and healers and guest houses, bars, pombe [beer] shops and hotel attendants.

ZIMBABWE

Cumulative Number of AIDS Cases Put at 5,086

*MB0310061290 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2259 GMT 2 OCT 90*

[Text] Harare—The cumulative number of AIDS cases reported in Zimbabwe up to August this year stood at 5086, Health Minister Timothy Stamps said at the Zimbabwe Medical Association meeting on Tuesday, reports ZIANA national news agency.

This means there were 1952 new AIDS cases reported in July and August, since the cumulative number of full-blown AIDS cases at the end of June stood at 3,134.

The increase in the second quarter of 1990 was 777 and 725 in the first quarter.

Last month Mr Stamps was reported as saying that, in addition to the 3,134 confirmed cases to the end of June, there were 1804 cases of HIV-related diseases and the real AIDS figure, as opposed to the reported confirmed cases, was estimated to stand at 9,000, three times the confirmed figure.

Working on the same basis with the latest AIDS figure, three times the total of 5,086 would be 15,258.

Mr Stamps said there had been an increase in the percentage of blood donors found to be HIV positive.

In August alone 5,481 donors, which represented 5.71 percent of donors, were found to be HIV positive.

Masvingo Province Blood Donors Prove HIV Positive

*MB0110111390 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1012 GMT 1 Oct 90*

[Text] Masvingo—A large quantity of blood donated to the blood transfusion service [BTS] and sent to the AIDS screening laboratory in Masvingo has been rejected after testing positive for HIV (the AIDS virus), ZIANA news agency reported.

According to the BTS officials, over 1,000 people donated blood in Masvingo Province during the past three months but more than half of the blood donated tested positive for HIV.

The officials said they were becoming worried about the escalating number of young people being found HIV positive when tested for the virus.

“These teenagers are acquiring the virus through sexual contacts. We have been trying to discourage them from engaging in sexual activities at such early stages but to no avail,” said one of the officials.

“We are therefore urging them, if they don’t want to stop their sexual activities, to be at least careful and use protective methods,” said another official.

‘About’ 800,000 Infected With AIDS, HIV

*MB0510170090 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1450 GMT 5 Oct 90*

[Text] Harare —Treatment of AIDS patients is expected to cost medical aid societies in Zimbabwe ZD1.7 million [Zimbabwe dollars] in 1992 and to rise to more than ZD53 million in the year 2017, the national news agency ZIANA reports.

General manager of Cimas Medical Aid Society Mr. Richard Hore told the national forum at Harare on Friday that the cost would increase as the number of AIDS and HIV infected people was rising by the day.

He said the increase in the cost of looking after AIDS patients would have serious economic implications, due to the ever increasing cost of drugs and stays in hospitals.

He said that, while official figures showed that about 500,000 people were HIV infected, he believed there were about 800,000 HIV infected people in Zimbabwe and warned of a reduction in the country’s population as a result.

He said the most affected age groups were those between 20 to 29 years (32.68 percent) and birth to four years (29.37 percent), and these constituted a large proportion of the beneficiaries of medical aid societies.

Mr. Hore, who spoke on the implication of the increasing incidence of AIDS, said the use of condoms was the only “vaccine” for the prevention of AIDS in Zimbabwe, and urged all those who could not change their sexual behaviour to use them.

Another 91 Chinese Infected by AIDS Virus
54004815A Beijing CHINA DAILY in English
17 Jul 90 p 3

[Article by Zhu Baoxia: "Another 91 Chinese Infected by AIDS Virus"]

[Text] Another 91 Chinese drug addicts living in border areas of Yunnan Province were recently found to have been infected with the AIDS—increasing the total of such cases, reported so far in this country, to 305.

Among the 305 virus carriers, 246 are mainland Chinese residents.

According to He Jiasheng, Vice-Minister of the Public Health, the 91 patients were also affected through "communal use of contaminated syringes for intravenous injections."

She revealed this at a national tele-conference on epidemic control held in Beijing yesterday.

Jointly sponsored by the National Compatriot Health Campaign Commission and the Ministry of Public Health with the approval of the State Council, the conference is targeted to alert the officials and public's consciousness on epidemic prevention in a bid to reduce the incidence rate of infectious diseases.

The Vice-Minister urged that all local governments should work strictly in line with the Epidemic Control Law and strengthen leadership in the national campaign.

She urged that the epidemic inspection and reporting system should be enforced vigorously and specific measures be taken to prevent epidemics from occurring and spreading.

He Jiasheng warned that the country has seen a 25.4 percent increase of epidemic cases during the first five months this year, as compared with the same period last year.

More than 830,000 cases were reported throughout the country during the five months.

Among them, virulent hepatitis topped the list of reported diseases with 490,000 cases.

Besides, some medical experts estimated that about half of the residents in the epidemic-affected districts are prone to be exposed to hepatitis.

Cholera, which attacked Hainan province last year, is now coming back towards the province.

Incidence of some other diseases such as typhoid and dysentery are also going up monthly.

Chinese Medicine Made To Treat AIDS
54004815B Beijing CHINA DAILY in English
27 Aug 90 p 3

[Article by Xiao Chen: "Chinese Medicine Made To Treat AIDS"]

[Text] A local company plans to begin production of Chinese medicinal products to treat AIDS after scientists agreed at a recent conference that Chinese medicine could be beneficial in treating the disease.

Several specialists in Chinese medicine who have practices in the United States have found Chinese medicine effective in the treatment of AIDS.

One of these specialists, Chen Keji, a professor from the China Chinese Medicine Research Institute, reported on the effectiveness of Chinese treatments in combating AIDS.

The conference was told that some herbal drugs and compound prescriptions help in inhibiting the HIV virus, which causes AIDS, and in regulating the body's immunity systems.

Several other specialists at the conference described how Chinese medicine or a combination of Chinese and Western medicines were effective in treating the disease.

One newly developed Chinese medicine, known as Tach (treatment of AIDS with Chinese medicine), is made from more than 40 traditional Chinese herbal compounds, each of which is made up of 20 or more herbal drugs.

The compound prescriptions and herbal drugs in Tach have been found to be effective in treating AIDS.

Tach has been produced in trial batches by pharmaceutical companies in Gansu Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Scientists at the conference added, however, that studying the disease is difficult in China because there are few AIDS patients here.

A specialist in Chinese medicine from the Shanghai-based Tach Co Ltd said Tach products should be used as health foods rather than medicine because the ingredients in them are pure, natural products and have been taken as health foods by Chinese people and overseas Chinese for thousands of years.

JAPAN

WHO Chief Reports on AIDS Statistics at Osaka Conference

*OW1609095290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0752 GMT
16 Sep 90*

[Text] World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Hiroshi Nakajima said Sunday the world's AIDS virus carriers have grown to 8 million in early 1990, equal to one in 300 adults.

Nakajima, who is in Osaka to attend an international microbiological studies conference, urged the development of anti- AIDS vaccines. He said over 30 kinds of vaccines are under study in the world but none of them have proved to be decisive.

The WHO's latest survey from early this year shows that of disease carriers, more than 800,000 people are estimated to have either shown symptoms or have already died, Nakajima told a press conference.

Nakajima, a Japanese, has headed the Geneva-based international health group since 1988. He said the highest infection rate is seen in southern parts of Africa, where one out of 40 adults, men and women, was discovered to be AIDS virus carriers.

The United States followed with the figure of one carrier to every 75 adult men and one out of 700 women, he said.

Other conspicuously affected areas include South America, where one out of 125 adult men and 500 women are infected, and Europe, with one to every 200 adult males and one out of 1,400 women are found to be AIDS virus carriers, he reported.

Nakajima, who has once served as head of the WHO's Western Pacific office based in Manila, also expressed concern that AIDS patients are increasing in Thailand and India.

The Far East, including Japan and South Korea, showed a comparatively low figure with one carrier out of 4,000 men and 20,000 women, Nakajima said.

THAILAND

Government Sets 102 Million Baht Anti-AIDS Budget

*BK1709090390 Bangkok Domestic Service in English
0000 GMT 17 Sep 90*

[Text] The Government has set aside 102 million baht for the prevention and control of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or AIDS during the new fiscal year to start 1 October.

Deputy Public Health Minister Suthat Ngoenmun said that although the sum might be insufficient, anti-AIDS campaigns will be accelerated. Mr. Suthat told a gathering of 600 tambon health officials in Ubon Ratchathani province yesterday that an additional budget for the purpose will be sought.

The budget mentioned does not include 135 million baht set aside for the construction of an AIDS rehabilitation center.

Mr. Suthat also said the 1991 AIDS prevention and control policy will underline the campaign to educate the public in every profession and every age group on the deadly disease. The campaign will be, however, launched in different tactics to suit each target group.

Mr. Suthat's speech was to signify the opening of a training program on AIDS education being conducted for the community health officials. These officials will be later sent out to give accurate information on the disease to community leaders and voluntary health informants, who will transfer the knowledge to other villagers in this northern province.

Chiang Mai Prostitutes Surveyed on Anti-AIDS Measures

*90WE0333D Bangkok THE NATION in English
5 Jul 90 p 5*

[Article by Kampoil Khodsaengma]

[Text] Many AIDS-conscious prostitutes in this northern province are rejecting customers who refuse to use condoms even if they are offered double their normal sum, a public health official said.

Dr Surasing Wisarutrat, acting chief of the Chiang Mai Public Health Center, said in a recent survey of 60 brothels in Chiang Mai, researchers found that 89.5 percent of the prostitutes had sold their services only to the men who agreed to use the condom.

He said the researchers found that these prostitutes refused to sell themselves even though their customers offered to pay them double the sum she usually received.

The survey was conducted in brothels at the areas of Kampaeng Din Road and Loy Kroh and Santidham markets, Surasing said.

"I believe using condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS virus among prostitutes is successful in Chiang Mai," Surasing said.

The latest official figures showed that 1,782 prostitutes were among the 2,790 people in Chiang Mai who were tested positive for the human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) which develops into the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Surasing said most brothels in Chiang Mai pasted up large stickers announcing that the place welcomed only those who used condoms. Brothel owners agreed to cooperate in this anti-AIDS campaign because they believed condoms could prevent the spread of the deadly virus, he added.

Pol Col Bamrung Koeddee, deputy Chiang Mai police chief, said the arrest of prostitutes was merely an attempt to curb the profession and not a suppression of prostitution.

Bamrung said police could not arrest all prostitutes because most of the brothels in Chiang Mai have been turned into restaurants or cafes.

AIDS in Ranong Province, Burmese Connection

*90WE0333C Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
5 Aug 90 p 2*

[Text] Ranong Province is one of 16 with a serious AIDS problem, but the situation there is different and more difficult to control, provincial health chief Dr Klaharn Limsiripak told the BANGKOK POST.

"The situation in the province is different to that in other provinces in that it is connected to Burma. The AIDS problem in the province centers on the fishermen, many of whom are Burmese, who cross over to the province and stay for three to four days.

Dr Klaharn said it is estimated there are 5,000 Burmese fishermen who use the 77 piers in the province.

According to a latest survey, the areas around the fish piers are the center for spreading communicable diseases, including AIDS, and there are about 48 brothels at piers where a total of about 500 Burmese or Thai prostitutes work.

The survey found that of about 1,028 people found to have contracted the disease between March and June this year, 77 are Thai fishermen and 951 are Burmese fishermen, Dr Klaharn said.

Dr Klaharn said health officials have tried to coordinate work with Thai Immigration and with Burmese authorities.

Knowledge of AIDS in the brothels is practically nonexistent. The most trying problems emerge in brothels where Burmese women are working, he said.

Public Health Ministry Plans AIDS Measures for Burmese

90WE0333B Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
5 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The Public Health Ministry plans to take to the airwaves in its battle against AIDS among Burmese fishermen in the southern province of Ranong, a senior ministry official said.

Theera Ramasoota, Director General of the Communicable Diseases Control Department, said on Friday the ministry would produce cassette tapes in Burmese with tips on AIDS prevention for broadcast through the Ranong Fishery Radio Center to trawlers at sea.

The programme aims to control the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome among Burmese fishermen who form a major labor force for the fishing industry in the province, according to Theera.

He said the planned anti-AIDS campaign was initiated after blood tests on 951 Burmese fishermen in Ranong in the past four months found that about 4 percent of them had contracted the virus that causes AIDS.

Theera said ministry officials also found during recent talks with Burmese fishermen and prostitutes in Ranong that most were intravenous drug users and never used condoms while having sex.

Both practices are considered to increase the risk of contracting the AIDS virus.

The Public Health Ministry will distribute anti-AIDS brochures to Burmese fishermen as part of the campaign, he said.

The president of the Ranong Fishery Association, according to Theera, will also help draw the attention of Burmese to the anti-AIDS campaign by forming a musical band of Burmese fishermen which would perform once a month in the province.

He said the ministry is cooperating with immigration officials in conducting blood tests for AIDS on Burmese entering Thailand in Ranong. Those found infected with the AIDS virus will be repatriated. Theera added.

Measures To Fight AIDS

90WE0333A Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
16 Aug 90 p 38

[Excerpt] For years, AIDS was considered an imported disease and not a real threat. The first identified case—a Thai homosexual who had been living in the United States—was reported in 1984. In 1988, the problem was rudely brought home when sample surveys in Bangkok showed that HIV infections were racing through groups of intravenous drug users. Until that time, AIDS had been officially played down out of concern for its potentially negative impact on tourism, Thailand's biggest source of foreign exchange.

The HIV epidemic in Thailand is still at relatively early stage (there were only 37 full-blown AIDS cases reported as of March 1990). But a combination of factors, including one of the highest per capita rates of intravenous drug use in Asia and in lively sex industry, makes it a potential time-bomb. More than three-quarters of the known infected persons in Thailand are intravenous drug users scattered throughout every province, shooting heroin and often sharing infected needles. But with increasing sexual transmission, there is mounting evidence that the virus is creeping into the general population as well.

Today, according to the latest government figures, there are 15,000 reported cases of persons infected with the HIV virus in Thailand. The number of actual carriers is projected at around 50,000. Population expert Mechai Viravaidya says that this is just the tip of the iceberg, and that the number could easily be ten times as high.

What alarms health workers most is the rate at which AIDS has spread. From February 1987 to September 1988, HIV infections shot up from four percent to 42 percent among intravenous drug users. Infection among female sex workers, particularly in poorer northern regions, has been a cause for deep concern. One study in the northern city of Chiang Mai turned up an overall positive rate of 43 percent among female prostitutes, soaring to 72 percent among the lowest-paid women.

In June 1988, a national programme for the prevention and control of AIDS was launched under the general policy framework of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS. Now in its third year, the Thai effort has attracted more than \$10.8 million (Bt270 million) from the government and 11 international sources. After the Government of Thailand, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the second largest donor, contributing \$1.9 million (Bt47.5 million) to date.

Working through a sophisticated Thai public health system, this ambitious anti-AIDS campaign has already made an impact. Country-wide surveys are undertaken twice a year. A vigorous programme of voluntary testing has reached more than three million people according to one Ministry of Health official. All of the country's 200,000 health workers will have completed specialized training on AIDS by the end of this year. AIDS information is now part of all secondary school curricula. An intensive awareness campaign through radio, television, posters, exhibits, publications and other mass media continues to spread the word on what AIDS is and how to prevent it.

There are signs that the message is getting through. Contrary to expectations, the rate of infection among drug users and homosexuals has reached a plateau. Over the course of last year, the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases decreased by seven percent, presumably the result of increased condom use.

The permissive, non-judgmental attitude which is characteristic of the Thais is playing a role in fighting the

disease. In general, health workers are trusted and have ready access to addicts and commercial sex workers. Through all of the city's 87 drug rehabilitation centers, bleach is provided to addicts to sterilize needles, and an information campaign is reaching the poorest of the poor in Bangkok's slums.

More than 19 million condoms have been distributed free by the Ministry of Health. Its mobile teams, which will eventually travel to all parts of the country, are now visiting Bangkok's nightclubs and bars with graphic audiovisual presentations on the deadly disease. Even Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn has personally taken on the cause of AIDS.

Health Official Updates AIDS Figures by Risk Group

90WE0342A Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 16 Aug 90 pp 1,20

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Dr. Somsak Warakhamin, the Undersecretary of Public Health, told reporters that there was a report concerning the AIDS situation in Thailand from 1984 to 31 July 1990 indicating that there had been a total of 20,218 cases of people with the AIDS virus in Thailand. Of these 16,990 had been male and 3,428 had been female. They had generally been of reproductive age between 15 and 39—these had made up 91 percent of the AIDS cases. There had been 45 who had been sick with AIDS, and there had been 167 who had had the AIDS related complex. There had been 20,006 with the AIDS virus who had shown no symptoms. There were 10 who were sick with AIDS who were still alive. [passage omitted]

He also said that four more patients had been reported with the AIDS related complex, making a total of 167 who had the AIDS related complex. Of these 144 had been male; there had been 16 cases resulting from homosexual activity, eight from bisexual activity, 44 from heterosexual activity, 65 from intravenous drug use, three from blood transfusions, and eight from unknown causes. Of the 23 cases involving females 18 had resulted from heterosexual activity, two from intravenous drug use, one from a blood transfusion, and two

from unknown causes. There were 142 with the AIDS related complex who were still alive.

Dr. Somsak said that those with the AIDS virus who showed no symptoms had increased by 714. This made a total of 20,006 cases reported. Of these 16,609 had been male; there had been 72 cases resulting from homosexual activity, 98 from bisexual activity, 1,389 from heterosexual activity, 13,236 from intravenous drug use, 16 from blood transfusions, and 1,798 from unknown causes. Of the 3,397 cases involving females, 2,709 had resulted from heterosexual activity, 506 from intravenous drug use, 12 from drug transfusions, and 110 from unknown causes. There were 19,870 in Thailand with the AIDS virus but showing no symptoms who were still alive. There were five children under four with the AIDS virus. Of these two were male and three were female. [passage omitted]

Figures Given on HIV Positive Hilltribe Prostitutes

BK0110025290 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Tourists with a liking for hilltribe prostitutes are warned they have a greater chance of catching AIDS because of the high infection rate among the girls.

Mr Ong-art Klampaibul, secretary to Public Health Minister Marut Bunnag, who issued the warning, said yesterday recent blood tests from 220 hilltribe prostitutes in the north showed 158 of them were HIV positive—71.8 percent.

A breakdown of the findings is as follows: seven out of 25 tested HIV positive in Phayao; two out of two tested positive in Mae Hong Son; 14 out of 37 in Lamphun; five out of five in Lampang; 67 out of 67 in Chiang Rai and 63 out of 67 in the 10th Zone Venereal Diseases Control Centre which covers both Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai.

Of the 220 girls tested, 71 were Muser, 58 Akka, 29 Thai Yai, 18 Yao, 8 Lisu, 4 Karen, one Hmong and 31 hill people of undermined tribes.

Mr Ong-art said tourists from Taiwan and Hong Kong and some Thai men appear to prefer to look for sex with hilltribe girls, believing they are clean and free from AIDS.

HUNGARY

AIDS Data Provided

25000777B Budapest *MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian*
No 31, 27 Jul 90 p 22

[Article by : B Csaba Almasi: "Alarming Data"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] As of today, Hungary is among the relatively less contaminated regions. According to most recent data, since the beginning of screening in 1985, from among the total number of 221 persons (of these 33 are foreigners) recorded as HIV positive, 41 developed the disease, and 23 of these died. The way the number of newly developed cases is taking shape shows an interesting tendency. While in 1986 there were only two new cases, a year later there were

five. Eight new cases were recorded in 1988, and last year there were 17 new cases already. But according to present data it is unlikely that this doubling will continue this year.

Despite this, in the view of professor Ferenc Varnai [department head for Contagious and Tropical Diseases at the Continuing Medical Training University, and director of Laszlo Hospital], the government endeavors to prepare to face the tasks that may be anticipated. The Ministry of Public Welfare and the National AIDS Committee prepared plans for further developing patient care. At present only Laszlo Hospital of Budapest handles AIDS patients. But the possible increase in the number of contaminated persons, patients may make it necessary to establish specialized AIDS units in certain larger hospitals in the countryside. [passage omitted]

ARGENTINA

AIDS Foundation Contests Government Statistics

PY1709010090 Buenos Aires *BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English* 15 Sep 90 p 7

[Text] Some 50,000 Argentines have contracted AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), the Argentine AIDS Foundation said yesterday. The foundation said that a government report claiming only 710 AIDS cases in the country does not take into account the large amount of unreported cases. The foundation said the price of AIDS testing must be reduced from its present 30 dollars to seven dollars. It also said it is trying to import the anti-AIDS drug AZT from Great Britain.

BRAZIL

Government To Launch AIDS Awareness Campaign

90WE0319E Sao Paulo *FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese* 2 Aug 90 p C-7

[Text] Brasilia—The Ministry of Health is preparing an AIDS Awareness Campaign, which will be carried through the media in the second half of this year. According to Eduardo Cortes, 34, director of the Health Ministry's Department of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, the campaign will be continuous. "It will not end until the day that AIDS is under control," Cortes said.

The cost of the campaign has not yet been estimated. The ministry's budget, which is in the final phase of revision, will be revealed on 8 September. In addition to its educational nature, the campaign seeks to demonstrate the social and economic consequences of the epidemic.

It has been 15 months since the Health Ministry has had a national AIDS prevention campaign that was continuous and reached the entire population. At this moment in Brazil, the disease has reached a stage that health technicians consider critical. The number of AIDS-infected heterosexuals, women, and children is increasing and transmission through intravenous drug use is becoming more frequent.

According to epidemiologist Caio Rosenthal, 41, "the situation is critical, the population is misinformed, and the repercussions of the government's negligence will be strongly felt within a short time." According to Rosenthal, there is no political will to confront the problem. "Investment in AIDS does not pay off politically, with the voters, and so the problem is ignored," he declared.

Nelson Solano, 38, director of the AIDS Support and Prevention Group (GAPA), said that "the Collor administration is not doing anything about the problem, although the situation was not very different during the Sarney administration." According to Solano, all the federal AIDS prevention programs "inherited by the

present administration, which were already in bad shape, have been abandoned and nothing has been done up to now."

Solano declared that the campaigns conducted in previous years "failed to reach a large part of the population, because they used language that was unintelligible to the masses; furthermore, they were aired on television late at night, when most people were already asleep." In the opinion of Paulo Cesar Bonfim, president of the GAPA [expansion not given] and PT-SP [Workers Party-Sao Paulo] candidate for federal deputy, "this omission is a crime against those who are contracting the disease because they are uninformed."

513 Children With AIDS

Brazil stands second in the world in the number of children carrying the AIDS virus, contracted through their mothers. The United States is in first place. In Brazil, of a total of 11,000 diagnosed cases of AIDS, 513 are children, according to figures presented yesterday during the international congress on maternal-infantile AIDS, in Sao Paulo. Representatives of 14 countries are attending the congress, which will end on Friday.

Cities With Highest AIDS Incidence Cited

90WE344B Rio de Janeiro *O GLOBO in Portuguese* 18 Aug 90 p 8

[Text] Brasilia—Last month the Health Ministry recorded 508 new cases of AIDS, causing the number of victims identified in the country between 1980 and 1990 to rise to 12,405.

The Sao Paulo capital has the largest absolute number of AIDS cases: 5,371; but it is the city of Santos that shows the highest coefficient of incidence of the disease: 95 AIDS cases out of every group of 100,000 inhabitants.

Ministry specialists report that the coefficient of incidence is the most important indicator from a public health standpoint, because it shows the proportion of victims in one particular population. They note that, in Brazil, the average incidence of AIDS is 9.3 cases per group of 100,000 inhabitants.

The highest coefficients of incidence of the disease are concentrated in six Sao Paulo cities: Santos, Sao Paulo, Sao Jose dos Campos, Guarujá, Ribeirao Preto, and Sao Vicente. The Sao Paulo capital has 5,371 cases, and an incidence of 54.3 cases per group of 100,000 inhabitants. Sao Jose do Rio Preto has a coefficient of 44.9 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (100 cases); in Guarujá, the index identified is 38.6 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (71 cases); in Ribeirao Preto, there are 36.4 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (137 cases); and in Sao Vicente, the coefficient is 32.8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (77 cases).

Rio de Janeiro occupies second place in the country (ranking first is the Sao Paulo capital) in absolute numbers of AIDS cases recorded during the past decade, with

1,612 cases. It ranks seventh in terms of incidence, with 29.1 cases in every group of 100,000 inhabitants. It is followed, in absolute numbers, by Porto Alegre, with 359 AIDS cases.

Of the 12,405 AIDS cases reported to the ministry, 435 were detected in children, 1,032 in women, and 10,938 in men. Half of the victims (6,230) have already died.

150,000 AIDS Cases Projected by 1995

Incidence to Surpass Africa

90WE0334A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 29 Aug 90 p 13

[Text] Brasilia—By 1995 Brazil will have between 100,000 and 150,000 AIDS patients, according to projections by the Ministry of Health. "The number of cases has been rising progressively and we could surpass the high rates registered in African countries as soon as next year," Eduardo Cortes, director of the AIDS Division of the Health Ministry, warned yesterday.

Cortes is awaiting the allocation of funding to initiate educational campaigns which will address the social and economic costs of the disease. "AIDS could become the country's greatest public health problem," he said.

"We lost the chance to control the disease five years ago, when the number of cases was still small, but very little was invested in awareness and in the control of blood transfusions, for example," Cortes lamented. This year AIDS will be included among the 11 diseases given combat priority in the country, it has been announced by Health Minister Alenci Guerra. The ministry estimates that Brazil will have 20,000 new AIDS cases next year and 25,000 new cases will be registered in 1992. There will be 32,000 new cases in 1993 and 41,000 in 1994. Cortes is basing his projection on 1988 figures. In that year, it was estimated that as many as 500,000 people were infected with the virus, although they were not yet showing any symptoms.

According to AIDS statistics worldwide, 30 percent of those infected with the virus develop the disease in seven years and 50 percent take from nine to 10 years to present the first symptoms. "Even if we succeeded in halting the infection today, we would still have thousands of AIDS cases to attend in the future," Cortes said.

By Cortes' reckoning, if Brazil has 150,000 cases and spends \$10,000 per patient (1/4 what the U.S. Government spends), it will require \$1.5 billion to assist the victims. "AIDS is an extremely costly disease and interferes with the productivity of a country," Cortes declared.

The director of the AIDS Division admits that the interruption of the AIDS campaigns—which have been suspended since last year—has led to diminished interest in prevention of the disease. "People are still thinking only in terms of registered cases (12,405) and not of the

number of cases of infection," Cortes said. Once the funding is defined, the AIDS Division will initiate a series of systematic campaigns, covering all the consequences of the disease, and will also work to see that the health system makes more beds available for AIDS patients. The AIDS Division is negotiating with the CEME (Central Enterprise for Medicines) to import basic medicines to treat opportunistic infections; their purchase depends on the liberation of funds.

Lab May Produce AZT

90WE0334B Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 29 Aug 90 p 13

[Text] Porto Alegre—In two years, Brazil could be producing AZT (the only medicine proven effective against AIDS) at a lower cost than that of importing the drug from the United States. According to Assis Pedro Piccini, director of the Rio Grande do Sul State Pharmaceutical Laboratory, the laboratory has completed the research project and has not begun to produce the medicine simply because it has yet to obtain the needed \$130,000.

"We have attempted to get funding from the Health Ministry, but there was no interest," Piccini said. "There is not much chance of obtaining it from the Rio Grande do Sul State government because of the huge number of requisitions in other areas." The alternative now is to seek assistance from the World Health Organization or the Rio Grande do Sul Foundation for Support to Research, which will begin to receive 1.5 percent of the net revenue of the state, starting next year.

Piccini explained that the manufacture of AZT is not patented and the production process is in the public domain. "The medicine has not been produced in Brazil up to now because, given the cost of production and the necessary research, it does not offer a quick profit," Piccini believes. The process of synthesizing AZT—about 42 chemical reactions—will make it possible to obtain products used as ingredients in refined chemistry and in other types of medicines.

Rising Incidence in Roraima

90WE0334C Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 29 Aug 90 p 13

[Text] Brasilia—With 9.8 cases for every 1,000 inhabitants, Roraima already stands third among Brazilian states in the incidence of AIDS, according to Eduardo Cortes, director of the AIDS Division of the Health Ministry. Cortes will go to Roraima in September to analyze the causes of the growth of the disease in the state. "We are concerned because the invasion of the gold prospectors is bringing drugs and prostitution into the region," he said.

Cortes also plans to investigate allegations by the State Office of AIDS Coordination that traffickers are using AIDS victims to transport drugs, taking advantage of police fears of contamination in the process of arresting

the carriers. "If this is true, we will have to work with the police to overcome their fear of contact," he said.

Roraima has fewer than 200,000 inhabitants and the rate of 9.8 patients per 10,000 inhabitants shocked the Health Ministry. Cortes attributes the growth of the disease to the floating population of prospectors, which brings prostitution and drugs with it. For every nine cases registered, four are heterosexuals, two are drug users, and one is bisexual. "The surprising thing," he said, "is that AIDS is reaching rural areas, where it is presenting only incipient indices in other countries." Cortes is also concerned that the disease is reaching the Yanomami Indians. There are cases of sexual relations between prospectors and Indian women," he notes.

COLOMBIA

AIDS Figures Released, Bogota With Largest Percentage

PA0710152790 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Oct 90

[All figures as heard]

[Text] AIDS, the disease of the 20th century, is now invading Colombian homes. An AIDS prevention campaign was begun four years ago, but statistics show that AIDS ignores slow solutions.

Between 1983 and 1990, the number of AIDS cases reached 484 in Antioquia, 425 in Bogota, 155 in Valle, 94 in Risaralda, 45 in Santander, and 297 elsewhere, bringing the total to 1,500.

According to experts, these were the cases recorded so far, which represent only a small percentage because they have indications that there are at least 100,000 carriers, meaning that they are infected, but the terrible disease has not yet become apparent in them.

Anyone can be exposed to it, in fact, it has been proven that the disease can be transmitted from mother to child through the placenta that carries blood to the fetus.

The highest risk group is homosexuals, with 40 percent, followed by bisexuals, with 21 percent, and heterosexuals, 19 percent. Twenty percent of the population does not know about the risks of contamination and thus, are particularly vulnerable to AIDS.

What is being done to control this epidemic that is spreading in such a frightening way? [Begin recording]

Immunology Department Chief Miguel Guzman Urrego: We are involved in a great campaign to inform the people about this problem. We tell them how this disease is transmitted and how it can be prevented. It is a very costly disease. [end recording]

The truth is that as long as the government does not start massive prevention campaigns, AIDS will continue to spread.

Bogota is one of the cities with the highest percentage of AIDS cases. According to statistics, there are approximately 20,000 men and women who have it.

CUBA

Havana Television Reports on AIDS Cases

FL2209125190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The Human Immune Virus, HIV, which causes AIDS is not transmitted with a simple handshake, casual contact, or by sharing glasses or cups. Scientists have shown that infection occurs through sexual relations and contact with infected blood. A pregnant woman can infect her child at the time of birth or through breast feeding.

At this time, the most common method of AIDS transmission is through heterosexual relations, while there is an increase in serum -positive cases among homosexuals. Of the 493 persons diagnosed as HIV positive, 97 percent were infected through sexual relations.

HONDURAS

780 Confirmed AIDS Cases Reported

90WE0345A San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Aug 90 p 9

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Over 50 percent of the cases of acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome, AIDS, in Central America and Panama are associated with Honduras, and the projections continue to rise: Whereas, last June, 30 cases were confirmed, in July the number increased to 44, making a total of 780 AIDS cases on the national level.

The foregoing is reflected in the latest report from the Anti-AIDS Task and Vigilance Commission, which indicates that Honduras still maintains its "leadership" with respect to the incidence of that fatal disease in the area, followed by Panama.

Of the 780 cases confirmed, 125 relate to homosexuals and bisexuals, and 573 involve heterosexuals. Of the latter, 337 are men and 236, women; and 63 of these are prostitutes.

According to the report, 47 of those infected contracted the disease from blood transfusions; two, from drugs; 20, from mother to child; and 13 from unknown types of transmission. The remaining 700 cases are due to sexual contact.

Of the total infected with the fatal virus, the whereabouts of 303 is unknown; while 195 are recorded as living, and 282, dead.

The city with the highest rate of cases is still San Pedro Sula, with 322; followed by Tegucigalpa, with 72; La Ceiba, with 32; Comayagua, with 31; El Progreso, with

24; Santa Rosa de Copan, with 20; Tela and La Lima, with 12 each; Choloma, with 10; and Puerto Cortes, with nine cases.

If projections continue as they have thus far, by the end of this year 1,000 cases of that disease will have been confirmed.

Enrique Zalaya, a public health official, gave a reminder that, in 1985, two cases were reported; in 1986, 19; in 1987, 117; in 1988, 237; and in 1989, 481 confirmed cases.

Zalaya claimed that there are in the country between 40,000 and 80,000 persons infected with the fatal disease, reiterating the fact that only a change in the mentality of Hondurans as a whole can stop this spiral.

305 AIDS Victims Die in 5 Years

PA0710190390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1636 GMT 5 Oct 90

[All figures as received]

[Text] Tegucigalpa—A spokesman for the Health Ministry reported today that 305 AIDS patients died in Honduras between 1985 and 1990, when a total of 932 cases were registered.

Enrique Zelaya, chief of the Epidemiology Division, reported that three cases of people infected with the deadly virus are registered every day, and if this trend continues, there will be 1,800 confirmed cases in Honduras by 1991.

He added that Honduras has 50 percent of the AIDS cases of Central America, and that out of the total number of cases, 280 are living, but the whereabouts of 345 are unknown.

Out of the 932 cases that have been registered, 31 are children under 10 years of age, of which 22 contracted the disease from their pregnant mothers and nine as a result of blood transfusions.

The head of Epidemiology Division added that the health authorities have only approximately \$350,000 for a prevention and treatment campaign.

The treatment for each AIDS victim costs the Honduran Government about \$700.

At present, there are 21 laboratories throughout the country that perform tests to determine if a patient is a carrier of the AIDS virus.

VENEZUELA

Perez Mandates AIDS Committee

90WE0332A Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS
in Spanish 10 Aug 90 p 28

[Report by J.M.R.]

[Text] The number of AIDS cases in the country is considerably higher than it appears in the official records, possibly totaling as many as 15,000. In view of this problem, President Carlos Andres Perez [CAP], speaking in the Council of Ministers, ordered the formation of a high-level committee to take concrete action against the disease.

He attended the cabinet meeting accompanied by health minister Manuel Adrianza, and Dr. Nicolas Bianco, chief of immunology at University Hospital, who brought the proposal to create this committee. According to the announcement, the associative body that will lead the action against AIDS is comprised of the Ministries of Health, of the Interior, Family, Education, Defense, Justice, and Foreign Affairs. At next week's cabinet meeting Minister Adrianza will bring the text of the decree, with a summons to the country to adopt concrete measures.

Adrianza and Bianco explained the tragic situation to CAP and his ministers, specifying the problem in statistics: There are over 800 recorded victims, which probably means 2,500 additional unrecorded victims; however, many more may be infected. Adrianza remarked: "We could certainly consider Venezuela to have from 10,000 to 15,000 victims infected with AIDS in the country as a whole."

The minister expressed the view that there is a need to educate the country to deal with the problem; but, apart from this, a consistent, intersectorial policy must be initiated to cope with it on all levels: the victim, diagnosis, and both ambulatory and hospital treatment.

Other Topics

The cabinet approved an amendment to the law financing the central regional waterworks, raising the investment to 19.18 million bolivares. The project calls for 14 bidding competitions, and will be completed in 1993. Moreover, a change was made in the regulations of the Retirement and Pension Law for both national and regional public administration employees.

PAKISTAN

Article Reports on AIDS Epidemic

90WE0338A Islamabad *THE MUSLIM* in English
18 Aug 90 p 8

[Article by Mujtaba Akhter: "Alarming Spread of AIDS in Pakistan"]

[Text] AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), the deadly disease, unknown till few years back has assumed an alarming proportion in Pakistan.

Official sources say that the number of AIDS patients had shot up from 37 to 57, which they thought was an alarming portent. Experts are of the opinion that the reported cases represent only a tip of iceberg. The number of those carrying AIDS virus is much higher than the reported one.

Just 3 months earlier, there were 50 AIDS patients of whom 13 died.

The virus after infection takes 5 to 7 years to develop into AIDS, experts say, and weakens part of the body's natural immune system.

The first sign of the trouble is the appearance of antibodies to the AIDS virus in the bloodstream, usually 1 to 3 months after infection. Its virus is probably one of the most fragile ones ever identified, because it cannot survive for long outside the body.

A senior Health Ministry officer said "getting more blood transfusion obviously increases a patients' risk of contracting AIDS. [quotations as received]

The Federal Government, he said, is planning to import special type of syringes to be used during the transfusion of blood.

Another unfortunate factor is the use of contaminated bloods acquired often from the professional blood donors. All the provincial governments had been asked to take steps against such blood donors which the experts thought were a constant source of promoting AIDS.

AIDS virus, which is called HIV, stimulates the production of particular antibodies that can be detected in the blood of an infected person. Such a person is labelled HIV and can transmit the virus to others.

AIDS Case Discovered in Chelyabinsk

*LD0210192890 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 2 Oct 90*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Here is a report from the Health Ministry. A patient infected with the HIV virus was detected in Chelyabinsk in September. He acquired the infection

from another infected man, with whom he was having homosexual relations. He is now being examined and will be hospitalized in Moscow.

To date, 553 Soviet persons infected with AIDS have been discovered in our country, 263 of them children. There are also 551 foreign citizens. They have all been deported.

CANADA

AIDS Epidemic 'Tapering Off'

90WE0339A Toronto *THE GLOBE AND MAIL*
in English 21 Aug 90 pp B20, B21

[Article by Patrick Sullivan]

[Excerpts] As Canada's life insurance companies prepare to enter their second AIDS decade, there is optimism that the disease's impact on the industry won't be as severe as first feared.

"Early on, it seemed as if everyone was going to get it," said Dr Claude Lauriault, medical director at Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. of Ottawa. He said the epidemic now appears to have "tapered off" in Canada.

"If you think of the numbers here and then compare them with the ones in the US, the problem in Canada is not nearly as bad. The epidemic has had a much bigger effect on American companies than Canadian ones."

The Federal Center for AIDS said 3,956 cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome had been reported in Canada by July 23. If the disease were progressing at the same rate as in the United States, there would have been about 14,000 cases.

Still, Canadian insurance companies' response to AIDS has been dramatic. CLIMOA, the Canadian Life Insurance Medical Officers Association, says the companies now order about 300,000 tests annually to check applicants' blood for the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS. "When you get a certain level (of policy size), testing is indicated for the financial health of the industry," said Dr Thomas Porter, medical director at Toronto-based Imperial Life Assurance Co.

He makes no apologies for this mass screening and says it would not be needed "if we could be certain that all people would answer all questions reliably."

About one person in every 2,500 tested will have a positive result, meaning that the 300,000 annual tests will turn up 120 people who are infected with HIV and will be denied insurance.

Richard Burzynski, executive director of the Ottawa-based Canadian AIDS Society, said AIDS groups realize the disease has had a major impact on the insurance industry. "What we are saying is let's look for a new way of doing things," he said. "Just to say that people are uninsurable because they have AIDS is a fiscal issue, but where is the ethical one? Perhaps a more creative solution is available."

Insurance executive Ronald Barbaro agrees. In 1988, the president and chief executive officer of Prudential Insurance Co. of America, Toronto, quietly launched a program called Living Benefits, a concept that has since been picked up by other companies around the world. With it, a policy holder with a terminal illness is eligible

for immediate payment of 50 percent of a policy's death benefit, to a maximum of \$50,000. To qualify, a person needs a certificate from his attending physician stating that he has 12 months or less to live.

He said "well over 50" of Prudential's Canadian clients have benefited from the plan, with one-third of the early payments going to AIDS patients.

David Allen, vice-president and chief financial officer with Manulife Financial Holdings Ltd. in Waterloo, Ont., headed a Canadian Institute of Actuaries committee that developed a model that predicted the impact AIDS would have on the insurance industry. "What has happened is that the numbers (of new cases) were a bit less than we anticipated. Our model said they should keep heading up, and instead they have started to level off. The big question now is crossover to the heterosexual population."

Intravenous drug use is the main vector for this crossover, as infected users spread the disease by sharing needles and through sexual contact.

DENMARK

Party Chief Backs Mandatory AIDS Register

90WE0311B Copenhagen *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE*
in Danish 4 Aug 90 p 11

[Letter to the Editor by Pia Kjaersgaard, Folketing member and political spokesman for the Progress Party]

[Text] When they keep on discussing whether HIV-positive individuals should be registered, the politicians in the Folketing apparently still do not understand how serious the AIDS disease is. The Progress Party again asks that everybody who is found to be HIV-positive should be registered and that everybody should be able to be tested for that deadly ailment. When an individual is admitted, it should be possible to make the test at any hospital for the purpose of identifying or isolating carriers of the disease. Hospitals should have the right to test for the HIV-positive condition—also for the reason that the personnel should know whether they are dealing with an infected person who could transmit the disease to the personnel during an operation, etc. AIDS is the life-threatening disease of our time, and it hits both heterosexual and homosexual individuals, so that one can only be safe if one takes protective measures. Consciously infecting others with AIDS should naturally also be made an offense. One hears all too frequently of people who have been found to be HIV-positive but have continued an active sex life without taking protective measures and informing their sex partners of the danger of infection. The Progress Party will continue to urge that the population's awareness of this frightening disease, AIDS, be aroused, so that the registrations that are so much needed for putting a stop to the spreading of the disease can be started soon. If that is not done, how is it going to be possible to perform research on a disease

when sources of infection, people's habits, etc. cannot be controlled because it is illegal to register persons who are infected with AIDS? Until that has taken place, many more people will be infected and many people will die because of the politicians' reluctance to take the initiative that can save lives.

AIDS Information Campaign Affects Homosexual Behavior

90WE0337B Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 21 Aug 90 p 5

[Article by RB: "AIDS Information Has Substantial Impact on Homosexuals"—first paragraph is BERLINGSKE TIDENDE introduction]

[Text] Over 90 percent have learned about precautionary measures against HIV infection from official campaigns and mass media. Homosexual men are well informed about taking precautions against HIV infection. Official advertising campaigns and commentary in the mass media, in particular, have reached a large part of the homosexual community, according to a study that will be released in UGESKRIFT FOR LAEGER [Physicians' Weekly]. The study is based upon 2,098 questionnaires collected primarily through two magazines which cater to homosexual men. Altogether, 96 percent of the respondents received their information through radio or TV, 94 percent through official advertising campaigns, 92 percent through the daily or weekly press, and 90 percent through gay publications.

There was a high degree of satisfaction with the quality of the information received from gay publications, radio and TV, and in the massive advertising campaigns. Only 50 percent, on the other hand, were satisfied with the information from daily and weekly publications.

Respondents were particularly pleased with telephone counseling from the AIDS hotline and with the gay-lesbian local radio stations, but these channels were used by only 21 and 36 percent respectively.

Physicians responsible for the study conclude that the organized campaigns did win broad favor. They recommend that the Health Commission's work continue via mass media and through channels aimed at the general population, closet homosexuals, and men with bisexual contacts.

Condom Use Widely Accepted by Youths

90WE0337A Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 28 Aug 90 p 7

[Article by RB: "Condoms in Use From the Start"]

[Text] Condoms are finding popularity among youths, starting with their first sexual experience. In 1982—before the public knew about the AIDS disease—just a third of the young used condoms. Six years later, condoms were the only protection used by more than two-thirds of youths in their first sexual encounter.

These were the findings of a study made in the Storstrom District and described in the most recent issue of "UGESKRIFT FOR LAEGER" [Physicians' Weekly].

The widespread use of condoms, however, disguises the fact that a large number of young people do not know how to use condoms correctly. Sex education given in the public schools appears to be inadequate. The study demonstrated that very simple, additional sex information is helpful to young people.

The study included 451 school children from the eighth and ninth grades. In early 1988, they received sex education at a birth control counseling clinic. They filled out questionnaires before and after the instruction.

The instruction introduced a simple little exercise in which each student opened a condom and set it on the finger of the person next to him. The exercise demystified the slightly awkward situation of putting the condom on an "unfamiliar" partner. At the same time, the study concluded, it worked to alter the existing pattern in which typically only half of the girls have handled a condom and only nine percent of the students are able to use the condom correctly.

FINLAND

Paper Warns of Complacency Toward AIDS

Increase in HIV Infections

90WE0299A Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 9 Aug 90 p 5

[Article: "Number of AIDS Infected Increased in Finland."]

[Text] The amount of the individuals who have contracted HIV infection and AIDS has again increased in Finland. By the end of July of this year already 44 new HIV infections were found, compared to all of last year when the amount of the infections was 39. Up to now 325 HIV infections have been discovered in Finland, of which 62 have advanced to AIDS. At the youth festival of the Finnish Red Cross in Turku, Dr. Sirkka-Liisa Valle complained that it is especially young homosexual males who underestimate the risk of contagion. The risk is on the rise also for heterosexual individuals and for users of intravenous drugs.

Youth Especial Concern

90WE0299B Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 12 Aug 90 p 2

[Article: "Danger By No Means Over."]

[Text] Are people frustrated with safe sex and with education? Is there to be found among us an apathy, such as has been noted in the area of AIDS information abroad? There may be good grounds for fearing this: At this rate the decade begins with very negative statistics, with an all-time record, even.

There are no grounds for a belief that we in Finland have luckily once again avoided the scourge. We are still in the danger zone, like other countries. The known figures do not necessarily tell the whole truth. The infection situation is especially gloomy in France, the United States, and in Africa. Over time travel has increased from Finland to countries outside Europe, where the danger lurks in quite a different proportion than in the home country.

The infections, which have been recently discovered, are to be found among the youth who have reached their most sexually active period. Based on this, education must be continued, and it must be directed at each generation in a new form which will guarantee the good reception of the message. A suitable guiding thought would be that special caring and responsibility for one's companion are tied to the right kind of interaction and love.

It is most important that the knowledge of the infection is obtained at the earliest possible stage. According to the experts, this is good both for patient care and for the campaign which is waged against the epidemic. One deludes oneself if one thinks that the disease is not contagious.

Although compared to the worldwide situation the AIDS situation in Finland is good, it will not stay so without a continuous effort. It is good also to remember that although intensive research on AIDS has already been conducted in the world for ten years, a final breakthrough has not yet happened.

Researchers on Prospects for Combating AIDS

90WE0329A Helsinki SUOMEN KUVALEHTI
in Finnish 10 Aug 90 pp 8-13

[Article by Jouni Tervo: "AIDS"]

[Text] The time for Finns to indulge in soul searching in the struggle against HIV infection and AIDS is coming to an end. The latest reports on the infection predict that the peaceful phase of the epidemic has ended and that the disease is spreading at an accelerated rate.

Researchers view with increasing doubtfulness the possibilities of finding drugs or vaccines effective against AIDS in the near future.

The latest statistics on HIV infection, which causes AIDS, amassed by the Medical Board are plain to read. Contrary claims and assumptions notwithstanding, the infection situation has clearly taken a turn for the worse this year.

On 27 July, a couple of weeks ago, it was reported that there were 44 new cases of HIV infections in Finland—that is, an average of six cases a month. This figure already exceeds the total of 39 cases reported for all of last year.

Researchers predict that the number of cases of HIV infection will break the all-time record this year. Up to now, the worst year has been 1986, when 67 persons were found to be infected.

The ending of the peaceful phase is also evident, in addition to the statistics, at the AIDS support center located in the Katajanokka district of Helsinki. In July the telephone that serves the center was ringing twice as frequently as before.

Whereas instructions, advice, and information are usually asked for from 300 to 350 times a month, there were over 600 requests in midsummer.

Medical Board reports and support center experiences tell the same story. The cases of infection that have come to light this year are recent, often only less than a year old. They are being found in young people who have entered a sexually more active and liberated phase of their lives.

In the opinion of Doctor of Medicine Sirkka-Liisa Valle, who has been studying HIV infection and the epidemic throughout the entire known existence of the disease, the eleventh hour has come for reassessing the anti-AIDS campaign strategy.

According to her, the sex life begun by a new generation that is not afraid of the epidemic was forgotten in the earlier campaigns.

Valle would like to get information on AIDS to schools and educational institutions. Those age groups that are reaching the age of puberty should receive accurate, objective information on the infection so that they are able to assume responsibility not only for themselves but also for their current and future sexual partners.

Infection with HIV is viewed as a vanquished disease in Finland. The decline in the number of cases of infection indicated by the statistics since 1986 has deluded people into believing that the epidemic has been gotten under control. Valle stressed the fact that only the results of tests voluntarily taken appear in the statistics. How the HIV epidemic may spread cannot be predicted on the basis of these statistics, although just this has been triumphantly done.

In Finland, 325 cases of HIV infection have been discovered, 64 of which have progressed to AIDS, the final phase of which leads to death. Up to now, the disease has already claimed the lives of 36 persons.

Worldwide Situation Is One of Record Gloom

The Sixth International Conference on AIDS, at which the results of medical and social research conducted in different parts of the world were brought together, was organized in June in San Francisco, in the United States.

Just before the conference, the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that one adult out of every 400 had already been infected with the HIV.

In North America alone, one out of every 75 men is reported to be carrying the virus in his system.

At this rate, it is predicted that there will be some 20 million HIV patients in the world by the turn of the century. By that time, 80 percent of them will have contracted the disease through heterosexual relations.

Rapidly spreading in different parts of the world, the disease is considered to be the most serious threat in the world to people's health at the present time. It is feared that, without a cure, it will get completely out of control in the very near future.

As a challenge to medical science, the HIV epidemic and AIDS have long since surpassed cancer research, in which the largest amount of funds and research resources used to be invested.

Although no other disease has been studied so intensively, the results have so far not been very convincing. The way the disease comes into being and develops is only now beginning to become clear as the result of a worldwide effort that has been going on for 10 years.

Nevertheless, results were presented for the first time at the San Francisco conference that indicate that more effective chemotherapy and possibly a vaccine that will slow down its advance may be found after all for this disease, which is considered to be incurable.

Regarded as the discoverer of the HIV, French researcher Luc Montagnier is thought to be developing the longest acting drug and a vaccine.

Operating at the Louis Pasteur Institute, Montagnier's team has published promising results with a vaccine that has been tested on chimpanzees.

Similar tests in the United States reveal that they have succeeded in limiting reproduction of the virus in animals that have already been infected.

It became evident at the June conference that the race to find a cure for AIDS or a vaccine has more clearly than before turned into a contest between France and the United States. Medical glory and the staggering financial prospects an effective cure would open [to its discoverers] lead to the presentation to the public at regular intervals new compounds that are claimed to be effective against the HIV.

Robert Gallo, perhaps the best-known AIDS researcher in the world, who is now openly accused in the United States of pursuing only his own interest, has had to bitterly endure distorted competition.

In the opinion of his sharpest critics, Gallo made use of the AIDS funds he received for his laboratory only to see to it that he would get the Nobel prize for medicine and the worldwide reputation that goes with it.

Gallo's motives and credibility suffered a severe blow after he tried to claim after the fact that the HIV discovered by the French was an achievement of his own team.

Intelligent Virus

The campaign against HIV infection and AIDS has proved to be more difficult than expected because the adversary is an "intelligent" virus that is exceptionally capable of transforming its nature.

Up to now, at least five variants of the HIV "family" have been discovered, each of which functions and reacts in a different way in an organism. The virus is also capable of quickly developing strong resistance to drugs used to fight it.

Once the HIV gets into an organism, it penetrates the holy of holies of a cell, the so-called genotype. With our present-day knowledge, it is impossible to get it out of there. What makes the infection fatal is that the virus selects the key cells of the immunological defense system to reproduce in, the so-called T-lymphocytes.

Specialized in the care of HIV patients, chief physician Juhani Lahdevirta thinks that it may be impossible to ever produce a drug that cures the infection or a vaccine that prevents infection.

According to Lahdevirta, a significant advance in the fight against AIDS would be achieved if a drug or combination of drugs were to be found in the near future that would enable us to stop the virus from reproducing or even appreciably slow it down.

"Any virus that invades a person's system stays there. It poses no threat from the standpoint of health if the body is able to bury it somewhere. But a virus like the HIV, which constantly reproduces and burrows into the organism like a mole, does pose a threat to an individual's health," Lahdevirta said.

Infection Has Five Phases

The phases of HIV infection have been divided into five sequences on the basis of how serious the characterization of the disease is.

Infection with the virus is followed by a primary phase that generally lasts one to two months. A third of those infected with the virus exhibit the symptoms of this phase in one way or another: Some of them remember it afterwards as slight feverishness whereas others have to resort to hospital care.

After the primary phase, an infected organism produces HIV antibodies, which appears as a positive result in a test.

From the standpoint of how the disease spreads, the primary phase is followed by the most difficult phase of all, during which the patient may show no symptoms at

all for as long as 10 to 20 years and, because of this, he is also unaware of the virus that is reproducing in his system.

In Sirkka-Liisa Valle's opinion, an HIV test should also be administered considerably more often than is at present the case in conjunction with the various routine medical examinations so that carriers without symptoms may be informed that they are infected.

In Valle's opinion, informing the patient as early as possible that he is infected is desirable in terms of both patient treatment and the campaign that is being waged against the epidemic.

For the patient, this affords him access to medical observation during which his condition can be observed and he can be helped with proper treatment when changes in it appear.

The spread of the epidemic could, in turn, be checked if infection of healthy sexual partners by carriers without symptoms could be prevented through public information campaigns and proper use of contraceptives.

There is a so-called *las* [not further identified] phase in the final half of the long symptomless period that can usually be detected only by a doctor as a slight enlargement of the lymph nodes. Ordinary illnesses that interfere with and limit the daily life of the infected person, so-called opportunistic diseases, strike shortly after this during the pre-AIDS phase. During this pre-AIDS phase, the patient may, for example, suffer from a severe case of shingles or rashes and mouth thrush, all of which are unusual in individuals with a healthy immunological defense system.

The pre-AIDS phase is clear proof that the virus has managed to seriously damage the key T-lymphocyte CD4 cells, which are also known by the term "helper cells."

Once the HIV has destroyed enough of the CD4 cells, the body's immune system collapses. This is followed by the final phase of the infection, known by the term "AIDS," during which increasingly more serious opportunistic diseases destroy the patient's resistance.

It takes 10 years on average for an HIV infection to progress from the initial infection to the AIDS phase. Since the disease was identified only as recently as 1981, no one knows for sure how long the natural life of the virus actually is.

Because of this, the future of a person infected with the virus cannot be predicted with any certainty. Only infections that progress very rapidly can be discovered with the aid of a five-stage clinical symptom identification system and treated.

While not everyone who is infected with the virus comes down with AIDS, because of the brief history of the disease, researchers cannot say whether a carrier will be

completely spared or whether only one who is critically ill with some other infection will perhaps come down with it later.

Treatment Being Developed Slowly

Several studies have been published in San Francisco that indicate that there is a slow advance being made from the stalemate situation in terms of chemotherapy and vaccination.

Treatment of an HIV patient is usually divided into two parts: treatment specifically aimed at the virus and treatment of the various opportunistic diseases.

There are now effective treatment methods for diseases caused by the weakening of immunity that extend the life of a patient and, above all, improve his quality of life.

However, effective drugs for the HIV itself have not been found, although quite recently gradual progress has been made in developing them.

According to Juhani Lahdevirta, two chief strategies in combating the HIV are recognized in the world: either trying to prevent reproduction of the virus or improving the patient's own immunity.

At the AIDS conference it was revealed that researchers have clearly been concentrating more on finding ways of preventing reproduction of the virus. This is due to the results achieved with so-called nucleoside analogs.

The best-known nucleoside analog is the drug AZT, or zidovudine, which is also used in Finland. So far, it is the only drug that has proved to even to some extent be effective against the virus.

AZT is primarily given to patients who are in the pre-AIDS or AIDS phase who display severe symptoms. The drug slows down development of the infection and improves the immunodeficiency patient's condition, but does not save him from death.

Its high price and severe side effects limit the use of zidovudine. One AZT tablet currently costs a bit more than six markkas. Because of its side effect, causing muscular atrophy, the patient is given an average of six tablets a day.

At the present time the effect of AZT on the earlier stages of the disease is being tested in several different countries. A study made last summer in the United States showed that zidovudine may slow the advance of the disease immediately after the subject is infected.

The success achieved with AZT has prompted researchers to investigate other nucleoside analogs. One of these is DDI, a drug related to AZT, testing of which will probably begin in a broadly based Nordic research project at the end of the year.

Along with nucleoside analogs, attempts have also been made to study so-called immunomodulators that, as the

term implies, improve an individual's own ability to resist disease, his immunity.

The testing of hundreds of molecules was proposed in San Francisco, which it is hoped will advance research on the HIV.

Juhani Lahdevirta nevertheless thinks that the future lies in different sorts of drug compounds rather than in individual drugs. He reminded us of the research on tuberculosis in the 1950's, when it was proved that different drugs were effective against the disease. The bacterium was not, however, controlled until they could combine the different drugs into the same medication.

Nine Vaccines Being Developed

News of the development of a vaccine is more eagerly awaited in the world than [new] drug treatments are. Only a couple of years ago, a vaccine against the HIV seemed to be hopeless, but experiments that are now getting started involve at least nine compounds.

Since development of a substance that would prevent infection has so far proved to be impossible, emphasis in research has been chiefly focused on finding an antigenic vaccine—that is, one that improves the individual's immunity.

Antigenic vaccines are based on the same idea as immunomodulator drugs. An antigen introduces a foreign substance into the organism that increases its ability to resist the virus. As for an immunomodulator, it produces a chemical reaction at the cell level that improves immunity.

In tests conducted with chimpanzees in France and the United States, they succeeded in slowing down the advance of immunodeficiency with an antigenic vaccine. Up to now, they have not been able to develop a vaccine that can be clinically tested on humans.

In America they are trying to create a theoretical model for a vaccine that would not only slow down reproduction of the virus, but would also render HIV infection completely insignificant.

The goal is to create a compound that would prevent the HIV from getting into CD4 cells. Although they have already succeeded in theoretically creating it by constructing models with computers, it will still be years before they develop practical application of the model.

ITALY

HIV Test for High-Risk Cases Developed

90MI0302 Milan *ITALIA OGGI in Italian*
12 Jul 90 p 43

[Article by Paula Tiscornia: "An Italian Test to Identify HIV- Positive Cases at Greatest Risk"]

[Text] It's a simple blood test that can be performed by all laboratories and will make it possible to identify the

HIV-positive patients most likely to contract the AIDS virus. These patients can then be constantly monitored and treated with suitable drugs.

This test for early HIV diagnosis, the only one to date that can identify which of the patients in the initial stage of the disease run the greatest risk of its developing into AIDS, was presented at Chieti yesterday by its inventor, 47-year-old, Roman-born Stefano Iacobelli, director of the Medical Oncology Department at the D'Annunzio University in Chieti. The patent, which is owned jointly by the University of Chieti and the National Research Council (CNR), is also the result of cooperation with the Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases and the Institute of Clinical Medicine at the La Sapienza University in Rome and the Department of Infectious Diseases at the San'Anna Hospital in Ferrara.

Professor Iacobelli, who has taught at the Catholic University of Rome since 1986, discovered the test almost by chance. "Four years ago," he explains "we produced a monoclonal antibody that recognizes a protein in patients suffering from breast cancer, and we started to study it as an indicator for tumoral diseases."

Almost at the same time however, it was discovered that the same identical substance was present in the serum of HIV-positive patients. We limited the field to the immunodeficiency syndrome, and further research revealed that this protein, which we called 90 K (molecular weight: 90,000), is present in HIV-positive patients in quantities directly proportional to the stage reached in the disease. Thus, whereas four out of 10 HIV-positive patients without symptoms (the initial phase of AIDS) show high levels of 90 K, the portion increases to eight out of 10 in the subsequent Arc phase, while all AIDS patients give a positive result.

"In our opinion, the importance of this test is twofold," explains Stefano Iacobelli. "Firstly, it indicates precisely who should receive AZT antiviral therapy and when. This was a primary hurdle to clear, as this therapy takes a very high toll on both society and the individual. Secondly, the 90 K marker can serve as a treatment indicator, monitoring its efficiency."

A worldwide patent application for the test has already been filed. Pending completion of the bureaucratic procedure, however (it will take approximately one year for the official grant), the Italian patent will be proof of precedence over any other claims.

How much can a discovery like this earn? "As we hold the patent jointly with the CNR," states Professor Iacobelli, "profits will be divided. In any case, the economic side of a patent does not just depend on how good the research is, but on the concrete interest that it stimulates and on many other factors as well."

Before the test can be routinely performed in Italian laboratories, it will also need the endorsement of the

scientific community, and perhaps a recommendation to this effect from the National Commission on AIDS.

The researchers' work is now focusing on discovering the origin and exact composition of this substance. Their studies might further extend the usefulness of this discovery from AIDS to the cancer field. "As well as breast cancer," the experts explain, "this protein is also present in other types of tumor, for example lung or intestinal tumors. High levels of 90 K might show the doctor which patients are most at risk, the patients whose tumors are most likely to be more aggressive and recur shortly after treatment or surgery.

SWEDEN

Growth In Number Of New HIV Cases Increases

254 New Cases In 1989

90WE0284A Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER
in Swedish 3 Aug 90 p 5

[Article: "AIDS And HIV Continue To Advance"]

[Text] More and more Swedes are contracting AIDS. In 1989, 122 HIV-infected people contracted the disease, compared to 85 in 1988.

"We see a clear increase," said Soren Carlsson of the Noah's Ark Foundation, a support organization for AIDS victims and HIV-positive persons.

The figures on those who have contracted AIDS come from SBL, the State Bacteriological Laboratory. In 1987, 78 people who had tested positive to HIV developed AIDS and in 1988 the increase was insignificant. Last year, however, 122 people in Sweden developed the disease.

According to Soren Carlsson, general manager of Noah's Ark, the increase was expected. Those who were infected with HIV during the early eighties, when the infection began to spread, have now begun to develop AIDS.

"We see this trend in the United States, which is several years ahead of us. An enormous number of people there now have HIV-related illnesses," he told TT [TIDNIN-GARNAS TELEGRAMBYRA].

Living Longer

It takes 10, perhaps 15 years for an HIV-infected person to develop AIDS. In Sweden, doctors diagnose a case of AIDS every three days, while in New York a case is diagnosed every 14 minutes.

According to Soren Carlsson, however, AIDS patients now live longer than they did a few years ago. Pneumonia, which was previously the cause of death in many AIDS cases, can now be treated successfully. Instead, many die of cancer.

The increase in the number of AIDS cases is obvious to those who work at Noah's Ark.

"We must change the way we work, do more practical work in the home, and provide more psychological support," Soren Carlsson said.

According to the SBL statistics, 254 new HIV cases were detected in 1989. That may seem to be a reduction from previous years, particularly compared to 1985 when 757 new HIV cases were diagnosed.

Misleading

These figures are completely misleading, according to Soren Carlsson. New testing methods were developed in 1985, so that doctors could detect the HIV virus in cases that previously could not be diagnosed. For this reason, the statistics for 1985 and the subsequent few years are inflated.

"What we have today is a continued spreading of the disease, not a leveling off. We have noted a drop in the lower age groups, particularly among young girls," he said.

20-25 Cases Monthly

90WE0284b Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER
in Swedish 2 Aug 90 p 6

[Article by Sabine Romer: "Law Increased Prostitution"]

[Text] The so-called sauna law is not working. The police, prosecuting attorneys, and RFSL, the National Association for Sexual Equality, all agree. Instead, homosexual male prostitution on the street has increased.

Now many people, led by former epidemiological physician Johan Giesecke, want the law abolished.

The sauna club law was passed three years ago following reports that the HIV virus was being spread among homosexual men at sauna clubs. According to the law, it is now prohibited to "arrange general meetings or events at an establishment that is specifically intended to facilitate sexual intercourse among the visitors." The law has been used only two times since it took effect in 1987.

It is true that some of the sauna clubs disappeared. Others changed their name and limited their activities to showing pornographic films. According to police, however, some of these video clubs have once again become places for quick sexual contacts between homosexual and bisexual men.

Unwilling Witnesses

Both prosecuting attorneys and the police with whom DAGENS NYHETER spoke point to several factors that make it difficult to invoke this law. The police report

that it is extremely difficult to carry out surveillance at the clubs and to find people who are willing to serve as witnesses.

Every month 20 to 25 new cases of HIV infection are reported. About half these cases are homosexual males.

"I believe that is a disturbingly high figure. If there are open clubs that are centrally located, it is easier to make quick sexual contacts and that is unsatisfactory from an epidemiological standpoint," epidemiological physician Per Lundbergh said.

But George Sved, who is in charge of education at the National Association for Sexual Equality, RFSL, questions the assertion that the clubs are largely responsible for the spread of the disease.

Prostitution Increasing

He pointed out that the only results of the law had been the establishment of illegal sex clubs and an increase in homosexual male prostitution. This simply has made it more difficult to distribute information on safe sex.

He had heard of only one illegal club.

No one has accurate information on how widespread the male prostitution has become. George Sved estimates, however, that there are about 15 male prostitutes in Stockholm today. Social agencies in Goteborg have found five men who are prostitutes.

Some of the prostitutes are foreign men who visit Stockholm during the summer, in particular, and prostitute themselves. About 10 of them come from North Africa.

"But no one knows how much prostitution contributes to the spread of the virus. But I believe it is insignificant. Most professional prostitutes are extremely careful to protect themselves. After all, the most common way of becoming infected is having sex at home in the bedroom or on a trip abroad," Sved said.

Mikael Westrell, curator of mental health in Stockholm, also believes there is little spread of the disease at video clubs or through prostitution. He traces contacts among homosexual and bisexual men who are HIV-infected.

"From an epidemiological standpoint, it was unfortunate that the sauna clubs were closed. If we are to speak of a high-risk group today, it would be those who travel abroad and are infected there," Westrell said.

Forced Quarantine Confirmed

90WE0284c Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER
in Swedish 3 Aug 90 p 5

[Article: "HIV-Man Refused Review"]

[Text] The decision to subject the so-called HIV man to forced quarantine will not be reviewed by the Supreme Administrative Court.

In June the man, who is a West German citizen, asked to be released from forced quarantine to return to his homeland.

Now the Supreme Administrative Court, as the court of final appeal, has determined that forced quarantine in accordance with the law on communicable diseases, cannot be set aside simply because the man wants to move to West Germany. This same determination was made previously by both the county administrative court of appeal and the regional court of appeal.

SWITZERLAND

Statistics Published on Total Reported AIDS Cases

90P20128A Geneva JOURNAL DE GENEVE in French
29 Aug 90 p 9

[ATS [Swiss Wire Service] report: "Statistics—AIDS:
1410 Total Cases"]

[Text] In Switzerland, 33 AIDS patients died in July as a result of their immunodeficiency, raising the total number of deaths to 803. Moreover, from the beginning of the year to 31 July, 252 new cases of AIDS have been reported to the Federal Office of Public Health (OFSP), bringing the number to 1410 in all.

The AFSP indicated that the 253 new AIDS cases include 204 men and 49 women. The illness has mainly stricken homosexual or bisexual (97 cases) men as well as drug addicts, or former drug addicts of both sexes (101). AIDS has been diagnosed in 37 heterosexual adults and seven children of less than 15 years of age.

Of the 1410 known AIDS cases, 646 are homosexual or bisexual men, 476 are drug addicts and 172 are heterosexuals. OFSP has recorded 25 children stricken with AIDS and 20 people infected after blood transfusions. Almost a third of those afflicted (438) live in Zurich canton, 186 live in Geneva canton, 163 live in Vaud canton, and 134 in Berne canton.

'Health Bus' To Complement Sanctioned Shooting Galleries

90P20120A Geneva JOURNAL DE GENEVE in French
16 Aug 90 p 9

[Unattributed article: "Prevention of AIDS—Health Bus to Bale"]

[Text] The Public Health Department of Bale-Ville canton announced on Wednesday [15 Aug] its intention to be more active in the prevention of AIDS among drug users. The department plans to place in service a "health bus" where drug addicts will be able to procure sterile syringes and condoms. The Bale government intends, thus, to relieve the "sanctioned shooting galleries" to which more than 250 addicts come daily.

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