Print Media

National HIV and AIDS Archives

#NationalHIVArchives

21st to 28th February 1987
AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. It is a life threatening disease that is now given to this killer disease, which was first noted about five years ago. Its lethal effects have understatedly caused anxiety and concern in countries where it has been diagnosed.

The World Health Organization and AIDS was an estimated figure of 100,000 cases of full blown AIDS across the country in the United States. The most recent number of AIDS cases is 15,000,000 people in the entire world. We know from a country place in the United States of those cases of AIDS have been diagnosed. We know that the disease is now transmitted through sexual contact and we know that several deaths have been recorded.

**What is AIDS?**

AIDS is a disease which occurs to death and life. It is caused by a virus which determines our immune system that is our defense mechanism against disease. When we get an infection, which affects the body, certain white blood cells come into action and we fight off the virus with extraordinary success.

A person with AIDS cannot have this kind of resistance and the whole fighting system breaks down. Not only that but the virus can be transmitted and replicated with a horrifying speed.

It is the body's inability to the destruction of cancer such as cancer and leukemia. The fact that there is no cure, no treatment, and no preventive measures, which are aimed at those who develop AIDS. Instead, the virus can be transmitted from person to person and perhaps other than through sexual contact or by contact with infected material.

**The latent period**

In the latent period, the patient feels perfectly well, it is a matter of days or weeks, some gastrointestinal symptoms may occur. This is often followed by the loss of the original or appetite and eventually, the patient may then experience some other symptoms. The clinical condition at this stage may resemble a disease, characterized by a dry cough or the appearance of a rash, but in many of these, the symptoms are accompanied by severe symptoms.

**Doctor**

A patient with AIDS may come to a doctor with vague symptoms, including fever, weight loss, joint pains, tiredness, and some general debility. In some cases, a sexual transmitted disease, by a persistent non-productive cough, shortness of breath, and fever, may not always be certain to prove fatal in the AIDS patient. Some AIDS patients are considered because the immune system is not functioning properly.

**Help**

There is help available for anyone who is affected by the AIDS virus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the United States, there are over 100 centers that offer treatment and counseling to help individuals and families affected by AIDS.
'Aids oranges' harmless

By AILEEN O'MEARA

HEALTH inspectors in Dublin were yesterday investigating an anonymous call to RTE that oranges in certain stores in Dublin had been injected with blood from an AIDS victim.

But the Department of Health emphasised that even if the call was true, there was no danger to the public arising from the ingestion of blood contaminated by the AIDS virus.

The Department said there was no evidence that AIDS had been spread by ingestion of blood in any of the 10,000 cases documented by the World Health Organisation.

Meanwhile, the redesigned AIDS information campaign, drafted by the Health Education Bureau, will be presented to the Department early next week.

According to a spokeswoman for the Bureau, the Department of Health's AIDS information campaign was returned to the HEB earlier this month to put a greater emphasis on the element of 'drugs use' in the spread of the deadly disease. The redesigned information campaign will be considered by the Government later this month.

The HEB's plans are for an advertising campaign using the press, television, radio and outdoor poster to communicate the message to the public about the spread and prevention of the disease that has resulted in thousands of deaths worldwide to date.

A spokesman for the Department of Health had no comment to make on the call made earlier this month by the Dublin Diocesan task force on AIDS, for the Government to set up an AIDS "hotline," linked to an information centre staffed by professionals.

While the contents of the proposed Government information campaign are unknown, the Gay Health Action group said yesterday that all the political parties had stated their support for the Department of Health's AIDS campaign and committed their parties to ensuring funds be made available for an effective prevention campaign.

Mr. Mick Quinlan, of the Gay Health Action group, said they had received a reply in writing from all the parties except Fianna Fail, and that Fianna Fail said over the telephone that they would support the use of condoms as a preventative measure, if their medical advisors agreed it would be useful. Mr. Haughey reiterated that view during a youth policy press conference during the election campaign.
Experts dismiss AIDS threat after call

By Dr David Novick, Medical Correspondent

HEALTH INSPECTORS in Dublin are investigating what is thought to be the first Irish case of AIDS-related death. The victim had been infected by contact with infected blood in a supermarket branch.

Experts at the Department of Health and others have discussed the possibility of AIDS being transmitted through contact with contaminated objects or surfaces, if the object is a blood-borne pathogen. The case, involving a 44-year-old man, is being investigated further.

The deceased, a teacher at a local secondary school, had been infected by contact with blood from a cut in his hand. The blood sample was sent to the HSE for analysis, and the results are expected within a week.

A spokesperson from the Department of Health said, "We have been in contact with the Health Service Executive, who have notified the HSE and the Department of Health. We are working closely with them to ensure that all appropriate steps are taken to prevent any further cases of AIDS in the future."

The Department of Health has also advised the public to take precautions when handling blood and other bodily fluids, such as using gloves and disposing of needles properly.

Dr David Novick, a medical correspondent for the Irish Times, said, "This is the first known case of AIDS-related death in Ireland, and it is important that we take this seriously. We must ensure that we have the necessary resources and expertise to deal with this situation effectively.

The Department of Health has been working closely with the HSE and other relevant bodies to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to prevent further cases of AIDS in the future. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep the public updated with any further developments."
AIDS not a judgment, says C of I

The Church of Ireland Council has rejected descriptions of AIDS as a "divine punishment" and says that it has not been a "sanitary shock" to a society used to social "ills".

The Council says that the disease has come like a "dreadful shock" to a society used to the "sanitary shock" of social "ills".

If it comes to our sexual activities unwisely or promiscuously, what has always been morally dangerous can now become physically dangerous, indeed fatal. To that extent AIDS is only a reflection of the moral truth that individuals are responsible for their actions.

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Firm seeks permission to put AIDS drug on market

By David Nowlan, Medical Correspondent

THE National Drugs Advisory Board has undertaken to process as quickly as possible an application for limited distribution in Ireland of a new medicine designed to combat the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

The application has been made by Wellcome, the multinational pharmaceutical company, which has also applied for limited approval of the drug by regulatory authorities in Britain, the US and many other countries. In the US an expert committee of the Food and Drugs Administration has already recommended that approval be given and this is now expected formally from the FDA sometime this summer.

The drug in question was originally known as azidothymidine, or AZT, but has since been given the genetic name of zidovudine; and Wellcome's trade name for it is Retrovir. Its primary action is to impede the capacity of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) - the cause of AIDS - to replicate itself. It does this by blocking the action of an essential enzyme called reverse transcriptase.

Early trials of AZT (as it was then called) indicated that it could reduce the death rate among patients with AIDS. In one eight-month trial in the US, only one of 145 patients receiving AZT died, compared with 16 of 157 patients receiving placebo.

The patients receiving the drug also showed clinical signs of improvement, such as a gain in weight.

But, by its nature, zidovudine is likely to cause some serious side-effects and could be damaging to the central nervous system or to the white blood cells. The frequency and severity of side-effects, however, would have to be set against the fact that full-blown AIDS, for which there is currently no cure, is generally fatal.

Dr Allone Scott, director of the NDAB, confirmed yesterday that an application for the approval of Retrovir had been received from Wellcome. While she had not read the portfolio yet, she believed that if the drug was approved, the approval should be given quickly. She said it was likely that such approval would be limited to the use of the drug only in certain specified conditions and then under expert supervision.

It would be essential to ensure that the drug’s effects and side-effects were closely monitored because such clinical trials as had been conducted to date had run only over short periods.

A spokesman for Wellcome in London said that zidovudine was difficult to manufacture but that his company hoped to have sufficient supplies for all known AIDS patients by the middle of May.
Investing in the Aids industry does not necessarily mean escape from Hampstead

The Guardian
21st February 1987

22 FINANCIAL GUARDIAN

Investing in the Aids industry does not necessarily mean escape from Hampstead

stocks—especially those companies working on Aids treatment while making sound solutions.

We are all less worried by Aids, we still suffer a shortage of all in Britain and some of us, at least, would like to be rich.

The rest is obvious. The North West Thames Area Health Authority has the highest incidence of Aids in the UK. The epicentre of this district is Hampstead where hideous house prices and unconventional lifestyles are legendary.

It stands to reason that when the Aids epidemic really goes well one is going to want to live remotely near the place. Wine bars will be deserted, trendy co-educational private schools will empty and house prices in Hampstead must surely collapse.

Greece has got to be a good bet. In spite of the eternal sun, beautiful beaches and cheap tavernas you can still buy five Crow's villas for the value of a Hampstead semi. More to the point, Greece is virtually AIDS free. So far at least.

We owe this piece of intelligence to Walton, Smith and Arkins — analysists at stockbroker L. Messel & Co. Stockbrokers generally have been having a field day with Aids.

Hardly a day goes by without one of them drawing a new chart, projecting a new picture of disaster or discussing the latest news of Aids developments. Where other people wear short sleeves, these people carry pocket calculators. They are in the breast pocket of their hand tailored shirts. Fancy an "Aids play" — as Messel describes it? If you do then they are usually a dozen others. These stockbrokers will gladly send you reams of advice comparing the share earnings of all the companies from Wellcome and Hoffman-La Roche to obscure outfits like CNO, Praxis and Ecover which are said to be testing Aids drugs.

In its latest report, vegetable company table of Aids cases reported to the World Health Organisathon. The best news, it turns out, had only 2.5 cases reported up to last June. Per head of population this was a very safe rating at three times lower than the UK and forty times lower than the United States.

Unfortunately, Hampstead was not listed separately. Come to think of it, the league table missed out a lot of other places to — like the entire continent of Africa — where the disease threatens to end food shortages by wiping out a substantial portion of the population. Presumably there is no point in passing a 'calculation' over people who cannot afford to pay for an Aids "cure." It

and when it comes.

A House of Commons select committee was told this week that it is likely to cost £10,000 a year to treat each Aids victim in Britain with AZT. This is the antiviral drug owned by Wellcome which is in advanced clinical trials and is expected within weeks to become the first Aids drug approved for sale by the US Food and Drug Administration.

How did Wellcome arrive at such a price? When still wholly owned by a charitable trust, Wellcome had an enviable reputation for putting medicine ahead of the market place. It developed vaccines for third world diseases when no-one else cared. But Wellcome is a commercial animal now and its shares, since its flotation a year ago, have been nearly four-fold largely on profit projections for AZT.

Perhaps, at £10,000 per patient Wellcome will make a killing, without facing the accusation of having profited out of misery, hurt and death. But one way or another, it will be accused of profiteering on this return on the £20 million it has already committed to the drug's development.

Our friends in the stockbroking community have quickly woken up to this and are now advising their clients to sell Wellcome shares. AZT is no cure for Aids. It can slow down the ability of the virus to replicate, but it is very toxic. Better, less toxic drugs are certain to follow even if none of them become a cure. In crude financial terms, therefore, Wellcome only had a brief moment in the market to make its windfall before a better alternative comes along.

The stockbrokers would love just such a projected scenario of new, slightly better Aids drugs tumbling out into the market place. Think of all the "Aids plays" they could make while victims go on dying. Think of all the money you could make sitting on your sunny Greek island. If, taking their advice, you get in and out of the correct stocks, at the right time.

Don't count your chickens too quickly, however. Experience has shown that the drug companies make much more money dealing with diseases than by curing them. Today's big profits come from tablets taken for life which control ulcers and heart disease because no cures are available.

Despite the best efforts of researchers a genuine cure for people already stricken with Aids still seems a remote prospect. Anti-viral drugs are in their infancy and Aids is a particularly nasty virus. But a genuine cure, which killed off the Aids virus completely in a short course of treatment, would yield far less profits than drugs given annually to keep the virus at bay.

The stockbrokers who have jumped up every drug company in sight are also forgetting another possible situation — a vaccine, safe cheap and plentiful, that would, with a single jab, protect everyone from contracting the disease. Tests with an Aids vaccine have been begun in Zaire.

Then the drug companies have to be bullied into making vaccines for polo, measles and whooping cough. They can't make much money and they can't make it a sellable product form, as the drug companies like to do. They can't make much money and they can't make it a product form, as the drug companies like to do.

James Ehrlichman
Star’s mercy gift to dying tour chief

AIDS KILLS ELTON’S FRIEND

EXCLUSIVE

by STEVE MCKENLAY and JONATHAN ASHBY

POP star Elton John was devastated last night after a close friend died of Aids.

The multi-millionaire singer paid for 31-year-old Neil Carter to be flown across the Atlantic to top specialists in New York in the hope of saving his life.

At first treatment with an experimental drug seemed to be working.

But Neil, who appeared a fragile teenager, would die for Elton, died after suffering a relapse.

Elton, who is recovering from minor dental surgery in Australia, was told last night he had to beartered for the news.

A spokesman for the singer’s record company said: "Clearly, after years close to all the people who have made a world tour, it is very sad that Neil has died."

Message

Elton and his manager, John Reid were told of the message in the Carter family, who paid for the treatment.

Neil, who worked for Elton for several years until he discovered last year that he had the Terminal Disease. When Elton was told he had been called to the Bahamas to recover at the Island. He spent several months being treated with the AIDS in the Bahamas which later helped arrest the development of the disease.

A close friend of the Carter family said: "Neil’s death came as a shock. Neither this week for taking of having difficulty breathing, and in the early hours of Friday morning.

Elton will be at Neil’s funeral in Hanover next Thursday. He is due back in Britain until next week."

Elton’s paid for flight
3 children get Aids in blood blunder

THREE young children have contracted the Aids virus from imported blood plasma.

The youngsters — all haemophiliacs — were infected by the US blood product Factor 8, which experts had thought was safe.

But last night the Department of Health announced that Armour Pharmaceuticals, an American-based firm, had withdrawn the product from the market.

The children, who have not been named, are now being treated as outpatients at the Birmingham children's hospital.

Dr Feroydoun Ala, director of West Midlands Regional Blood Transfusion Service said: “They have not developed full Aids yet, but have acquired the infection.

“Armour used an inadequate sterilisation technique. Everyone has now switched to other products treated more stringently.”

A Department of Health spokesman said there is no evidence that Factor 8 produced by other manufacturers is unsafe.
New strain of Aids cannot be detected by blood bank tests

by GERRY BYRNE

A NEW strain of Aids cannot be detected by the test used by the Blood Transfusion Service Board to screen Irish blood donors. The new strain has been detected in France and as yet, has not been seen in Ireland.

The test used by the Blood Transfusion Service Board to detect Aids in blood donations cannot be relied upon to detect a new strain of the killer virus, French scientists have concluded.

The Wellcome Laboratories Aids diagnostic kit favoured by the National Blood Transfusion Service Board failed to detect the new strain of Aids — code-named HTLV-4 — in 15 out of 26 tests during recent trials in France. This represents a success rate of only 42%.

Other drug company tests succeeded in between 75% and 95% of cases.

The Wellcome test also failed in almost 10% of cases to detect West African strains of the more common HTLV-3 Aids virus, double the failure rate of kits manufactured by Abbott, Organon and the Pasteur Institute itself. West African Aids is reported to be spreading rapidly in France which has a high immigrant population from the region. Epidemiologists say it is only a matter of time before it begins to surface in other European countries.

However all tests, including Wellcome's, had a 100% success rate in detecting 'traditional' strains of the HTLV-3 virus in the French trials conducted by the same Institute which first isolated the Aids virus in 1983.

Commenting on the failure rate in testing the new Aids virus, the director of the National Blood Transfusion Service Board Dr Terry Walsh said: "We usually find the Wellcome test more effective at testing HTLV-3 than the other tests. There could be problems with different batches which might be less effective."

An altered Wellcome test to broaden the spectrum of viruses detected to include the HTLV-4 strain might be the answer, Dr Walsh added. But the Aids expert at the London School of Hygiene, Dr Ariel Zuckerman says that blood centres will need a separate test specifically for HTLV-4.

The Blood Transfusion Service Board is also reviewing the possibility of introducing two other tests, one to pick up early cases of Aids not detectable by other means and the other to detect a virus that can cause a fatal form of leukaemia.

According to Professor Ariel Zuckerman, 25% of donors in Japan have been infected with the HTLV-1 virus which causes a leukaemia of the blood cells known as T-Cell carcinoma.

This virus was once thought to be responsible for Aids, but attention shifted away from it when the real Aids culprit, HTLV-3, was discovered. It is now turning up in increasing quantities in the USA while an Italian study has found a significant cluster of infections among intravenous drug abusers in Rome.

Little is known about the development of the disease caused by the HTLV-1 virus. The condition can be fatal unless treated by chemotherapy and radiation with often distressing side-effects.

"HTLV-I is a problem possibility," said Dr Walsh. "T-cell leukaemia is one of the few tumours to be positively linked to a virus infection."

And in London Professor Zuckerman said British medical virologists will shortly reach a decision on whether or not to recommend that all blood centres start testing for HTLV-1.
AIDS deaths

Twenty-two people died from AIDS in the United Kingdom in February according to the Dept. of Health figures released today.
AIDS is not a punishment from God

Some things are not pleasant to talk about, but we should discuss them. Unfortunately AIDS is a problem and a growing one.

This is an opportunity to question those who suffer from AIDS. How is it that AIDS sufferers are being punished for their sins? They often die alone with few caring hands. They are left uncared for, even by those who claimed to be close to them.

AIDS sufferers today are like the lepers of the ancient world. Biblical lepers were outcasts. Their disease was one which could not be cured. They were despised because they were not as other people. AIDS sufferers could face similar treatment.

Harsh

Because a great majority of AIDS sufferers are homosexuals, some would argue that it is a punishment from God for their sins. However, we are not the ones to judge the state of the world.

When will we ever stop judging God as small, so small, when we don't even know what he is?

Cared

Jesus cared and cared for the lepers. Even though they didn't know it, they trusted him. They were not afraid of being stigmatized. The love of Jesus. If AIDS was caused by sin, wouldn't the same response be expected? Why? Because there is a little known about AIDS, it is understandable if people are afraid to help. It was the same with cancer at the beginning of the century. Cancer sufferers were shunned from their homes, isolated and stigmatized. People were afraid to touch or care for them. Ignorance made it a terrible label to have. Nonetheless, we are no more afraid of cancer.

We know that most people are not at risk from AIDS. It occurs most frequently among homosexual and bisexual men. And among both men and women drug users — mainly of injection from needles.

Sometimes people who get AIDS are stigmatized by the sick and sometimes they are seen as criminals. Those who have AIDS have had it passed on to them.

Research

And we know from research that AIDS cannot be passed on through casual contact like the handshake, kissing, sexual contact, mother to child, oral sex, or sexual contact.

It is transmitted by sexual contact, shared needles, and blood products. What is known about the disease is changing. But there is still a lot of ignorance about AIDS. We need to be educated. The ignorance must be dealt with.

Some people should not be, but rather should be helped. Not everyone should be判 should make a painful death even more painful. Nor should we judge AIDS sufferers harshly. Of course, they are here and they will be with us for many years to come.

The tide is turning. Indeed, there is hope for the future.
SUNDAY WORLD
22nd February 1987

AIDS RIFE AMONG DUBLIN VICE GIRLS!

An unofficial garda estimate puts the figure of carriers at between 25 and 30 per cent.
A senior garda officer confirmed in SUNDAY WORLD yesterday: "They're the highest risk group in the country."

From Page 1

AIDS was rampant among Dublin's 'locals' of the night.

"We're all over the Liscannor place but we still have to make a living, there's nothing else for us."

This particular lady had AIDS antibodies and is a paramedic.

Her own is produced from years of working in the probation office. She's also very beautiful, even if she looks about 80 years old but age didn't stop her from thinking.

"I've been through it, I'm beautiful," she told the garda.

On her addiction and state of mind, she said: "No need, I'm fine and I'm going to stop because I don't think you may not like that, but this is the way it is."

There really is no way out.

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NOBODY DOES IT BETTER

AIDS RIFE AMONG DUBLIN VICE GIRLS!

By DAVE MULLINS

Up to a third carrying virus - garda survey

AIDS is spreading like wildfire among Dublin's prostitute community. TO PAGE TWO
ICN Drug Is Focus
Of 2 Probes on Claims
Of Possible Side Effects

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

NEW YORK — A U.S. congressional committee and the Food and Drug Administration are conducting separate investigations into allegations of a failure to report serious side effects in some infants from use of Virazole, a drug marketed by ICN Pharmaceuticals Inc.

In a Feb. 9 letter to the FDA, Rep. John Dingell said the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which he chairs, "has recently received allegations concerning the failure to report adverse reactions found" in the drug's use to the FDA. The letter asked the agency to provide documents concerning the drug to the committee's oversight and investigations subcommittee by last Friday.

An FDA spokesman said the agency is conducting its own inquiry into similar allegations and is providing House investigators with information the panel is requesting.
Skin graft caused Aids

The Aids virus has been passed through a skin graft, Britain’s Department of Health confirmed today.

A spokesman said: “To our knowledge this is the only such case in the world”.

Confirmation followed a report billed as an exclusive on the front page of the new London Daily News. The report said the victim came from the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, and underwent the operation at Queen Mary’s Roehampton, after being seriously turned on the face and hands in an accident at his home.

According to the report, the skin had been tested for Aids, but doctors operated before receiving the results because the procedure took so long.

A spokesman at Roehampton said today the unit had stopped using donor grafts following the incident. He said that the process of screening blood for Aids from potential donors had also been speeded up.

“The donor was not a drug addict and not in a high risk group”, the spokesman said. “As a result of this case we have had to re-think our procedures. Other burns units in Britain have been notified.”
AIDS test for US visa applicants?

By Christine Newman

TESTING for AIDS could become a requirement for Irish people wanting a visa to the United States in future, it was revealed today.

The head of the Consular Services at the U.S. Embassy in Dublin, Ms. Joan Smith, said that although they were not testing for AIDS at the present time, eventually it could become a requirement for obtaining a visa to the United States.

She confirmed that sexual deviation, which includes homosexuality, was always an excluding factor to obtaining a visa, as was drug addiction, a criminal record, mental deficiency or alcoholism.

Ms. Smith said the new 3,112 non-preference visas were only giving the person a right to apply and did not necessarily mean that they would automatically gain entry to the U.S.

It only gave them the right to start going through the application process.

She appealed to those who had written to Washington not to phone the Embassy. They would be informed before September 1987 and stressed that they had to apply for their visa immediately they heard from the Embassy.

The Embassy here has a facility to issue 20,000 immigrant visas annually. However, last year only 860 were grant-
Church-owned hospital leading Aids battle

One of the major units in America dealing with Aids victims, the Spaulding Centre, is part of a hospital owned by the Catholic Archdiocese of New York. LINDIE NAUGHTON
REPORTS.

"It's a totally emotional, totally heart-rending situation," says Kathleen McCollum, director of the centre. The centre is one of many centres caring for Aids victims throughout the USA, and is one of the few centres that is able to offer a full range of services to Aids patients. "We have a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists who work together to provide the best possible care for our patients," says McCollum.

St. Clare's in New York is one of the few hospitals in the USA that has a dedicated Aids unit. The hospital's mission is to provide compassionate care to all who are affected by Aids, regardless of their background or social status. "We believe that every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect," says Sister Mary, the hospital's director.

Although some parts of the USA, such as the President's Aids Task Force, have focused on the problem of Aids, many parts of the country still have a long way to go. "We need to educate the public about Aids, and to provide the necessary resources to those who are affected," says Sister Mary.

St. Clare's has recently been visited by Mother Teresa, who has expressed her support for the hospital's work.

Although the battle against Aids is far from over, the staff at St. Clare's remain committed to providing the best possible care for their patients. "We are proud of the work we do, and we are grateful for the support of the community," says McCollum.

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Mother Teresa... her order runs refuge for Aids victims
Aids will not wait

It is now clear that finding a safe and effective drug or vaccine to combat Aids will be a uniquely difficult task. The international scientific community already works more harmoniously and more frequently across international and political divides than almost any other group. With Aids, an even greater degree of cooperation than usual will be necessary. Each country will need to make its best virologists, epidemiologists and other medical experts available, together with the necessary funds. The Medical Research Council has already submitted a proposal for a modest £50 million annual expenditure to Lord Winston's cabinet committee on Aids. Compared with the hundreds of millions being spent each year in countries such as the US, this is chicken feed.

Even so, the cabinet committee seems to be dithering about making the cash available, though the Medical Research Council is confident that it will eventually say yes. The government should dither no longer. Aids will not be slowed down by the dilatory processes of civil service bureaucracy. Let's let all the friction give the Medical Research Council the funds it wants, and do it now.

Text for Today

All the shock is gone since it is done than you think.

Robert W Service
As the scourge spreads, the

**TODAY FILE**

**THE SCOURGE OF AIDS THREATENS THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS BUT IT POSES ANOTHER THREAT**

**THE DISEASE FOR WHICH THERE IS NO KNOWN CURE IS BECOMING WORSE**

A growing number of voices can be heard calling for drastic measures to identify and isolate not only those who have AIDS, but those who are at risk from it.

Some ideas are genuinely designed to help, given enormous resources, they could prove immensely valuable. But other schemes are terrifying in their consequences. Every adult in Britain could be forced to undergo an AIDS test.

**THE LIFE-OR-DEATH HUNT FOR A HIDDEN KILLER**

**TODAY, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1987**

**EVERYONE AGREES THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS NEEDS HUMAN AND MATERIAL SUPPORT.**

The awful price we may all pay

**WHAT WOULD BE THE COST?**

- Setting up a huge civil service department to organize the test schedules, inform people when and where they have to attend for tests and help with their progress.
- Recruiting thousands of additional staff to run and analyze the tests.
- Forming special police squads whose task would be to track down people who refused to be tested.
- Issuing unforgeable "AIDS-free" cards to some people: "infected" cards to others.

**DO WE HAVE THE MONEY?**

- Yes, when the government wants to find it. If more than £1.6 million selling off British Gas, British Telecom and British Airways.

**THE MONEY NEEDED**

- £2 million on research.
- In the United States, the research budget is £200 million a year.
- Last year the British Medical Association told MPs that £50 million a year would be needed for treatment alone by 1990.
- And the Royal Colleges of Nursing and Medicine have warned that many extra nurses will be needed.

**THE SCOURGE OF AIDS**

**WHAT IS THE PRICE?**

- The cost to an already over-burdened NHS would be unacceptably huge.

In terms of hard cash, it is difficult even to begin to do the sums.

But, in terms of individual rights, the cost would be even higher.

Both here and in the United States, medical experts fear that compulsory testing is medically unethical and a violation of human rights.

But, if adopted, it could mean:

- Setting up a huge department to organize the test schedules, inform people when and where they have to attend for tests and help with their progress.
- Recruiting thousands of additional staff to run and analyze the tests.
- Forming special police squads whose task would be to track down people who refused to be tested.
- Issuing unforgeable "AIDS-free" cards to some people: "infected" cards to others.

- Opening special courts to try those who refused a test.
- Reserving jobs for those who denied a test which would keep them out of sight and away from "normal people".

And, because the virus has a long incubation period, the tests would have to be repeated at least once a year.

Even if such a course were economically and morally possible, no one is sure it would actually help stop AIDS spreading.

**THE SCOURGE OF AIDS**

**WHAT WOULD BE THE COST?**

- Setting up a huge civil service department to organize the test schedules, inform people when and where they have to attend for tests and help with their progress.
- Recruiting thousands of additional staff to run and analyze the tests.
- Forming special police squads whose task would be to track down people who refused to be tested.
- Issuing unforgeable "AIDS-free" cards to some people: "infected" cards to others.

- Opening special courts to try those who refused a test.
- Reserving jobs for those who denied a test which would keep them out of sight and away from "normal people".

And, because the virus has a long incubation period, the tests would have to be repeated at least once a year.

Even if such a course were economically and morally possible, no one is sure it would actually help stop AIDS spreading.
fears grow. Soon our very liberty could be at stake

The Final Solution — life behind barbed wire

No way to stop AIDS spreading would be to isolate all those with the virus — and every member of a sexual or ethnic group deemed to be a "high risk." It would require:

- Opening up all isolation hospitals.
- Isolating the sick and the homeless.
- Isolating people who live in isolated areas.
- Person-to-person spread among people in isolated areas.

A "bright" future would be to make sure people with the virus were not allowed to move around.

The story on the social and industrial structure of the country would be smashed. People from every level of society would be isolated and a rift developed. Life would be isolated, lived by the contaminated, and a rift developed would develop. This could be disastrous, and a rift developed would develop.

This is the story that could develop. If it did, it would develop. If it did, the story would develop. If it did, the story would develop.

The other way out — just plain talking

The most realistic proposals to run out of AIDS are those that would be "in the soup." Men and women who are sexually informed about AIDS and those who understand the lives of the people they know need to talk.

They should talk about AIDS, and their own role in prevention and education. They should talk about AIDS, and their own role in prevention and education. They should talk about AIDS, and their own role in prevention and education.

Many see it as an anti-AIDS campaign. Many see it as an anti-AIDS campaign. Many see it as an anti-AIDS campaign.

These organisations offer information on AIDS:

- National AIDS Service on AIDS free phone line, 10am to 10pm, 0800 547 223; Colleagues 81 Health, 02 960 0340 (24 hours a day); The Tansfield Trust, 08 812 2712; London Lesbian and Gay Network, 08 813 7224; Scottish Aids Network, 031 056 1507 (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 7pm).
Pirates first in radio AIDS fight

IRELAND'S first ever radio advertising campaign aimed at combating the AIDS disease was launched today.

But, RTE will not be involved and still have no plans to carry any advertisements about the disease — for the moment at least.

Instead, one of Dublin's leading pirate radio stations, will spearhead the drive to stop AIDS from spreading in a week-long campaign called "AIDS Awareness Week".

The campaign will run on Energy 103 for one week beginning today according to station manager, Colm Hayes.

And he says advice on how to fight the deadly AIDS virus may include the promotion of "safe sex" using condoms. The Catholic Church has already denounced their use, claiming they are perpetuating promiscuous lifestyles.

The week-long Energy Campaign will include hourly AIDS information bulletins after each news broadcast. And the station will also broadcast interviews with medical experts as well as members of the public.

Mr. Hayes says his station expects to run until the end of the awareness month. However, he claims that not all the criticism will be directly related to the AIDS campaign.

"There is a border over which illegal radio is not allowed to step, and we don't know if we will be stepping over that border with our awareness week," he says, stressing that the station's decision to run such an information campaign, was not taken because RTE hasn't so far launched any similar scheme.
AIDS ban
JAPAN decided yesterday to introduce legislation to stop AIDS carriers from entering the country under a wide-ranging plan to stem the spread of the disease.
Financial Times
25th February 1987

Skin graft carried AIDS

A person from Kent has been infected by the AIDS virus after a skin graft operation.

Dr James Curran, director of the AIDS programme at the US government's Centres for Disease Control, said as many as 1.5 Americans may be infected with the virus.
Programme launched against Aids and cancer

HEALTH

A big initiative to reduce deaths from breast and cervical cancer by screening women at greatest risk is to be introduced in the NHS, with a multi-million pound research programme to find a vaccine against and a cure for Aids.

The announcement was made by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services. He said that Britain had the potential to mount a world-leading challenge against Aids and in research, under the aegis of the new National Cancer Research Institute, additional money would be spent on cancer screening in England.

Mr Fowler said that the Government attached particular importance to reducing deaths from breast cancer and cervical cancer in both cases early diagnosis could lead to successful treatment.

Breast cancer is the commonest form of cancer among women in this country. Each year there are something like 20,000 new cases and 15,000 deaths from the disease. In July 1983, the Government approved a working group under the chairmanship of Sir Patrick Farmer to consider the post-war screening programme. The group is currently carrying out work on the programme, and in particular, is preparing the necessary screening facilities for the population at risk who are being screened.

The group is currently carrying out work on the programme, and in particular, is preparing the necessary screening facilities for the population at risk who are being screened.

To achieve full screening in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, it is estimated that at least one centre in operation within the next 12 months.

The funds will also enable the screening of three centres to provide a screening facility for the whole country.

We shall expect the locations of the final centres to be announced in April or May of this year extra £6 million will be put up by the Department of Health for the first centres.

In addition, I shall shortly be announcing the details of a substantial additional financial support for implementing the programme.

Cervical cancer kills 2,000 women each year and we are no longer content with the figures. The great majority of these 2,000 deaths are among women who have never had cervical screening.

We have already taken urgent steps to increase the effectiveness of our programme and, in particular, to increase the proportion of the population at risk who are being screened.

Computerised colposcopy and recall systems will be introduced to improve the best personal screening patterns, usually from their own general practitioners.

Our first priority is to persuade more women to come forward for screening. We shall undertake to ensure that the programme is well disseminated and that the smear test is available to all those at risk. It is estimated that at least one centre in operation within the next 12 months.

These will enable women to be sent personal screening invitations, usually from their own general practitioners.

We have already taken urgent steps to increase the effectiveness of our programme and, in particular, to increase the proportion of the population at risk who are being screened.

The programme will be closely monitored by the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services.

It is important that we should contribute to finding a cure.

Mr Norman Fowler: It is important that we should contribute to finding a cure.

The Government's approach to research is clear: we want to see a sustained and substantial commitment to research into the disease.

The Government is committed to support Aids research. As part of this policy, the Ministry of Defence has announced a substantial increase in its support for research into HIV treatment and prevention.

We are also committed to supporting research into the disease in the wider community. The National Cancer Research Institute will be established to coordinate and support research into cancer, including cancer screening.

The National Cancer Research Institute will be established to coordinate and support research into cancer, including cancer screening.

The Institute will be responsible for the coordination and management of research into cancer, including cancer screening, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Brides to face AIDS test

France yesterday unveiled plans to fight AIDS, including pre-wedding tests for the virus and an easing of rules on the sale of syringes.

Health and Family Minister Michele Ferrand said some 600,000 people in Europe now carried the virus.

She said an information campaign, with television advertisements, posters and leaflets, would run during April and May and be followed by a campaign to raise funds for research.

The government would also soon lift restrictions on the sale of syringes by chemists, allowing drug addicts to buy needles without prescription and without identification. Some 20 to 30 per cent of drug addicts in France were infected with the AIDS virus.

She said she also aimed to make an AIDS test part of the obligatory medical examination for couples planning marriage.

Meanwhile, the British Department of Health confirmed yesterday that the AIDS virus has been passed through a skin graft.

The victim, from the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, underwent the operation at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, after being seriously burned on the face and hands in an accident at his home.

According to the report, the skin had been tested for AIDS, but doctors operated before receiving the results because the procedure took so long.
DENTISTS' AIDS FEARS

Dentists in England are investing so heavily on new equipment to deal with the risk of AIDS infection that manufacturers have been unable to cope with the demand, the British Dental Association says.

The Association was launching a report on controlling cross-infection in the surgery, which is being sent to all 24,000 dentists in Britain.
£14.5m AIDS research

The Government has earmarked £14.5m for research into a vaccine and a treatment for AIDS. A national programme of screening for breast cancer in women between 50 and 64 is being launched. Page 6
AIDS research to receive £14.5m government boost

BY DAVID FISHLock, SCIENCE EDITOR

The Government has earmarked £14.5m over the next three years for research into a vaccine and a treatment for AIDS.

It has also announced a national programme of screening for breast cancer among women aged between 50 and 64, based on X-ray mammography. The cost is expected to rise from £5m this year to £22m by 1989-1990.

Mr. Norman Fowler, Social Services Secretary, told MPs yesterday that in the case of AIDS research, the Government was supporting an initiative from the Medical Research Council.

AIDS research will be funded from extra money allocated to the science budget of the Department of Education and Science, in addition to the £130m programme of the Medical Research Council this year.

Sir James Gowans, the council’s secretary, will manage the programme until its two research directors are appointed.

The plan is to have a co-ordinated research programme which draws upon the new funds and places contracts with established research teams in universities, national laboratories and industrial research centres.

Sir James said he had been promised the support of some of Britain’s most distinguished medical scientists and expected laboratories in London, Oxford and Scotland to be involved from the outset.

Sir James stressed that the search for a vaccine to protect against AIDS would be a long and difficult one, and new ideas were urgently needed.

Medical science had still not unravelled a virus of "unparalleled complexity" into its component parts—the essential first step in designing any vaccine.

Even when this had been done, it would still take five years to develop and test a vaccine.

The breast cancer screening programme was recommended by a working group headed by Prof Sir Patrick Forrest, whose latest report was published by the Health Department yesterday.

Sir Patrick said it had found "incontrovertible evidence" that screening—especially mammography—could reduce the risk from breast cancer, but the operation needed substantial support. The Government was now providing that support, he said.

Breast cancer screening. HMSO. £8.70.
Chaste Russia wakes up to the awkward issue of AIDS

THE SOVIET UNION, in an abrupt change of heart, is unveiling a crash campaign against AIDS which, according to officials, has now claimed 13 victims in the country, with a further 15 cases suspected.

The programme, in effect already under way, will see the compulsory screening of "several million" blood donors, a switch to disposable syringes and substantial investment in specialist equipment to treat the disease.

Simultaneously, the authorities plan drastic moves to make the public aware of the AIDS risk. They want to launch "special publications" on the topic — a Soviet equivalent of the advertising campaigns now under way in Britain and other Western countries. They also advocate the introduction of a telephone hotline, enabling people who have worrying symptoms to discuss them in confidence with experts.

There are many other details of how Moscow is reacting to AIDS. It was given a remarkable interview in the latest issue of the cultural weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta by Gennady Khlyubich, the deputy Health Minister. He breaks new ground in the Soviet handling of the AIDS threat.

Hitherto, the authorities have adopted an ambivalent approach. Behind the scenes, officials from the Central Committee downward have been worrying about how to prevent an epidemic, which has now claimed more than 30,000 victims in the US alone.

From Rupert Cornwell in Moscow

...from spreading to the Soviet Union.

In public, however, the suggestion has long been that the disease was a deserved retribution visited on the sinful West, which a chaste Russia would escape. Indeed, homosexual sex, one of the main vectors of AIDS, is a criminal offence here and carries a sentence of up to five years in prison.

Only a fortnight ago, Gennady Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, asserted to Western journalists, apropos of AIDS, that "the sexual revolution has bypassed us". Articles in the press have even insisted that the disease was developed by the Pentagon as part of a biological warfare programme.

But Mr Khlyubich has now dismissed such fantasies. AIDS, he said, was "new and most complicated problem facing mankind". Illnesses did not respect international frontiers, "and we must be fully armed to deal with the virus".

Part of the problem, he declared, had been the ingratey Soviet habit — now mitigated by the new emphasis on glansnot (openness) — of avoiding public discussion of awkward issues. He wanted so far as to accuse the Moscow city fathers of dawdling over the creation of an immunology clinic, so that it could produce a drug important in the battle against AIDS.

So far, Mr Khlyubich said, the main risk lay with foreigners, "primarily of African origin", who brought the virus with them to the Soviet Union. Of the 132 verified cases, only one involved a Soviet citizen. But Viktor Zhilin, director of the Ivanovsky Institute of Virology of the Academy of Sciences, has indicated that one person in 100,000 here might become infected. This implies that the disease could threaten 2,800 of the total Soviet population of 280 million.

Mr Khlyubich disclosed that Soviet hopes of keeping AIDS — known here by its Russian initials Spid — in check, rest largely on a drug called FA-Spid. This has been rapidly developed and is apparently now being used successfully to diagnose the disease.

Some 40 institutes are now working on AIDS research and their budget will soon be increased. Sufferers are being treated at three hospitals, but the Health Ministry plans to centralise matters at a new, specialised clinic.

Even so, Mr Khlyubich warned that it might take five years to develop an effective AIDS vaccine. He bitterly attacked foreign firms which, he said, had refused to make available their own diagnostic drugs to the Soviet Union. "In the world of business, there is talk of profit, but none of humanity."
The problem for that reason, is not being dealt with at its source. There is a sidestepping of the obvious remedy to promiscuity itself — that is, advocating faithfulness to one’s own partner as a value of true married love. And for the unmarried, abstaining from sexual involvement.

To begin to appreciate these Christian values, of course, and to make them one’s guiding principles means restoring sexual expression to the very precious and special place it holds in Christ’s teaching and God’s design.

It means correcting the distortion of sexual attraction current in the pagan outlook permeating the world.

It means an attempt to counteract the dehumanising of sexuality that inevitably takes place when it is separated from the deep personal encounter of two married people permanently committed to one another in every aspect of their shared life.

It means restoring the values of mutual respect and self-control to courtship.

It means pondering on how these values do not undermine but uphold personal integrity.

Of course, it means for those whose task it is to guide and advise young people, that we appreciate how individuals who pursue sexual contacts in a relentless way are often emotionally wounded and needy and sometimes have great difficulty maintaining a stable loving relationship.

Sometimes, as psychologists assert, they are vulnerable and not infrequently because of disturbance in childhood. It follows, naturally, that with great care, sympathy and personal support for people suffering emotionally and physically from AIDS, we try to promote the true meaning of sexuality and marriage.

We cannot manage this without tackling the previous question of the meaning of every person’s life, recognising their dignity and destiny in God’s design. Then the pain and restlessness of human experience is lifted by hope to be part of God’s plan.

Loneliness is no longer the bitter feeling of rejection but the trace in our being of the hand of God who has made us for Himself and his eternal company. Then the effort, discipline and restraint demanded by pure love become possible.

Control of appetite develops dignity, self-esteem and personal pride. Higher instincts hold sway within the personality. And reflecting more fully the image of the God who made us, we arrive at a higher happiness which does not rely on a sexual dependence.
£14.5m AIDS plan launched

The British government yesterday announced a major new research campaign against AIDS plus breast and cervical cancer.

Health Secretary Norman Fowler announced a £14.5m cash injection for research into both a cure and a vaccine to stem the spread in Britain of AIDS. And he disclosed plans to screen all women in Britain aged between 50 and 64 for breast cancer.
The pessimism of the Polish master

CINEMA

David Robinson, at the Berlin Film Festival, reports on Wajda's latest, and Japanese views of wartime atrocities

A
tale of Amorous Accidents is the first film that Poland's greatest director, Andrzej Wajda, has made in his native country since Man of Iron, his epic of Solidarity, in 1981. Though this is the first feature, Tadeusz Konwicki has a copyright date of 1985 - a time when the political situation both of Wajda and of the writer Tadeusz Konwicki, on whose novel the film is based, was still dubious.

A deeply pessimistic film, it is about young love, it is a deeply pessimistic film. The year is 1939; and, while the young hero and heroine agonize through the pain and dramas of first love, the war comes closer and closer. The date the couple choose for a ritual marriage and suicide pact is September 1, the day of the German attack.

There is verbose dialogue, which is particularly distressing when it has to be understood through simultaneous translation. The cinematography is technically disappointing. Much is enigmatic: there are dreams and visions, and a ghostly stranger who is Konwicki himself, revisiting the years of his own youth. The ultimate message of the film seems to be that everything that mattered came to an end in 1939. It is significant that, while a prologue says that for Poland the place of his birth remains sacred, the area where the action takes place actually ceased to be Poland after the war, through a decision by the USSR.

Concern over AIDS has produced a crop of films, but to speak of an epidemic is to overstate. Where I live, there is no AIDS awareness program. But one cannot watch this film and not feel the power of a 25-minute, 16mm documentary. Living with AIDS, made as her master's project by a young San Francisco grad, Vera Chytilova's Czech social metaphor in The Wolf's Den

In Coming of Age the many friends of a Jewish theatre director, Chuck Solomon, give him a splendid farewell birthday party knowing it is also a farewell (he died nine weeks later, last December). This is a gallantry and courage in both of these films which transcends the specifics of the sickness.

The festival's view of death in war is distinctly anti-heroic. The major drawback is that the film is about to kill with professional precision, the Japanese soldiers, having gloriously photographed the operation, demand the victim's liver for a ceremonial cook-up. It is a highly accomplished film, depicting realistically and without bigotry the distortion of moral attitudes under pressure.

Cannibalism also features in the feature-length documentary toward the Army of God directed by Kazuo Hara. Since the 1980s a familiar sight in the centre of Tokyo has been a loudspeaker van, decorated with flags and slogans, from which issues a torrent of angry denunciation of all those who have betrayed Japan.

This is the voice of Kazuo Okuzaki, a veteran of the New Guinea campaign and a fanatic. He permits Hara's film crew to accompany him on a mission to seek out old wartime comrades. At first he seems just a wild and crazy man, violently assuaging the old soldiers if they do not give him the information he demands. Gradually some method appears in his madness. He wants to avenge an atrocity: an officer had two men shot and their bodies were subsequently eaten by their starving comrades. Hara edits this brief scene with the cool report that Mr Okuzaki never found his man but satisfied his sense of justice by shooting (not fatally) the guilty party's son. He is now in gaol, and the Tokyo city centre is spattered with his diarrhoea.

A darker reflection on human folly of a different kind is Vera Chytilova's The Wolf's Den. This is a political allegory disguised as the climate in Czechoslovakia demands) as science-fiction horror, a group of young people on a skiing course discover too late that their instructors are extraterrestrial. These leaders maintain control by constant shifts of climate, from paternalism to sadism and murder, from bribery and coarsity to inclining the weather within their power. The film's narrative and technical shortcomings — including histrionic camerawork — betray its bold social metaphor.
£14.5m quest launched to find Aids vaccine

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

British scientists will move to the forefront in the quest for an Aids vaccine with a £14.5-million project announced by the Government yesterday.

Leading scientists and specialists are to pool their experience in a research programme directed by the Medical Research Council.

The aim is to develop a vaccine against Aids and drugs to treat people already affected.

Details were announced by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services. Plans are still being drawn up but they involve researchers in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Oxford and London.

"The project will be part of an international research effort," Mr Fowler said. "This project will mean that we are better placed to collaborate with and to benefit from what is being done in other countries."

Sir James Gowans, the council's secretary, said, "Some of the most distinguished scientists in the country have helped to shape this programme . . . We have a feeling of optimism that we can make a significant contribution to the international effort to find a vaccine against AIDs."
Lovers' Aids gamble

A YOUNG mother-to-be admitted she deliberately became pregnant despite knowing her lover had Aids.

Tests will reveal today whether she and her unborn baby have contracted the disease.

Whatever those results, 21-year-old Heather Knight said she is prepared to die with her child and common-law husband John Morgan.

Heather, who is two months pregnant, told of her decision at the guest in St Paul's Bristol, where she lives.

"I knew my husband was an Aids carrier but I think the world of him and I want children," she said.

"I was delighted when the pregnancy test was positive. I want children and it was my decision to get pregnant — not an accident.

"I'd rather die with my husband and child than not have children." Mr Morgan, 24, from Liverpool, sought Aids from a dirty needle.

He is currently on remand in custody for a theft offence.

Heather visits him every day and this week broke the news to him that she was pregnant.

"He's really pleased that he's going to be a father, but he's sick that he can't look after me," she said.

"When we first found out he was a carrier we started using a condom for a while but I think the world of him and I'd rather die with him."

Heather, a former art student from Cornwall, said: "My mum doesn't like me living in a squat really and I'm trying to get somewhere else to live now that I've got the baby to think about."

Officials involved in Mr Morgan's case say he first knew of the pregnancy at his court appearance on Monday. They said he "saw tears of joy" and was clearly delighted at the news.

A DHSS spokesman said last night: "Our advice to women with Aids-infected partners would be not to become pregnant because there is an increased risk to both mother and baby.

"A woman who becomes infected has a fifty-fifty chance of passing it on to her child."

Meanwhile a top scientist yesterday warned that an Aids virus had been found in a cat.

Prof William Jarrett of Glasgow University said the virus was closely related to the form found in humans.

"What is alarming is that we don't know how often different versions of the virus will appear in man," he said.

He said that there were two types of Aids virus in man, another in a monkey and now a fourth type in a cat.

The cat was living in an animal refuge in California when it went down with the illness.

Prof Jarrett, speaking at the Medical Research Council in London, said: "Is there some source from which these viruses are coming? It is extremely important to find that source."

He has been testing prototype Aids vaccines in animals. A French scientist is testing a vaccine on humans in Zaire, he said.

Tests of his own vaccine on animals showed that they developed antibodies, but results of tests on humans were still some way off, he said.

The Government's new research campaigns against Aids, as well as breast and cervical cancer, have been welcomed by the Working Party.

Spokeswoman Mary McMahon called on the Department of Health in Northern Ireland to indicate how long it would take and what funds would be available to provide the breast screening programme in the Province.

The Health Office yesterday rejected an MP's plea to legalise and license brothels in the battle against Aids. Mr David Mellor, minister of state, said there was no guarantee that licensed prostitution would be free from Aids.
Blacks are 'guinea pigs' in sex scheme

By BRENDAN MALIN

IN THE growing U.S. controversy over sex education for teenagers, a black community leader has charged that members of his race are being used as "guinea pigs" and is planning court action to bar the distribution of contraceptives in high schools.

Mr. John E. Robinson, president of the Boston based National Association of Black Americans, told a press conference that the proposed health clinics that would provide contraceptives for students are illogically targeted for areas where student enrolments are predominantly black. The plan which he attacked would, on a trial basis, dispense the contraceptives at four schools located in overwhelmingly black population areas.

"Blacks are being used as guinea pigs," declared Mr. Robinson, "and the plan certainly ought not be allowed to fly." If the proposal were to be implemented, he said, his association would seek an injunction in federal court.

Some 25 black clergymen attended the meeting convened by Mr. Robinson who told them that a survey showed a higher incidence of teenage births in other parts of Boston and in twelve communities outside the city that in the proposed "contraceptive test" areas. He also charged that the $600,000 grant earmarked for the experiment would operate to benefit a pharmaceutical company specializing in the manufacture of condoms and other contraceptives.

The contraceptive issue, he asserted, had divided every segment of American life.

Speaking for the clergy who attended, Rev. Kevin Thurman, head of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, said that while he favoured the clinics in schools, he would now rethink his support in the light of the statistics provided by the black leader.

In a related development, a Boston television station decided to stop airing a 30-second commercial promoting a forthcoming series on sex education. It did so after a group of about twenty demonstrators held a prayer vigil outside the WCVB-TV studios to protest against the TV spot which showed a teen-ager saying: "Today, I learned how to have safe sex."

The TV station's manager, Mr. S. J. Copperrsmith, conceded that while the teen-age girl was 16 or 17, she looked much younger.
THE Pope has added another city to his American visit later this year so as not to finish in San Francisco, as originally intended.

Church officials have noted growing opposition to the Pope's recent appearances by the city's gay community. Now the Pope will end the nine-day nine-city visit in Detroit on September 12.

The new stop does not fit in with his "open heart" itinerary of strong Hispanic populations. He will start in Miami and go on to (Colombia, South Carolina), New Orleans, San Antonio, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Monterey and San Francisco. A spokesman for the San Francisco archdiocese emphasized that the Archbishop of Detroit was Polish and a "good friend" of the Pope.

But Vatican sources and some members of the county's hierarchy have made it plain that the anti-gay demonstrations in San Francisco would leave an unfortunate departing impression. Among the local American-Polish Catholics of Detroit he would receive a cordial reception which would make up for the new depressed and crime-ridden sun-building city, say tour planners.

Homosexuals in San Francisco have already formed a coalition of nine groups to plan what they hope will be a massive demonstration, perhaps as many as 100,000 against the visit. They are particularly incensed by an October pastoral letter denouncing homosexuality as "an intrinsic moral evil" and stating that "the inclination itself must be seen as an objectively disordered." This, they say, condones, rather than out of hand, and blurs the historic distinction between the "not" and the "known."

The homosexual issue is causing a deep and troubling division in the Catholic church in America, and may implicate abortion as the most contentious among, some believe.

The alienation of gay Catholics and their church has been further aggravated by official condemnation of homosexuality on the one hand and increasing reports of priests and monks either ill or already dead from AIDS.
Pope AIDS visit is vetoed

A proposal for Pope John Paul II to visit an AIDS hospice in the heart of San Francisco's main homosexual district has been rejected, because it will not fit into his schedule, a Catholic church spokesman said yesterday.

However, plans for his September 17-18 visit have been altered to include a blessing of the 50-year-old Golden Gate Bridge.

The 15-bed hospice is operated by a group of gay men and lesbians in a building leased from a local Catholic parish.

Local officials had asked national church officials in Washington to add the hospice to the itinerary but were turned down.

Gay rights groups are threatening demonstrations against the Pope because of his strong stand against homosexuality.
AIDS research programme to be linked to international effort

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN HAS designed its new AIDS research programme as part of the international research effort to combat AIDS, the Medical Research Council said yesterday.

The council said the Government had agreed to find all the requested £14.5m over the next three years to mount a directed research programme.

Directed research is unusual in Britain, where medical research is normally funded by bidding the proposals of individual scientists. Directed research has proved very successful in the US, however.

The council has designed a programme with two distinct targets: a vaccine to prevent AIDS and a treatment for the disease.

Although Britain is mounting a much smaller programme than is the US, it has an international reputation in some areas of science germane to these targets, including immunology, genetic engineering and vaccine development.

It is new scientific ideas—"leads"—that are lacking internationally for tackling AIDS, and the British effort is designed to produce more and better ideas.

Under the programme, the two targets will have separate directors for the vaccine and the therapeutic drug. They will report to small scientific steering committees, which will use the AIDS fund to commission specific research from private as well as public laboratories.

The council said development of a vaccine would need a very large investment of human and national resources, and no single nation could expect rapid success.

The technical requirements for a vaccine were still unknown and many different candidate virus preparations would need to be prepared and tested.

Sir James Gowans, secretary of the council, who will manage the programme until its two research directors are appointed, said even when the human immune-deficiency virus that causes AIDS was understood, it would still take five years to develop and test a vaccine.

• Jimmy Burns adds: Local authorities should consider including safeguards against AIDS-based discrimination in local collective agreements, according to a report by the Greater London Employers’ Secretariat.

In the report being made available to more than 450 borough, district, and city councils in England and Wales, it says "misinformation and inaccurate accounts of the ways in which the disease can be contracted, together with the association of the disease with homosexuals" has increased the potential for employment discrimination based on fears that homosexual men might spread AIDS.

The report underpins the Government’s recent guidelines to employers by emphasising that in almost all occupations there is no risk of an infected person passing the AIDS virus to others. There should therefore be no cause for an employer to discharge an employee because he is infected, it says.
AIDS virus found in cat

A top scientist yesterday warned that an AIDS virus has been found in a cat.

Prof. William Jarrett of Glasgow University said the virus was closely related to the form found in humans. He said that there were two types of AIDS virus in man, another in a monkey and now a fourth type in a cat.
African students reject AIDS tests

AFRICAN students in New Delhi have decided to boycott compulsory Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) tests and to demonstrate in the capital today.

About 1,000 African students, including women, branded the tests as discriminatory and announced a march through the capital demanding the withdrawal of a Government order in January making the tests compulsory.

The order has also led to unrest in Bombay University, where more than 300 foreign students have formed an action committee to oppose the tests. AIDS tests were made compulsory after the authorities deported in the past six months 10 foreign students, including two Kenyans, who were found to have the virus.

Health authorities have designated African students as a high risk group and have decided to go ahead with the tests, ignoring protests.

The tests are compulsory for all of India’s 25,000 foreign students irrespective of sex or colour, but Indian students are exempted. About 20,000 of the foreign students are from Africa. — (AFP)

Bavaria has announced radical anti-AIDS measures including compulsory testing for prostitutes, drug addicts, some foreigners and applicants for jobs in the public sector. If they refuse, they will be picked up by police and forced to comply. Under the new measures due to come into immediate effect, non-EEC nationals will be barred from settling in Bavaria unless they prove they are free of the virus. — (Reuter.)
Backlash over a ‘Nazi style’ Aids crackdown

TOUGH new laws aimed at preventing the spread of Aids in Bavaria sparked off a storm of protest throughout the rest of West Germany yesterday.

Some newspapers said that the crackdown smacked of the old Nazi discrimination against homosexuals and other “impure undesirables.”

The central government in Bonn also refused to support the moves by the Bavarian authorities, accusing them of police state tactics.

The measures make tests compulsory for certain groups. These include applicants for civil service jobs, prisoners and non-EEC foreigners who apply to live in Bavaria — they will be tested at the state’s international borders.

Even a man who is seen to speak to a prostitute on the street can now be hauled off to a test centre.

Punished

But the leader of the rightwing Bavarian state government, Franz Josef Strauss, was unrepentant. He is pushing for a nationwide compulsory register for Aids sufferers.

Under his new laws male and female prostitutes will be “invited” to take voluntary Aids tests. or they will be taken to a test centre.

There will be strict new controls on brothels and homosexual clubs, including a ban on “dark back rooms.” Customers found in sex clubs will also have to take a test.

Aids sufferers who infect other people, even unwittingly, will be punished by heavy fines.

And anyone who deliberately passes on the virus will have their names published in a state register.

Survivor accuses Ivan trial witness

THE Treblinka death camp survivor who identified John Demjanjuk as Ivan the Terrible accused Nazi hunter Tuvia Friedman yesterday of being bribed to discredit his evidence.

Friedman, who is to appear as a defence witness in Demjanjuk’s trial in Jerusalem, said he had a 20-year-old statement by the survivor, Eliahu Rosenberg, saying that Demjanjuk was hacked to death by prisoners in 1943.

But Rosenberg said he told Friedman he had only heard rumours of his killing.

from JAMES CROSS in Bonn
Pope won't visit AIDS victim centre

A PROPOSAL that Pope John Paul II visit an AIDS hospice in the heart of San Francisco's main homosexual district has been rejected because it will not fit into his schedule, a Catholic Church spokesman said.

However, plans for his September 17-18 visit there have been altered to include a blessing of the 50-year-old Golden Gate Bridge.

The 15-bed hospice is operated by a group of gay men and lesbians in a building leased from a local Catholic parish.

Local officials had asked national Church officials in Washington to add the hospice to the itinerary but were turned down.

Gay rights groups are threatening demonstrations against the Pope because of his strong stand against homosexuality.

AN INDIANA judge, saving the town of Schererville, Lake County, cannot control the morals of its citizens, has allowed a lingerie shop featuring live models changing in front of customers to reopen.

Judge Cordell Pinkerton rejected the town's request for a preliminary restraining order to keep Fantasy Fashions closed.

He also dissolved a temporary order that has shuttered the shop since January 25.

At the store, customers pick out a number of items they want to have modelled and then go to a private room to have a woman try on the garments. Customers pay for the modelling even if they do not purchase any items.

In his order, Pinkerton noted that the model occurs in private rooms and that the models and the customers do not touch each other.

"The town cannot specifically prohibit a person, in a non-public place, from appearing in a state of nudity and cannot prohibit the displaying and viewing of nudity from two consenting adults as is done in the context of the business," William Enslen, the attorney for the store, said.

The store's business is not confined to just showing nude women.

"The evidence established that everyone was a potential customer of lingerie," he said. "It wasn't that they just wanted to see nude people. They were there to buy lingerie."
Women in condom campaign
From John England
Bonn

Several prominent West German women are to appear in anti-Aids advertisements in support of condoms under the slogan, “I make love with”.

They include actress Christine Kaufmann, a former wife of Tony Curtis, authors and a film director, and will be featured in magazines and possibly later on posters sponsored by Frau Rita Süssmuth, the Federal Health Minister, and a women’s journal.

Frau Süssmuth, a Christian Democrat who is a mother of two and a practising Catholic, has come under fire from Catholic bishops for advocating the use of condoms to guard against Aids.

She has been criticized by the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) for refusing to make registration compulsory for Aids sufferers but refuses to give way on either point.

The CSU state Cabinet in Munich yesterday agreed to make Aids tests compulsory for certain groups.

- MOSCOW: The Soviet Union is to launch a wide-ranging information campaign on Aids. Mr Georgy Khlyabich, Vice-Minister of Health, announced yesterday (AFP reports).

- PARIS: The French Government will lift restrictions on the sale of hypodermic syringes for an experimental period of one year in an bid to stop Aids spreading among drug addicts (Diana Geddes writes).
Chicago

Not as mean as it seemed

Chicago's black voters, plus nearly a fifth of its white voters, combined on February 24th to give Mayor Harold Washington the Democratic nomination for a second term. He defeated Mrs Jane Byrne, an ex-mayor, with 53% of the vote. That, in the old days, was as good as winning the election. No more: Chicago's Democratic machine, which used to be famous for its reliability, is now notorious for its fractures.

On April 7th Mr Washington faces a Republican, Mr Donald Haider, who is a rugby-playing professor and former Democrat, and, more important, two Democratic elected officials who have split away from the party to create third- and fourth-party candidacies. One challenger is Alderman Edward Vrdolyak, the Fast Eddie who leads the opposition to the mayor on the city council. Mr Vrdolyak hopes to remain chairman of the Cook County Democratic party, but he is running under the banner of the Illinois Solidarity party. The other Democratic maverick is the county assessor, Mr Thomas Hynes, a shy professional politician whose television commercials are so perfect a pacifier that they are said to bore his teenage son to sleep. Boring or not, Mr Hynes, who formed the Chicago First party, may be Mr Washington's most serious threat: he has been courting those middle-class professionals who live on the shore of Lake Michigan and may be wary of the combative personalities of Mr Washington, Mrs Byrne and Mr Vrdolyak.

The mayor's second electoral round started with mixed signals. The Rev Jesse Jackson, who has been stumping for him, gave a ferocious civil-rights speech. Malcolm X and Martin Luther King died, claimed Mr Jackson, to make the mayor's renomination possible. His re-election could be a "send-off" for the 1988 presidential election.

Mr Washington himself made a soft appeal for racial unity (the registered black vote in Chicago is now put at about 43%, up a bit from 1983). He conceded that he may have been too controversial and pledged to "bring more people within the orbit of our dreams". He is hoping to increase his support among non-blacks and, to some extent, has already succeeded. He won white lakefront votes when, within a day, city workers were able to reopen Lake Shore Drive after a storm had flooded it. And he was able to hold his own among Hispanics, partly because he sponsored a Puerto Rican woman for city clerk, even though she lost.

Racial patterns predominated. But the campaign, on the whole, lacked the nastiness of the general election in 1983. Some bad things happened, on both sides; but a watchdog committee reported that it had made dozens of visits to neighbourhood meetings each week and turned up little scurrilous homemade literature. Aggressive television reporters exaggerated every squabble, creating two campaigns: a relatively mild one in the streets and high racial drama on the evening news.

Death penalty

An attack on its life

Amnesty International has launched a drive to persuade Americans to do away with capital punishment. In the ten years since the Supreme Court reopened the door to the death penalty, 37 of the 50 states have passed laws allowing the execution of men—and a few women—convicted of brutal crimes. During these years 66 of them have been put to death. But some 1,788 prisoners await execution: 247 in Florida, 219 in Texas, 190 in California, 105 in Georgia and 98 in Illinois. Pakistan is said to be the only other country with comparable numbers under sentence of death.

Of all the barbaric aspects of the American system, none is more horrifying than the execution of young people who were minors when they committed their crimes. In the past two years three young men have gone to their deaths for murders they committed when they were 17. According to Amnesty, at least 32 other juvenile offenders were under sentence of death in 15 states in October 1986. When they committed their crimes their ages ranged from 15 to 17. Only 14 of the 37 states that allow capital punishment exclude minors. And in some states even younger offenders can be held responsible. In theory, a 10-year-old could receive the death penalty in Indiana and a 12-year-old in Montana.

The Supreme Court has just agreed to consider whether capital punishment for minors is a contravention of the constitutional ban on "cruel and unusual punishment". The issue is becoming less academic as more and more youngsters, soaked with dope, commit horrendous crimes against both young and old.

Amnesty draws attention to better-known scandals, such as the conviction and execution of the mentally ill, who frequently lack proper psychiatric assessment; the difficulty that poor people have in obtaining competent legal aid; arbitrary rules that sometimes let the perpetrator escape while sending to his death someone who was only marginally concerned; the fact that the murderers of white people are sentenced to death far more frequently than the murderers of blacks, which is a matter now being considered in a case before the Supreme Court. The use of the death penalty varies widely by region, showing a great lack of consistency in the courts.

It seems all too likely that Americans, fearful as they are of violent crime, will turn deaf ears to most of this litany. In 1985 a Gallup poll showed that 72% of those questioned favoured the death penalty for those convicted of murder; in 1966 the figure was only 42%. As for the administration, it is asking the federal Sentencing Commission to extend the death penalty to federal crimes such as espionage, treason and assassination of the president.

AIDS

Ignorance isn't bliss

ATH: About 200,000 Americans know they carry the AIDS virus. Let at least 1m more carry it in ignorance. Should they be told? They cannot be cured, but they can be persuaded not to indulge in activities that would pass the virus on. The National Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta called a meeting this week to try to decide whether to recommend the wider use of blood tests to fight the epidemic. Civil libertar-
AMERICAN SURVEY

Francesco has experimented with numbers, dispensing with names altogether.

Voluntary screening is not going to catch enough carriers on its own. In recognition of this, the meeting called for “routine” screening at venereal-disease and family-planning clinics (the most alarming statistic of the conference was that 2.5% of the pregnant women in a Brooklyn hospital had the virus, putting Brooklyn between Kenya and Zaire in the AIDS league). Under “routine” testing, all would be tested unless they objected.

The test is not an end in itself. Only if it is followed by some changes in behaviour will screening help to stem the virus’s spread. Among many homosexuals, behaviour changes have not waited for the test. Yet in one study infected homosexual men merely cut the number of partners from 11.8 in six months to five on being diagnosed. New York’s intravenous drug takers have apparently begun to wear condoms and be less promiscuous on learning that they were infectious. But even the knowledge that they are carriers does not stop people having sexual relations. Worst of all are thought to be those acquitted of infection by the test, some of whom take their apparently clean bill of health as a licence to fornicate, even though they may be carriers.

The test itself is not expensive. It costs the army about 82 cents. But the time that has to be spent explaining the implications to people bumps the cost up to $18,000-$30,000 per infected case, according to calculations from North Carolina. All the same, given the cost of treating AIDS patients, screening would probably be cost-effective (let alone lifesaving), if any case were prevented for every one detected.

Extra-territoriality

Basket, California

Lord Ellenborough, 180 years ago, questioned whether “the Isle of Tobago [can] pass a law to bind the rights of the whole world.” The answer, he implied, was no; but Ellenborough did not anticipate the Supreme Court of California. California is at the forefront of efforts to expand the jurisdiction of American courts, an effort that continually irritates relations between America and its trading partners.

The federal Supreme Court has now reminded California that, like Tobago, its reach has limits. The case involves Asahi Metal Industry in Japan, which makes tyre valves, some of which it sells to Cheng Shin Rubber, which makes tyres in Taiwan. Cheng Shin, in turn, sells some