Print Media

National HIV and AIDS Archives

#NationalHIVArchives

10th to 15th March 1987
Aids vaccine by 2,000

Doctors will be able to cure two-in-three cancer cases and vaccinate people against Aids by the year 2,000, researchers forecast yesterday. New drugs to prevent heart attacks, joint implants for arthritis sufferers, and a longer lifespan for men and women are also on the way. But no one is likely to discover a cure for the common cold, they say. The predictions are based on interviews with 227 leading medical researchers, including Nobel prizewinners.
Irish Press
10th March 1987

AIDS—where’s the campaign?

As a former member but still an avid supporter of the I.C.A., I would like to congratulate the I.C.A. in urging a campaign on AIDS in all secondary and third-level schools.

This decision shows great maturity and awareness of the necessity to educate our young population on AIDS and how they can avoid it.

The proposer of this motion, Mrs. Nellie Dillon must be lauded for her concern for young people. I agree wholeheartedly with her call, “Don’t let them die of ignorance. The only weapon against AIDS is education. There is no cure and no vaccine.”

Mrs. Dillon made a very valid point in saying that if AIDS could be thanked for anything, it was that parents could talk to their children about AIDS without sounding like an old 78 record.

Let us hope that other organisations in this country will get the ball rolling and insist on a national media campaign of education about AIDS. This is one sex problem that must be taken on board by the Health Education Bureau. Their duty is to educate on health matters, otherwise why have them operating at all?

ANNE GILMARTIN,
Teesan,
Sligo.
AIDS campaign awaits Cabinet approval

By Dr David Nowlan, Medical Correspondent

OFFICIALS of the Department of Health agreed yesterday morning with the Health Education Bureau on the content of the public education programme on AIDS, which is to be submitted for approval to the incoming Government.

The advertising campaign, if given Government approval, will be backed up by booklets which will be available in doctors' surgeries and chemists' shops, and there will be mention of condoms as one means of curtailing the sexual spread of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

And plans are in train for senior officials of the Department of Health to meet shortly with a member of the Catholic Hierarchy to outline the proposed content of the education programme. The Secretary and deputy chief medical officer of the Department were to have met last week with Dr Desmond Williams, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, but the meetings was postponed because of the serious illness of the archbishop.

I understand that the meeting between the Department and the Hierarchy is not designed to seek ecclesiastical approval for the campaign but rather to acquaint the Hierarchy with its likely content.

The campaign was originally scheduled to be launched in the middle of January but the Cabinet sent it back to the Department and the Health Education Bureau to be "redesigned" on the grounds that it did not contain sufficient emphasis on the risk of transmitting HIV by sharing contaminated needles in the process of intravenous drug abuse. This now appears to be the commonest way of spreading the virus in Dublin.

The newly designed campaign includes a larger component dealing with this particular risk, and a significant section of it is targeted towards the heterosexual spread by way of homosexual activity. It remains to be seen just how much of it is directed towards the public who are at risk of picking up the HIV from those in high risk groups and how much is to be directed towards reassuring people about the ways in which the virus cannot be transmitted so that levels of hysteria based on misinformation may be reduced.

Meanwhile, an education programme for health service personnel was launched last week with two training seminars organised by the Eastern Health Board.

A third such seminar is being held this week and for all three experts have been brought in from Britain to share their experience of dealing with the AIDS problem there.

The deputy chief medical officer of the Department of Health, Dr James Walsh, who has been designated national AIDS co-ordinator in this country, has taken part in these training seminars and yesterday declared himself very pleased with the way they were going. It is his hope that the personnel who attended will be able to conduct similar training programmes with their colleagues in the eastern and other health board areas.
Aids deaths down

But experts say:
Don't be fooled

by CHRIS MIHILL, Medical Correspondent

THE monthly death toll from Aids showed a slight drop in February. The disease claimed 22 victims, 40 fewer than the previous month, according to figures released yesterday.

But the DHSS warned that the apparent improvement is just a “statistical hiccup” and not a sign that the disease is levelling off.

A spokeswoman said the reduction was probably a result of figures arriving too late to be included in calculations.

She added: “There are bound to be minor peaks and troughs. But what we are seeing is a continuous upward trend on the graph — the result of infection perhaps five years ago.”

The DHSS figures show 45 new cases and a further 232 people carrying the Aids virus.

Increases

Five of these new victims are heterosexuals. Twenty-five heterosexual sufferers are now listed and 16 have died.

But homosexuals are still most at risk with a total of 640 cases and 317 deaths.

The total number of carriers established by blood checks now stands at 5,383 but estimates of the actual number of people with the virus runs to at least 30,000.

London continues as the blackspot although small increases were reported in Wales, Manchester and Yorkshire.
Aids aides struggling to survive

HAVING a posse of famous names behind you is no guarantee of success, and even the collective might of Sir Richard Attenborough, Sir Gerard Vaughan and Margaret Jay appears unable to save the UK Aids Foundation from collapse.

Launched in almost simultaneous blazes of publicity and controversy last year, the foundation looks likely to fold, with the Department of Health looking elsewhere for an umbrella body to co-ordinate all the voluntary organisations fighting the virus.

Now, in a desperate attempt to secure a government grant for the foundation, Sir Gerard is offering his own and Margaret Jay's resignations. "We will happily leave, if it makes a difference," he insists.

The controversy over the UKAF began when Sir Gerard was criticised for saying that all visitors to the UK from Africa should be screened for the virus. And Margaret Jay was threatened with legal action over a This Week programme she made on the virus. The Terrence Higgins Trust claimed it whipped up "unnecessary hysteria".

Sir Gerard insists that UKAF could still perform a valuable role in advising fund-raisers on the best way to spend their money. "I've just written again to the Health Minister, saying we can't go on without a grant.

"The UKAF still has money coming in from private sources, but these people want their money to go into research or care, not administration. It's an ideal case for a government grant. If we don't get one, survival is a question of weeks, rather than months."

Let's hope other famous figures involved in the campaign listen to the advice the real experts are giving.

Clive's good food guide

TRADG union leaders are duty-bound to show concern for the welfare of members, so it's nice to see that portly Clive Jenkins's concern even extends down to the protein content of their cafeteria meals.

He astonished fellow union bosses at a recent National Economic Development Council meeting with the Prime Minister by revealing that his union, the ASTMS, was calling in canteen menus from their members all over Britain so it could advise on improving the protein count.

"Perhaps Clive wants them to serve up lobster thermidor instead of fish and chips," chortles one union leader.

Or perhaps he just wants to suss out the best places to go on official visits.
Today
10th March 1987

Page dimensions: 596.0x841.0
[Image 0x0 to 596x841]

COME ON BOY!!
IT'S ALL IN THE OPEN NOW!
THE GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD US!!
BUY CONDOMS!!

CONDOMS, YOU WANT CONDOMS DON'T YOU?
WELL...ER....

EXCUSE ME SIR... BUT DO YOU HAVE...ER...GH...WELL...ER...

JOHNNIES!!
PROPHYLACTICS!! RUBBERS!! CONDOMS!!

GO ON! YOU CAN SAY EM ALL NOW!!

JUST REMEMBER THE ADVERTS: DON'T DIE OF IGNORANCE!

CAN I?

SO THESE REALLY WILL CLEAR UP MY DANDRUFF?!!

WOW! THANKS!

TODAY, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1987
France Clears AIDS Drug

LONDON - Wellcome PLC said the French government cleared Retovir, its new medicine for treating acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The French Department of Social Affairs, Health and Family couldn't be reached for comment on the U.K. pharmaceutical concern's announcement.

France becomes the second country to permit sale of the drug, which clinical trials have shown to be effective in treating certain AIDS patients. Retovir doesn't cure AIDS, though. The British government cleared the drug, generically known as zidovudine, or AZT, last week. It was developed by Wellcome's U.S. unit, Burroughs-Wellcome Co.

Wellcome will allocate supplies of Retovir to countries that approve its use according to the number of AIDS cases reported by those nations to the World Health Organization, said Philip Ward, Wellcome's assistant investor relations manager.

As of Jan. 19, the health organization said 310 cases of AIDS in Britain and 1,649 cases in France, a WHO spokeswoman said. The British government said 711 cases of AIDS had been diagnosed in the U.K. as of Nov. 29, of which 371 so far have proven fatal.

Mr. Ward said distribution of Retovir will begin in the U.K. "within weeks." He added that roughly half of AIDS patients are sufficiently ill to qualify for Retovir treatment. The company has priced the drug worldwide at $188 for 100 capsules at 100-milligram strength. For a patient, the drug could cost as much as $1,060 a year.

On London's Stock Exchange yesterday, Wellcome's shares slid 27 pence to 143 U.S. cents to 458 pence ($7.54), from Friday's close of 485 pence ($7.69). Robin Gilbert, an analyst at James Capel & Co., blamed the drop on newspaper reports over the weekend that questioned Retovir's effectiveness and suggested Wellcome's stock was overvalued.
French, Americans Call Truce in Fight On AIDS Discovery

Scientists Neglected Research In an Unseemly Squabble For Royalties, Some Say

By MARILYN OLIVER
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal
SAN FRANCISCO — American and French scientists called a truce in their bitter dispute over discovery of the AIDS virus.

Simultaneous communiqués from Washington and Paris said lawyers representing the U.S. National Institutes of Health and France’s Pasteur Institute are seeking a settlement to the 15-month-old lawsuit in which the French claimed credit for the discovery and a share of royalties from sales of AIDS blood-test kits.

A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said in Washington that there was some speculation a settlement could be reached within a month.

Both sides said any such settlement would recognize “the important contributions” of each, without “providing either party with an advantage over the other party.”

The long-simmering dispute brought issues of scientific credit and personal and national prestige into the courtroom. In December 1985, the Pasteur Institute filed a lawsuit charging that NIH scientist Robert C. Gallo committed a “breach of contract” by claiming his patent on research and virus samples of Pasteur scientist Luc Montagnier. Dr. Gallo’s virus, named HTLV-3, and Dr. Montagnier’s virus, named LAV, are virtually identical, differing by less than 2% of their genetic building blocks. Dr. Gallo has denied the charge.

The dispute has been viewed by many scientists—including the principal disputants—as an unseemly theater of ego in the midst of a fatal epidemic. It has diverted much of the scientists’ time, inhibited scientific exchange, and spawned a spate of hard tabloid-style coverage. Some observers ironically credit recent editorial polemics with pushing both sides back to the negotiating table.
AIDS breaks conspiracy of silence

There have been many worrying signs in recent months that the AIDS epidemic is spreading to Britain, but in the early days of the disease, there was little evidence of such an outbreak. The public perception of the threat posed by AIDS was initially low, and the media response was muted. The first cases of AIDS in Britain were reported in 1981, and it took several years before the disease began to attract serious media attention. However, as the number of cases increased, so did the public awareness of the threat posed by the disease.

In his article, Mike Smith discusses the impact of the AIDS epidemic on British society. He highlights the fact that while the disease was first recognized in the United States in 1981, it took several years before the British government began to take action to control the spread of the disease. The government's response was initially slow and inadequate, and it was not until the late 1980s that the government began to take serious action to control the spread of AIDS.

Smith also notes that the media played a key role in raising awareness of the disease. The media initially ignored the threat of AIDS, but as the number of cases increased, so did the media coverage. The media played a key role in raising awareness of the disease and in promoting public health messages to control the spread of AIDS.

In conclusion, Smith argues that the AIDS epidemic has highlighted the importance of public health messaging and the need for governments to take action to control the spread of the disease. He notes that the media played a key role in raising awareness of the disease and in promoting public health messages to control the spread of AIDS.

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Mike Smith

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The image of Mike Smith is not relevant to the text content.
Irish Times
11th March 1987
AIDS helpline to be set up

An AIDS helpline is to be launched in Dublin early next month. Its aim will be to provide a telephone information service on AIDS prevention for the general public.

The new service will be launched on April 3rd, International AIDS Day, and is being provided by an AIDS Action Alliance aimed at co-ordinating work on all aspects of AIDS prevention. Groups affiliated to the AAA include the LGPSU, the ASTMS, Gay Health Action, the Well Woman Centre, the Irish Family Planning Association and Cairdre.

Experienced volunteers will staff the line after undergoing a 12-week course.
New Aids campaign to be directed at gays

The next stage of the Government's advertising campaign to educate the public about the dangers of AIDS was being considered in the light of the results of research commissioned by the Government.

Mr John Howell (Bedlington, C), said there was public concern that the campaign had been even-handed between homosexual and heterosexual activity. The fact that the spread of AIDS had come predominantly among homosexuals, but clinicians also had to take account of the fact that a number of cases had involved drug users sharing needles and also homosexuals.

Mr Howell said that the Government, which looked forward to seeing the Select Committee's report on AIDS, had shown by the resources it had devoted to public education and to researching the importance it placed on fighting the spread of the virus. Mr Patrick Nicholls (Taverham, C) said that, even if the heterosexual community was at risk from AIDS, the time had come to make it clear that for the greatest degree of risk was posed by drug abusers and sexual offenders.

Mr Fowler agreed and said the next stage of the campaign would be specifically directed at those groups. Mr Patrick Daffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab) wondered if Mr Fowler really believed that education or even testing would be adequate, because they had not been sufficient in the United States where there were nearly 1,200,000 people infected by the virus, apart from the dead and dying.

In the next stage of the Government's campaign, Mr Fowler said that there were moral and educational issues to consider, without preaching that there were moral issues. Mr Fowler agreed and said it had always been made clear that it was best to rely on a faithful, loving relationship. They needed to say something more than giving direct and straightforward health education.

Mr Patrick Thompson (Norwich North, C) wanted more details about talks between Mr Fowler and the Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr Kenneth Baker) about the best way to get the moral and educational messages across to younger children.

Mr Fowler said that Mr Baker had recently issued a new booklet for teachers about Aids and information on video would also be provided for schools.
Cork Examiner
12th March 1987

New anti-AIDS task force established

A NATIONAL Task Force, with a full-time Coordinator, has been established by the Catholic Hierarchy to combat AIDS.

At a news conference following the Spring meeting of the Bishops in Maynooth College yesterday, Bishop Joseph Cassidy of Clonfert said the Bishops pledged to place at the disposal of the Task Force all the resources it could muster.

Announcing an opening £20,000 to get the initiative started, Bishop Cassidy said he believed people who would not respond to the plight of AIDS sufferers were not worth their Christian salt.

The Task Force will be based initially in the Catholic Social Service Conference in Dublin and will reach out to the whole country. It will include people with expertise in various aspects of the problems associated with the disease.

Bishop Cassidy said the Task Force would work in co-operation with other bodies responding to the AIDS situation. This, he confirmed, would include the Department of Health which had its function in recommending condoms.

The Bishops would be approaching the issue from a purely Christian caring approach and would not impede the Department which also had its function.

Bishop Cassidy said that the function of the Task Force would be to educate people in positive Christian lines. The Bishops believed the best response to be the moral response. Sex was best and safest within marriage. "The best vaccine for this virus is virtue," he stressed.

The Task Force would put particular emphasis on prevention and care. The needs to be met would include the need to make available accurate information about the medical, psycho-social and pastoral issues to priests, religious, seminarians, community and Church workers.

The Bishops felt there was a need for a great deal of further thought and action about the care of AIDS victims and HIV positive persons and their families in the home, hospital and hospice settings. These places would need to prepare for the increase in the number of Victims which now appeared to be inevitable, warned the Bishop.

They believe chaplains in hospitals and prisons would need special training in pastoral care programmes, and counselling services for groups and individuals who have to be developed through existing Catholic agencies, both national and diocesan.

Recognising that the plague of AIDS would bring with it suffering, despair, isolation, fear and rejection, the Hierarchy pointed out that Christ's care for the sick and the outcast had always been seen as an inspiration for His Church.
AIDS fight ‘more important than drugs’

By RAY MANAGH

Stopping the spread of AIDS is now more important than controlling the abuse of drugs, an expert on the killer disease warned today.

And he said that if the spread of the deadly disease in Ireland followed trends in other countries, we could see more than 1,000 cases within three years.

Dr. Zephry Johnston, of the Eastern Health Board, said there could also be an annual 2,000 curbing in the virus walking amongst who had not developed the disease.

The threat of an increase in the spread of the disease in Ireland prompted new Health Minister Dr. Rory O'Hallion to announce priority measures in combating it through a major education campaign soon to be announced.

Dr. Johnston, speaking on the Gay Byrne radio programme today, said there had been 18 cases of AIDS reported in Ireland, "which did not seem a lot".

But six years ago in America there were only about 12 cases reported. Now there were over 35,000 cases of AIDS, 50 per cent of the victims were gay.

Dr. Johnston said "AIDS figures that differ between Ireland and America, with the number of partners a homosexual may have, the number of intravenous drug users, and the rate of spread between heterosexual couples."

But the worst thing is that experience in America and elsewhere has shown that for every single case of AIDS there are between 30 and 100 others who are infected and walking around feeling quite well," he said.

Dr. Johnston said the average incubation period for disease development of AIDS was 15 years and to a large extent infection would appear to be confined to certain high-risk groups - intravenous drug abusers and, to a lesser extent, homosexual men.

"The danger is that the infection may spread into the rest of the community through heterosexual contacts by drug abusers who may have multiple heterosexual partners or homosexual men who may be bisexual," he said.

He disputed beliefs that AIDS could be contracted through using cups, plates or utensils used by infected persons or living with them or through cadaver.

Sex and intravenous drug taking were the two main culprits in the spread of the disease, he said.
Fans advised 'beer safer than sex'

Thousands of Welsh rugby fans are being urged to steer clear of casual sex when they travel to Edinburgh for the international match with Scotland.

Organizers of the Welsh AIDS campaign are telling supporters: "Stick to the beer and rugby - it's much safer than casual sex."

Scotland play Wales on March 21, and an estimated 10,000 Welsh fans are expected to travel to the Scottish capital, where the scale of the AIDS problem is second only to London.

About half the 2,000 intravenous drug users in Edinburgh are believed to be AIDS carriers and some 300 are women, according to health experts.

There is concern because infected female drug addicts have turned to prostitution to finance their heroin habit.
Independent
12th March 1987

‘Virtue best vaccine to halt AIDS’ say Bishops

By JOSEPH POWER
Religious Affairs Correspondent
The Catholic Bishops, in establishing a national task force with a full-time co-ordinator to combat AIDS, has also pledged to place at its disposal all the resources it can muster.

An initial £25,000 is to be directed by the Bishops to set the initiative in the ground. It was announced at the end of the winter meeting of the hierarchy at Maynooth, yesterday.

Bishop Gerard Connolly, the spokesman for the Bishops, said people who would not respond to the facts of AIDS suffered in a practical way were not worth their Christian salt.

The task force will be based partly in the Galway Deaconage, and will reach out to the whole country. It will include people with a wealth of expertise in the medicine and the pastoral aspects associated with the disease.

Bishop Connolly said the work will be in cooperation with other bodies which are responding to the AIDS situation. He confirmed that it would include the Department of Health, which has an office in running similar programmes.

The bishops would be approaching the issue from a purely Christian basis and would not impute the disease to anyone which also had its function, he said.

Bishop Connolly said that the function of the task force would be to coordinate people in various Christian bodies.

The bishops believed the new task force was the ideal response.

No concern over mixed marriages

There have been no serious cases of adultery or misbehaviour in mixed marriages in Ireland during the past year, according to the Irish Church Standing Committee, which yesterday expressed general satisfaction in respect to the Catholic Bishops.

The committee noted that it was helpful when clergy established good working relations among themselves. It was an indication of the good relations between the bishops and members of various other religious bodies.

During the past year there was discussion extending to the whole nation, on the mixed marriages that had taken place in the other church.

The committee considered that the appointment of a special bishop to assist in the adjustment of the fees in different cases was a special interest to the couples and responsibility for mixed marriages. It was explained that the subject of the bishop was not to impose the change of the couple, but to have some idea of a.

Bishop Connolly - Prayer for all Bishops

Bishop Connolly was presented to assist in the adjustment of the fees in different cases.
TODAY

'Ve have no right to be silent' |

Marriage, love | and growth

WITHIN THREE YEARS of the publication of the Provisional's 'Military Wing Code', a group of priests and religious have called for a new dialogue between the Church and the Republican movement. They say this dialogue is necessary to build a new society in Ireland.

The priests and religious who signed the statement include Father John O'Brien, Bishop of Cork, and Father Michael Doherty, Bishop of Derry. They say that the Church cannot remain silent in the face of political violence.

The statement says: "We believe that the Church has a responsibility to participate in the political process. We are not calling for a return to sectarian violence, but we believe that the Church must speak out in support of non-violent political action."

The statement also says that the Church must be open to dialogue with other political parties.

The statement concludes: "We believe that the Church must be a beacon of hope in a world that is divided by politics. We believe that the Church must be a force for peace and reconciliation in Ireland."

For more on this story, see the Irish Times tomorrow.
Hierarchy plans to set up task force on AIDS

By Joe Carroll

THE Catholic Bishops' Conference has decided to set up a national task force with a full-time pastoral care co-ordinator to deal with the generation of AIDS and the care of victims of the disease. An initial budget of £20,000 has been set aside for the work, the hierarchy spokesman, Bishop Joseph Cassidy, announced yesterday at Maynooth following the spring meeting of the conference.

The national task force will be based in the Catholic Social Service Conference in Dublin but will operate for the whole country. The full-time co-ordinator is expected to be appointed shortly and the task force will include other people with expertise in various aspects of the problems associated with AIDS.

Bishop Joseph Cassidy..."the best vaccine for this virus is virtue."
Church leaders set up Aids task force

THE Roman Catholic hierarchy has set up an Aids task force in Eire.

It will include a full-time pastoral care coordinator as a response to the threat of the deadly disease.

The move was announced last night in a meeting at Maynooth.

The task force will include people with expertise in the problems associated with Aids and have an initial budget of £20,000.

Announcing the initiative which will be based in Dublin, Bishop Joseph Casiday, principal spokesman of the hierarchy, said the group would put particular emphasis on prevention and care.

There will also be an emphasis on schools to provide accurate information within the context of a programme for "positive Christian living" and the need
to continue and improve church support for programmes to combat drug abuse.

The bishops said there would be a need to bring hope to the whole Roman Catholic community by the responsibility to pray for the victims and their families.

"We trust the establishment of the new task force would mark the beginning of a response from the Irish Church which would be generous, practical and compassionate," they said.

The meeting also heard that the inter-church standing committee on mixed marriage had no serious cases of difficulty or misunderstanding in the past year.

Experts recruited to combat disease

There would seem to be a growing understanding between the churches at parish and district level, the bishops said.

They also welcomed the growing pastoral cooperation between the churches at the level of pastoral care of couples before and after marriage.

Meanwhile, a Tory MP yesterday called for a day of moral campaigns against homosexuals - who he blamed for spreading Aids.

Mr Nicholas Winter said the day should be similar to National No Smoking Day.

He said: "If we are prepared to take such a moral stand on alcohol and nicotine why should we not take a moral stand on homosexuality and say it can damage your health because it can and does. It is unnatural and can damage your health.

"If we can do it with cigarette smokers should we not have a non-homosexual activity day? We are talking about a killer disease."

Recent AIDS programmes on television suggesting that "unbridled sexual activity is not only inevitable, but the normal way people act", has been condemned by the Archbishop of Glasgow.

Archbishop Thomas Winning said countless people had expressed to him their anger and disgust at what had been presented.

"Obscenity and shock tactics can be seen for what they are, but the sinister dismissal of the Christian prospective in the recent saturation coverage by the BBC and ITV is a lamentable disservice to viewers," said Archbishop Winning.
Stamping on Aids

Reykjavik (Reuters) --
Iceland is to quarantine carriers of the Aids virus who continue to have sex with uninfected people.

Mr Páll Sigurðsson, health ministry secretary-general, said yesterday that the authorities were looking for a place to house "careless" Aids carriers.

"It may be very difficult to identify those who qualify for this extreme measure, but we live in a society where everybody knows everyone else," he said.

**DELHI**: A Swiss man arrested on drugs charges and found to be suffering from Aids was deported from India yesterday on a special ambulance plane.
Edward invited to star in Aids show

EXCLUSIVE

by AVRIL CONNARD

PRINCE Edward has been asked to take part in a massive fund-raising campaign for Aids victims.

Other members of the Royal Family have also been invited to International Aids Day at which 100,000 free condoms will be distributed.

The Prince is being lined up for the part of Fortinbras in a musical version of Shakespeare's Hamlet called Will Aids. Theatre producer Ned Sherrin said: "I think he will be great in the part."

If Edward agrees he will appear at Sadler's Wells in London on April 12. Stars due to appear include

One of the main attractions will be a concert at Wembley on April 1. So far Bob Geldof and George Michael have agreed to take part amid claims that it is being snubbed by major rock bands who fear being linked to the "gay plague."

Frankie Goes to Hollywood's lead singer Holly Johnson, who will be appearing, said: "I am in complete sympathy with them. It took months for me to decide but the pros outweighed the cons."

The campaign hopes to raise £2 million for research and is being organised by the Terrence Higgins Trust and Action Aids.

EDWARD: Palace decision on role expected today
Sting is sent an Aids SOS

PELA: Andy Summers

There is nothing like a worthy cause to re-unite a rock band, and Sting, who has already agreed to appear at the concert, is ready to do so. "I hope the Aids concert will have the same effect as Live Aid," he says. "I don't think it's possible to raise money for worthy causes without turning people's heads." He's the most difficult to get hold of, having spent much of the past six months touring the Americas and Europe with girlfriend Trudie Styler and their children. Andy is sure that more top stars have already agreed to appear at the concert. "Big stars are always slow to respond to causes like this," he says. "Someone has to take the plunge and then everyone else jumps in. The idea is to build people together again. I hope the Aids concert will have the same effect as Live Aid."
AIDS campaign awaits Govt. OK

THE LAUNCH of a major public campaign to stop the spread of AIDS — deferred since January — is one of the urgent tasks facing new Health Minister Rory O'Hanlon.

But today, a spokesman for the Department of Health said they had "no idea" when the public information package will go to the Cabinet.

The package, which includes a "multi-media" campaign using TV, radio, newspaper and poster advertising, must be submitted by the Minister to the Cabinet for a decision.

The Coalition Government sent the campaign, originally scheduled to be launched in mid-January, back to the Department of Health and the Health Education Bureau (HEB) for "redesign".

The Government believed that not enough emphasis was placed on the risk of transmitting HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) which causes AIDS — by drug abusers sharing contaminated needles.

The "redesigned" information package has a larger section dealing with this risk, while another section is aimed at the hazard of spreading the disease through homosexual activity.

A spokesperson for the Health Education Bureau, which co-operated with the Department of Health in producing the AIDS information package, said they have redesigned the package but had "no real indication" when it would be submitted to the Cabinet.

It is understood that the "redesigned" campaign mentions condoms as one means of curtailing the spread of HIV.

The "multi-media" advertising campaign, if given Government approval, will be backed up by booklets which will be available in doctors' surgeries and chemists' shops.

Senior Department of Health officials are due to meet a member of the Catholic hierarchy shortly to outline the contents of the AIDS education programme.
Priest on Aids challenge

THE priest tipped to head the Catholic Church's new task force to combat aids said yesterday he did not foresee any conflict developing between the Church and the Government on ways of fighting the disease.

Fr. Paul Lavelle, who has worked on the Dublin diocesan Aids programme, is now likely to become the pastoral care co-ordinator as part of the Church's task force.

The task force, to be based in Dublin, is to have an initial cash injection of £20,000. And the appointment of the full-time co-ordinator will be announced soon.

Fr. Lavelle said over 600 people were now infected with the Aids virus and the new task force will have to look at the possibilities of using hospices over the next two to three years.

The use of premises and the provision of religious orders prepared to give their services to Aids patients, were two areas where the Church could help, he said.

Referring to the condoms issue, Fr. Lavelle said that if the Government suggested their use to prevent the spread of the disease, that was its responsibility and it had an obligation and duty in that regard. But that did not mean that the Church would agree with it.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Health, Dr. O'Hanlon, welcomed the statement on Aids made by the Catholic Bishops Conference on Wednesday and their intention to co-operate in the fight against the disease.

The Minister said Aids posed a serious threat to society which can only be combated if all the resources available are brought to bear on the problem in a responsible, humane and effectively co-ordinated way.

He welcomed the positive initiative which the bishops have now taken to provide pastoral and counselling services and to further investigate how the resources can best be used.

Dr. O'Hanlon said he noted their intention to work with the Department of Health and will be glad of their co-operation in the development of services to cope with Aids.

* The Church of Ireland House of Bishops warned yesterday that only a return to Christian principles could stop the spread of Aids.
INFORMATION ON AIDS

Sir,—The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of the Republic of Ireland supports the ICA in its call for an explicit campaign on AIDS through education.

BPW is also gravely and increasingly concerned about AIDS. At a recent inter-club forum on "Women in Health" reports were received on research into many areas affecting women today. Among these was a very comprehensive report on AIDS which served to underline our already growing concern on the need for some positive action.

The ICA, representing such a large section of our community, is to be congratulated on its decisive approach, and we look for immediate implementation of their recommendation by those in authority. — Yours, etc.,

OONAGH MANNING,
PRO, BPW,
22 St Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2
Scots preparing for large surge in Aids deaths, MPs told

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Authorities in Edinburgh are preparing for a dramatic explosion in the number of Aids deaths from next year because of the unique circumstances in which the disease was introduced to the city.

Deaths in the region of the capital could by then be one or two a day. MPs on the urgent parliamentary inquiry into Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) were told yesterday during their two-day visit to Edinburgh.

Members of the Social Services Committee were also told that the police had exacerbated the problem through their insistence on taking needles away from drug addicts when arresting them.

Evidence given by doctors to the committee said that Aids had reached Edinburgh, possibly through an American addict, in September 1983.

Its arrival coincided with an "epidemic" of heroin addiction and widespread needle sharing in the city, leading to the rate of incidence of infection among tested addicts increasing from nought to 50 per cent in two years, "the fastest rate yet recorded in the world".

There were now estimated to be at least 2,000 Aids carriers in the city. Some were already showing symptoms of the disease. With an incubation period of four years and an expectation that one in five carriers will develop the disease, at least 400 terminally ill Aids patients were expected next year.

That contrasts with just 16 cases of Aids and 11 deaths in Scotland so far.

"We are waiting for an enormous surge and trying very hard to equip ourselves", Mr Roger Kent, director of social work for Lothian Regional Council, said.

"At the moment we are keeping our heads above water but we have to get ready for something very, very much greater which is about to hit us."

Existing medical and social services would have to be dramatically expanded and staff retrained. The budget could be "completely skewed up". Council representatives pleaded either for more government money or to be allowed to spend more on Aids treatment without incurring grant penalties.

Allegations about the police were made during the MPs' visit to an Edinburgh drug advice centre and came from organizations helping addicts.

They are supported by a government committee on Aids infection in Scotland which reported last autumn that one explanation for the rapid spread of the virus was police emphasis on removing syringes and needles.

"The resultant non-availability of sterile equipment in the city appears to have contributed to extensive sharing of equipment", he said. Police forces in other cities were less rigid, it said, calling for a review of procedures to ensure "they do not prejudice infection control measures".

Mr William Sutherland, chief constable of Lothian and Borders police, agreed with MPs yesterday that Aids was now a greater threat than heroin but said that the law required injection equipment to be produced in court as evidence.

He said he would co-operate with the experimental scheme to exchange old needles for new which begins in Edinburgh next month, but feared it might appear to condone drug abuse. Greater emphasis should be given to discouraging the young from using drugs, he said.