

Print Media



HIV
Ireland

National HIV and AIDS

Archives

#NationalHIVArchives



21st to 30th April 1987

Independent
22nd April 1987

Vaccine for Aids '5 years away'

GENEVA (AP) — The incidence of Aids had been seriously underestimated, the World Health Organisation said, adding that the best course at present was to try to prevent its spread, because neither vaccine nor treatment was likely to be available during the next five years.

A report released yesterday, which had been prepared for a 31-nation meeting on prevention and control of Aids, said 46,628 cases had been reported to WHO by 101 countries, but many had not reported since December. If it spreads through South America and Asia, previous WHO estimates of 50 to 100 million Aids-infected people by 1991 "will be conservative".

In an introduction to the report, Jonathan Mann, director of the organisation's Aids programme, said the disease "has extraordinary and broad effects throughout society".

He cited "lost years of productive lives, lost mothers and fathers, lost members of educated and other groups who contribute importantly to social and economic development."

"Aids has altered the social and political as well as the public health environment. Accordingly, the world of 1987 is very different from that of 1980," when the threat of the Aids virus had yet to be recognized.

In a separate introduction, WHO director-general Halldan Mahler said "the global strategy for Aids control is to stop the spread of Aids worldwide by attacking every mode of transmission in every country, using every scientific and educational tool available. This daunting task will require an unprecedented level of external support for WHO".

Mr Mann said WHO's global strategy won unreserved support at the meeting, which ended yesterday. The meeting also made him confident of raising from donor countries the £21m required for WHO's special programme on AIDS this year.

Two-thirds of the amount is to assist national programmes in about 50 Third World countries, with the rest to be invested in WHO's global activities to check the spread of Aids.

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Unknown Source
22nd April 1987

Rag week to fund publicity on AIDS

By Mark Brennock

THE MONEY raised from this year's "Trinity Week" at Trinity College, Dublin, will be used to provide information, education and counselling about AIDS. The committee organising the week of events, which includes the annual Trinity Ball, hopes to raise over £15,000.

People in Ireland were shying away from the disease, thinking that it would pass Ireland by, the chairman of the Trinity Week Committee, Professor J. P. Arbuthnott, told a reception in Dublin last night. Money raised in Trinity Week is traditionally given to a charity, he said, and the students had chosen the AIDS issued this year "because they recognise that there is an AIDS problem and there is a deficiency of guidance about it."

The money is to be given to Trinity AIDS Concern Trust (TACT), which has been established to provide funding for AIDS information, education and counselling. The organisation aims to "combat public hysteria, ignorance and complacency, and Government inactivity about AIDS and its victims."

Professor Arbuthnott said that he hoped that the Trinity campaign could become a national student campaign about AIDS.

The week's events include lunchtime rock concerts sponsored by RTE Radio 2, and a variety of sporting and other events. The Trinity Ball on May 15th will include as its main act the veteran pop singer Gary Glitter, and many other acts.

The President, Dr Hillery, will attend the annual Elizabethan Garden Party, during Trinity Week, which takes place from May 11th to May 15th.

Sc

THE CHURCH AND HOMOSEXUALITY

Sir, — An article in your issue of April 16th entitled "The Church and Homosexuality" referred to a letter from the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on the pastoral care of homosexual persons.

The author of the article, Antoine MacReamoinn, quoted the following section of the letter: "Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency toward an intrinsic moral evil, and thus the inclination must be seen as an objective disorder."

Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco has made the following comment on this section of the letter: "This is philosophical language. The inclination is a disorder because it is directed to an object that is disordered. The inclination and the object are in the same order philosophically. But 'the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin' (letter)."

Archbishop Quinn continues: "In trying to understand this affirmation, we should advert to two things. First, every person has disordered inclinations. For instance, the inclination to rash judgment is disordered, the inclination to cowardice, the inclination to hypocrisy — these are all disordered inclinations. Consequently, homosexual persons are not the only ones who have disordered inclinations. Second, the letter does not say that the homosexual person is disordered. The inclination, not the person, is described as disordered."

"Speaking of the homosexual person, the letter states that the Church 'refuses to consider the person as a heterosexual or a homosexual and insists that every person has a fundamental identity: the creature of God and, by grace, his child and heir to eternal life'."

"Consequently, the document affirms the spiritual and human dignity of the homosexual person while placing a negative moral

judgment on homosexual acts and a negative philosophical judgment on the homosexual inclination or orientation, which it clearly states is not a sin or moral evil."

This further comment from Archbishop Quinn is perhaps worth quoting. "It should be noted that the document is in the form of a letter and is addressed to the bishops of the Catholic Church. It is not addressed to the general public and, consequently, it is not written in popular, everyday language but in technical, precise language. On the one hand, this contributes to the clarity of the document, yet, paradoxically, it also contributes to its obscurity. Clear, technical language is not likely to be understood correctly by those who are not familiar with it."

The Irish Bishops' pastoral "Love is for Life" states: "It is vital to distinguish between a homosexual orientation and homosexual acts. A person with homosexual orientation is not thereby a sinner. Homosexual tendencies, as distinct from homosexual actions, can be innate and can be irreversible." (Section 12.123).

In relation to the Church's attitude towards homosexual persons, the pastoral says: "Persons with homosexual tendencies or habits need and deserve sympathetic, compassionate and patient pastoral care. Their personal suffering can be bitter, their struggle agonising, their sense of loneliness and exclusion intense. They need understanding. They need respect. It is unChristian to look on homosexuals with disgust or disdain merely because they are of their personality type. Above all there can be no condonation of violence against such persons. It is not a moral fault to have dispositions and tendencies." — Yours, etc.

DES CRYAN
Assistant Director,
Catholic Press and Information
Office,
Dublin.

SW

Unknown Source
23rd April 1987

Moscow AIDS clinic announced

From Conor O'Clery,
in Moscow

MORE than 150 people have gone along in recent weeks to house number 15, block 10 of a street in the Sokolinkaya Gora district of Moscow. House number 15 is the Soviet Union's first AIDS clinic where patients can attend anonymously for tests.

The existence of the clinic was revealed in yesterday's edition of the Soviet *Medical Gazette*, which in the course of a detailed article about the disease also recommended the use of the militia to identify high-risk groups, including homosexual men, for compulsory screening.

The Soviet Union first acknowledged that it had an AIDS prob-

lem last June. Thirty cases have now been officially diagnosed, 28 of them foreigners, mostly students. Of the two Soviet victims, one was a 10-year-old girl who got the disease from a blood transfusion.

The *Medical Gazette* also announced that in its drive to control the spread of AIDS in the Soviet Union, all Soviet citizens who return from long business trips abroad are to be tested for AIDS anti-bodies. Resident foreigners are also recommended to undergo tests.

All blood donors and people from high-risk groups such as drug addicts, prostitutes and homosexuals are also to be tested, according to the article

written by the Deputy Minister of Health, G. Khlyabich, and the Director of the USSR Institute of Virus Diseases, V. Zhdanov.

The authors admit that finding and identifying such people will not be a simple task, and "militia bodies which secure the order and safety of Soviet citizens, as well as active information and assistance for health establishments ... can be of great help."

They give the metro station and bus number for the Moscow clinic and how it works: "You will not have to register in advance. they will not ask your name or home address either.

"You have a conversation with a doctor. You tell him what

worries you. Then you answer a questionnaire without identifying yourself and you will have to remember its number ... then, using a disposable syringe, they take blood from your veins. That is all. Tomorrow, over the telephone, after having given your number, you will get an answer."

Health authorities will set up similar laboratories in 105 cities in the Soviet Union this year and have been told the testing of high-risk groups is their "top priority task."

The article also claims that Soviet scientists have developed a technique for speedy analysis of blood samples. Of the 150 or so who went along to house 15: none were AIDS positive.

SC

Poll says 76% define AIDS inadequately

By Mary Cummins

WHILE the vast majority of Irish people know about AIDS, their information on the subject is random and ranges from being very accurate on some aspects and grossly inaccurate on others. This would seem to be the result of a survey carried out by the Health Education Bureau last February, prior to the British AIDS information week in March, from which many people in Ireland benefited in the absence of any national education programme here.

In the survey, which was carried out by Irish Marketing Surveys, 96 per cent of respondents had heard of AIDS while over three-quarters (76 per cent) gave inadequate definitions of what it was, saying it was a sexually transmitted disease or a homosexual disease.

Only 16 per cent knew the correct difference between the full-blown AIDS and being infected with the virus while there was a high level of knowledge

about how AIDS can be transmitted; 97 per cent knew that it can be transmitted by sexual intercourse; 96 per cent — intravenous drug abusers sharing needles; 91 per cent — blood transfusions and 89 per cent knew that a pregnant woman could transfer it to her child.

When asked what percentage of people infected with the AIDS virus actually developed the full blown disease within five years, 13 per cent gave the current generally accepted medical estimate (21 per cent to 30 per cent), 20 per cent gave a lower percentage and one-third gave a higher one.

One third either did not know or gave no reply. Seventy-one per cent knew that an AIDS carrier is a carrier for life and 80 per cent knew that a person can be infected with the virus and not know it. Over a quarter did not know the signs of the illness but some three-quarters were aware of symptoms like weight loss, being prone to illness and wasting.

Some 80 per cent knew there is no vaccine against the virus and 88 per cent knew there is no drug that will kill the virus in an infected person.

The survey found considerable confusion about the ways in which AIDS is not transmitted. "This was particularly true in relation to using public toilets, using the same swimming pool as an infected person, sharing cutlery with an infected person and sharing foods prepared by an infected person."

"At least 30 per cent (and in the case of public toilets — 43 per cent) thought that the AIDS virus is transmitted in these ways or said they did not know."

Homosexuals and bisexuals were spontaneously named by some 70 per cent as being the people most at risk from AIDS. Drug addicts were named by 66 per cent, 38 per cent mentioned those who have casual sex while a fifth mentioned those receiving blood transfusions and only 18 per cent mentioned the unborn child of an infected woman.

Some 75 per cent thought that the use of condoms was an effective method of reducing the risk of catching AIDS; 54 per cent recommended staying with one partner; 20 per cent said that casual sex should be avoided; 12 per cent said "reduce the number of partners" and 10 per cent said "abstain from sexual intercourse".

When asked where they received their information about AIDS, 62 per cent said they got it from Irish newspapers, 51 per cent said RTE television, 46 per cent mentioned British television, and 32 per cent said British newspapers.

Questioned about where they would go for information about the subject, almost half the respondents — 48 per cent — said they would go to doctors to find out more about AIDS; 21 per cent said they would seek help from health boards or clinics and only 10 per cent mentioned the Department of Health.

The HEB report was published yesterday.

Irish Times
25th April 1987

AIDS internment

THE West German city of Frankfurt is considering forcibly interning prostitutes who are AIDS carriers but refuse to stop working, a senior official said yesterday. The right-wing Christian Social Union government in the state of Bavaria has introduced tough measures to combat the disease, including compulsory tests for people in high-risk groups, such as prostitutes and drug addicts, and for most non-EEC foreigners seeking residence in the state. — (Reuter).

SL

Potential AIDS vaccine on trial

3-7
THE U.S. Food and Drug Administration said yesterday it approved human testing of a second potential vaccine against AIDS.

The agency said it allowed Bristol-Myers Co. to begin tests on human volunteers of a bio-engineered AIDS vaccine it has developed.

The vaccine is the second to be approved for testing on humans by the drug safety agency. The first, a vaccine made by MicroGeneSys Inc., was approved on August 18.

The FDA said the Bristol-Myers vaccine is made from genetically altered vaccinia virus, which is the virus from which smallpox vaccine is derived.

The virus is genetically altered by the insertion of the genes responsible for manufacturing the proteins that make up the surface, or envelope, of AIDS virus.

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Murder victim feared AIDS

"LADY in the lake" murder victim Shani Warren was under a self-imposed sex ban because she was terrified of catching AIDS, a top police officer said last night.

And he disclosed that since her body was found, bruising had appeared on her neck, indicating that a ligature was applied that might have rendered her unconscious.

Det. Supt. John Childerley, leading the hunt for the 26-year-old secretary's killer, said she had an "obsession about AIDS". "She was concerned about the current AIDS campaign and had told friends she had decided to give men a rest for a year," he said.

Shani's bound and gagged body was found in Taplow Lake, Bucks., last Saturday evening. She had drowned in a few inches of water.

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Aids: a loving death

DYING of Aids has a misery all its own. Not only do you have the illness to cope with, but often years of social rejection at a time when you're reviewing your life and its worth. But a new project called London Lighthouse has already improved the quality of life of people with Aids so much that many of those to benefit say they're happier now than when they were fit and well. 'Aids is the best thing that ever happened to me,' says 26-year-old Dana, who is now in the middle stage of the disease.

London Lighthouse differs from other support groups in its continual support through all stages of Aids.

'Fear of death is one thing,' says Lighthouse's director Christopher Spence, an experienced bereavement counsellor. 'But fear of a bad death is much harder, particularly if you can't pinpoint a place where you could die well.'

The Lighthouse was prompted by the deaths from Aids in 1984-5 of two of Spence's friends. 'I was appalled by what happened to them. People with Aids need to die where they will be well loved. In general, hospitals are not providing this.'

London Lighthouse is already working, although its official opening is early next year. It will be a first for Britain and the world. In spite of its progressiveness—it is considering applications from alternative medicine practitioners, and will challenge the notion of isolation by having a wholefood café open to the public—Lighthouse has the backing of two eminent orthodox Aids specialists,

London Lighthouse is a community centre with a difference. Report by
PHILIPPA BRAIDWOOD.

doctors Tony Pinching and Charles Farthing. The newly-diagnosed will go to Lighthouse for counselling. It will have community support services. And it will have 26 beds for those who can't die at home and don't want to die in hospital.

The Lighthouse represents a tremendous achievement by Spence, who used to be director of Task Force and private secretary to Selwyn Lloyd when he was Speaker of the House of Commons. There are seven full-time staff, and building work — on a disused school, bought with £800,000-worth of interest-free loans — began this month. Two million pounds is urgently needed to pay for the conversion. After that, running costs of £550,000 a year must be found. The project has asked the Government to match pound for pound what it raises through donations and fund-raising.

'People with HIV and Aids can live for years,' says Spence. Lighthouse teaches them how to eat healthily, exercise, and strengthen their immune systems — an important part of which is keeping stress to a minimum.

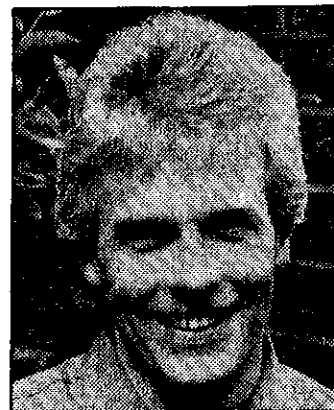
Lighthouse bases its work on a technique called 'co-counselling,' a well established tool used in other

areas of care. The idea is to throw off old, acquired, inappropriate patterns of behaviour. Two people — equal in status, so a professional health worker couldn't do it with a client — in turn play the role of counsellor and client. The 'client' is meant to feel safe enough to feel and express his emotions. Gradually, both parties learn to understand themselves better and deal more effectively with their problems.

The method can be judged by its results. Dana, 26, a gay social worker who now has ARC (Aids-related complex), found he was HIV positive in October 1985. 'I drank a bottle of gin a day,' he says. 'Close friends weren't very helpful because they were too anxious.'

Dana went on a Lighthouse course for gay men with HIV. 'We learned why oppression for being gay makes us feel isolated, and this makes us feel unloved. This helped me understand how I'd got into the gay lifestyle — drinking, drugs, lots of sex — because all these things give an immediate pay-off. But you do go through life with the feeling that you are sick and perverted, which makes your self-esteem low. When you learn you have a fatal illness, and know a lot of people think you deserve it anyway, it makes you wonder whether there's any point in trying to live well.'

'The Lighthouse course taught me to come to terms with all this. I moved from London to Brighton, where it's less stressful. I eat healthily, I've cut right down on drinking and smoking. I rest and



Christopher Spence

exercise more. My relationships are far better than they were.

'The prospect of dying from Aids is not so frightening because the quality of my life is so good now and I know when I die there'll be people around me.'

Peter, 35, an advertising copywriter, has had Aids for two years. 'The worst part of a diagnosis like this is the hopelessness, doom and gloom you're surrounded by. Christopher was the first person that reached out and offered hope.'

'I've learnt all about the immune system. I am more open, less afraid of death than I was. An awful lot more people are going to be diagnosed with this virus, and unless people can get over their fears there will be mass hysteria.'

Paul, 32, is a teacher. He was diagnosed HIV antibody positive in November 1985. 'The real message is that by facing this issue and learning to die well you live well. I've seen it over and over again.'

London Lighthouse can be contacted at 178 Lancaster Road, London W11.

Sc

Evening Press, Monday, April 27, 1987

AIDS: Faith healers rapped

From Peter Marriott
in London

Faith healers treating AIDS patients at two London teaching hospitals have been condemned by doctors. They say the spiritual healing techniques used at St. Stephen's, Fulham and St. Mary's, Paddington, are offering false hope to victims.

Dr. Farrukha Hashmi, a leading consultant psychiatrist said: "I'm concerned that healers who build up false hopes are doing serious damage."

president of the Confederation of Healing Organisations attacked the doctors "ingrained, ignorant prejudice."

"We offer our services to AIDS patients because we know that in the last 30 years, healers have built up a marvellous track record with the terminally ill," he said.

He denied that his members could offer a cure. "We

always start with a disclaimer. Anyone who says that patients will be saved by healing is going outside our code of conduct and behaving irresponsibly," he said.

Dr. Farrukha Hashmi, a leading consultant psychiatrist said: "I'm concerned that healers who build up false hopes are doing serious damage."

Meanwhile the British Royal

family are to get portable medical kits to prevent them catching AIDS if they need an emergency blood transfusion while abroad. The £140 packs are made by SAFA Limited of Liverpool. Two were delivered to Buckingham Palace a few days before the Prince and Princess of Wales left for their recent visit to Spain.

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Rag week

AIDS charity:

TRINITY WEEK '87 commences on Monday, May 11th. Each year all the money raised through the week's activities (which include *Mayday* — the Trinity Week magazine — the young designer's fashion show, the Elizabethan garden party, the charity champagne reception before the ball, the highlight of the week the Trinity Ball itself, and a host of other smaller rag events) is dedicated to a chosen charity which is often connected with youth and one which, perhaps, the so-called responsible areas of society sometimes shy away from.

In 1987 this is particularly true, the chosen charity is the Trinity AIDS Concern Trust (TACT), a registered educational charity, established to provide much-needed funding for AIDS information, education and counselling.

Paul Carron, president of the TCD students' union and publicity officer for the Trinity Week committee, says: "TACT's aim is to educate the public, and that means all of us, not a mythical group that exists down the street, towards an awareness that AIDS is not a media sensation."

"It is a killer on the street which will affect us all dramatically, either as victims or friends and relatives of victims. It will affect the youth, in particular, who are its natural targets. But nobody has to die of AIDS. Responsible, accurate information will save lives, which is what TACT will set out to do."

The committee hopes to raise £15,000. While most of the money will be collected from students during the week's rag events, there are two ways in which the

general public can contribute. The first is to buy *Mayday*, which will be distributed through Easons and college outlets. It is on sale nationwide tomorrow.

The second — for those with money to spare — is to buy tickets for the charity champagne reception, which will take place on Friday, May 15th. Double tickets for the reception, which include entry to the ball, cost £80.

"For those with no other access to Trinity Ball tickets it is the one way to enjoy the ball in style," said Paul, "at a price, admittedly." Tickets for the reception are now on sale. If you are interested or require further details contact Paul Carron at the Students' Union, House 6, TCD (phone 772941 extension 1827).

Times
27th April 1987

THE CHURCH AND HOMOSEXUALITY

Sir, — Reading Antoine Mac Reamoinn's article about the Church and homosexuality (April 16th) I could not help being struck by the consistency with which a certain contemporary generation misappropriates the teaching of the Church. Psychology has made us so anxious (not to say precious!) about the oneness of our personalities that there is an outcry when anybody says "boo" to us. Is there not something very cloying about the expectation that the Church should be "understanding" about our pet weaknesses?

Christians are bidden to love the sinner and to abominate the sin. Does much more need to be said? We have to admit that the Godhead, and the truth that abides in the Godhead, is no particular respecter of persons. "It is more difficult," says the sacred text, "for the rich man to enter the kingdom of Heaven, than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle." Our hearts may bleed for the unfortunate rich, but we know that however they wriggle around their destinies, their chances with the inflexible scheme of heavenly awards

are pretty slim. That is just the way "life" is. Not to take the hardness of the heavenly ordinance seriously is, in fact, to make God over in our own image, capricious, sentimental or calculating.

The Church's new letter goes out of its way to separate the homosexual act from the disposition to the act. That seems to me very sensible because dispositions are only dispositions, but acts are the accomplishments through which we become what we choose. It is God who defines us. We are not asked to define ourselves, either as "homosexuals", as "important people", or even as "sinners". If we define ourselves we find ourselves on this "cleft hook" where our sexuality is wrapped up in our personality and we can't turn back. This lack of freedom is all in our heads — at the behest of our benighted hearts.

I do not see how the Church errs in teaching us just how the cookie crumbles. — Yours, etc.,

PATRICK PYE,

Piperstown,
Tallaght,
Co Dublin.

Sam

Irish Independent, Tuesday, April 28, 1987

Morality the way to beat AIDS: Archbishop

THE MORAL aspect of tackling AIDS must be spelt out in Government and media campaigns against the disease, the Church of Ireland Archbishop Most Rev. R. H. Eames has warned.

The Archbishop said he was horrified to see how little has been made by the Government and the media to spell out that the backbone of society is the stable family. "The real safeguard to relationships is to link actions with consequences," he said.

"I do not judge those who have contracted the AIDS condition through their life-style. I pray for them, I have

By ALAN O'KEEFE

compassion for them and the Church should be to the forefront in encouraging understanding of their tragedy," Dr. Eames said in the current edition of the Church of Ireland Gazette.

"But I genuinely feel that to tell society how to safeguard itself while continuing behaviour which is not the Christian way is only one part of the picture," he continued.

He pointed out that the answer lay in faithfulness in marriage and discipline in

behaviour outside marriage, which is the Christian way, he said.

"It is essential that society faces up to the moral issues of this current situation. Only by a re-awakening to the values of self-discipline, restraint, fidelity and awareness of the consequences of a failure to abide by such principles, will disaster be averted," he warned.

Dr. Eames criticised current trends which suggests that families finding joy in ordinary domestic things are somehow abnormal.

"If you believe everything in certain sections of the media, you begin to think that unless one or both parents are being

unfaithful, unless all young people are caught up in the drug scene or unless there is widespread promiscuity — there is something wrong with you, you are not normal. I take great exception to that philosophy," Dr. Eames said.

There are homes where parents appear to neither know or really care what is happening to their children and have opted out, he added. But against all this, there is immense stability and honesty in so many homes and families, he maintained.

There is ample evidence that young people care and are interested in the problems of society but there is also much danger and temptation facing them. "Let us

say quite clearly decency and integrity based on Christian principles is normality," he stated.

Two AIDS Helpline groups from Dublin and Belfast have expressed concern over the delay by the Department of Health in organising a public information campaign on AIDS.

The two Helpline groups plan to jointly produce two AIDS leaflets — one on women and AIDS and the second on drug and alcohol use and AIDS.

And Fine Gael TD Mary Flaherty yesterday called on Health Minister Rory O'Hanlon to immediately launch the AIDS information and education programme.

Unknown Source
28th April 1987

AIDS campaign to be launched within days

By Padraig Yeates

THE GOVERNMENT'S long-delayed AIDS education campaign is to be launched within the next few days. Details are likely to be given on Friday and the first advertisements will probably appear on television next Sunday.

It is understood there will be what one source described as "a passing reference" to condoms, but the main danger of transmission to be highlighted is in the drugs area.

Departmental sources would not say how much the campaign would cost, but said funding would be adequate. It will consist of an intensive media blitz in the first week, followed by a longer, low-key campaign.

It is understood that the content of the campaign has been further changed since Dr O'Hanlon became Minister for Health, but that the main changes occurred after Mr John Boland replaced Mr Barry Desmond as Minister for Health, when Labour withdrew from the last Coalition Government.

The controversial issue of condoms being used as a preventive measure in combating the spread of AIDS has not been completely dropped, according to sources, but much more emphasis is being put on the risks to intravenous drugs abusers.


In yesterday's *Church Times*, Dr Robin Eames, Primate of All-Ireland, criticised the emphasis given in AIDS educational material to technical aspects of the problem and lack of coverage on the moral ones.

The AIDS helpline organisations in Belfast and Dublin issued a joint statement yesterday, expressing concern at the continuing delay in the launching of the campaign. Ms Mary Flaherty, TD, the Fine Gael junior spokeswoman on health, also condemned the delay.

The AIDS groups met in the first of a series of exchanges under the Co-Operation North scheme. The agenda included training methods for volunteers and public education projects.

Two joint AIDS leaflets are to be produced in the near future. One is on women and AIDS and the other relates to drugs abusers and AIDS.

Both groups are also publicising their telephone advice service. The Dublin number is 307888 and is open on Mondays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and on Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Belfast line is 226117 and is open on Mondays and Fridays from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.



London Times
29th April 1987

Medical 'killing' threat over Aids

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Campaigners against euthanasia gave a warning yesterday that doctors will come under increasing pressure to perform "medicalized killings" on some of the growing number of Aids cases.

Terminally ill patients of all kinds must be offered all possible treatment and compassionate care but euthanasia was an unacceptable option, a conference in London was told.

The British Medical Association was criticized for setting up a working party to consider new guidelines on the ethics of the practice.

Dr Peggy Norris, secretary of the Medical Education Trust, said setting up the working party suggested that the BMA was likely to approve some form of euthanasia. It had already capitulated over abortion, she said.

Dr Karel Gunning, a Dutch campaigner, condemned the widespread practice of euthanasia in The Netherlands where, he said, between 6,000 and 18,000 such deaths a year were taking place.

"A number of Aids sufferers in Holland have already died in this way and pressure on

doctors to take similar measures will increase in Britain.

"This pressure will have to be resisted. Aids is no different from any other disease. The answer is caring and curing, not killing."

Euthanasia is not legal in The Netherlands but guidelines have been drafted which free doctors from the threat of prosecution. The guidelines will detail the criteria for "mercy killing", which doctors confirm are already being observed.

According to a recent survey carried out by the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, more than 13,000 British general practitioners would be willing to carry out voluntary euthanasia in carefully defined circumstances.

The BMA said yesterday that the working party was not expected to report its findings until next year. "Its object is to provide a balanced view of the subject".

The existing guidelines, issued 16 years ago, do not advocate euthanasia but acknowledge that voluntary euthanasia is supported, at least in theory, by some doctors.

SL

Aids campaign to include condoms

POLITICIANS debating the "soon to be launched" Aids campaign in Ireland have clashed over whether the use of condoms should be fully highlighted.

Senators say that the male contraceptive should be a major part of an official Aids education programme. However, Junior Health Minister Terry Leyden disagrees.

"The campaign will not exclude condoms but they won't be the major part of the campaign," he said.

The Government is now set on a May launch for the long

By GORDON PATERSON

awaited campaign. Official figures show that at least nine people have died from the disease in Ireland and hundreds more have the antibodies.

Since Aids hit Ireland, government plans to launch a campaign have been hampered for three reasons:

- Coalition government disagreement over campaign's structure.
- The February General Election.
- And now the forthcoming

referendum on the Single European Act.

Hr. Leyden also admitted there was "Government anxiety" over the effectiveness of the campaign. "We want to make sure we launch a good, effective campaign," he said.

However the Minister added: "Recent research in the US has shown that condoms are only part of the solution. But they won't be excluded . . .

Meanwhile three Senators, David Norris, Mary Robinson and Brendan Ryan have tabled a motion urging the government to "immediately implement a full,

factual and explicit programme of education."

And their joint motion adds "In the light of the very clear medical evidence in the matter, the use of condoms as a preventative measure against the disease should be an important feature of this programme.

The senators also appealed to the Government to set up a series of telephone hotlines which should be permanently established nationwide to give "non-judgemental advice".

Two Aids hotlines are already operating in Ireland -- on Dublin 307888 and Belfast 226117.

Irish Catholic
30th April 1987

IRISH CATHOLIC, Thursday, April 30, 1987

Pastoral Letter

Any Christian response to people with AIDS must start with "unconditional love and compassion," the Catholic bishops of California said in a joint pastoral letter. The bishops in their pastoral letter on AIDS, titled "A Call to Compassion," said they took the unusual step of issuing a joint pastoral in part because "the unprecedented epidemic of AIDS has affected Californians in an extraordinary fashion." They urged their people to help prevent AIDS through sexual morality.

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Irish Independent
30th April 1987

Child abuse led to AIDS

Four Australian children under the age of five contracted AIDS after being sexually abused by adults, a psychologist said yesterday.

Dr. Flora Botica said she had treated the children and that a high incidence of child abuse meant AIDS could become a major children's disease.

SL

Cross-border warning on AIDS issued in North

From Mary Campbell,
in Belfast

THE NORTHERN IRELAND Minister of Health, Mr Richard Needham, yesterday asked people travelling outside the area to behave responsibly and to be sensible in order to avoid contracting AIDS and bringing it back to the North.

Launching what he described as "an intensive publicity drive" Mr Needham said that 700,000 information leaflets would be used over the summer months to warn holidaymakers and business travellers leaving Northern Ireland about the dangers of AIDS. Mr Needham said: "An AIDS

warning is not the happiest note on which to start a holiday. But the fact is, people going abroad and travelling to major centres of population, such as London, need to be reminded of the deadly nature of this disease. People must act responsibly when they are away from home if AIDS is to be kept out of Northern Ireland."

He said that Northern Ireland had been remarkably successful in "ensuring that the scourge of AIDS" has had a limited impact and that the people who contracted the virus had all done so outside Northern Ireland. Two of these victims have since died. Professor David Simpson from

the Department of Microbiology at Queen's University is a member of the Northern Ireland AIDS Co-ordinating Committee.

He said that people visiting developing countries, especially in Africa, needed to be particularly vigilant. "Countries such as Kenya do not have the resources to test all their blood donors so if someone is involved in a car accident there is a real risk that they could acquire the infection."

People should also be vigilant on cross-border trips to Dublin where, he said, 682 people are known to have HIV positive AIDS antibodies.

"Only about 58 of these are homosexuals and about 100 are haemophiliacs. The vast majority are drug addicts and that presents a real danger because there is a tendency for female addicts to turn to prostitution in order to get money for their next fix."

Professor Simpson said he felt the problem in the Republic was largely confined to inner city areas of Dublin but there was a real danger of it getting out of control, and he warned: "The idea that this won't spread in holy Ireland is a myth. We have almost as high an incidence of sexual disease as there is in

Britain and unless people are sensible AIDS will spread quickly too."

The leaflet, which uses the slogan "AIDS: Keep it out of Northern Ireland", will be available to outbound passengers using the services of Belfast International Airport, Belfast Harbour Airport, Eglinton Airport, Northern Ireland Railways, Sealink, Townsend Thoresen and Belfast Car Ferries.

The cost of the campaign is to be met from the Department of Health's publicity budget, in which £200,000 has been allocated for screening, testing and counselling over the 1986-87 period.

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Irish Times
30th April 1987

AIDS drive won't stress condom use

By TOM SHIEL

THE government's AIDS information campaign to be launched tomorrow is expected to downplay the use of condoms as a means of preventing the spread of the disease.

Particular emphasis is expected to be placed on the dangers of contracting the disease through intravenous drug abuse and the £500,000 campaign will also focus on the desirability of sexual fidelity if the spread of the disease is to be arrested.

The Coalition government began drawing up plans for the massive educational programme before Christmas and the then Health Minister, Barry Desmond, had decided that the use of condoms would be encouraged.

However, the Catholic hierarchy, which was later to form a National Task Force on AIDS, reacted by stating that it would be sad if the response to this major threat were "to be reduced simply to a debate about free needles or easy availability of condoms".

Apart from other moral considerations, the bishops argued, there was the grave danger that the promotion of condoms would

increase permissiveness and thus contribute to a further spread of the disease.

With the number of AIDS cases in Ireland increasing weekly there has been criticism of the delay in launching the educational campaign which was postponed early in the year until after the general election.

But now the campaign should be underway within weeks with advertisements on radio and television, in the national newspapers and on selected billboard sites.

Health Minister, Dr. Rory O'Hanlon has already stated that the campaign will be objective and informative without giving offence by way of explicit detail. The use of condoms cannot be promoted on RTE because of the voluntary code of conduct which the station operates.

The Church's 'Task Force' will have an important role to play in the campaign by making information available on the medical and pastoral aspects of AIDS to priests, community and Church workers and schools. It will also support Church programmes to combat drug abuse.

Wall Street Journal
30th April 1987

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Michael Dukakis entered the race for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination. Dukakis, 53, whose parents were from Greece, is the three-term governor of Massachusetts. He outlined few programs but highlighted the economy, environment and threat of AIDS as main concerns.

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THE CHURCH AND HOMOSEXUALITY

FROM time immemorial, the Catholic Church has adopted what could only be called a hostile attitude to homosexuality. Indeed, society's oppressive treatment of homosexuals springs historically from taboos inspired by the Judeo-Christian ethic.

Since the Second Vatican Council, however, and especially after the publication of the 1976 "Declaration on Certain Questions Concerning Sexual Ethics," a somewhat more compassionate and sensitive tone became evident in the homosexual person's response to an article of the Church's teaching on the Homosexual: "A Plea" which appeared in the October, 1980, issue of *Doctrina et Vita*, the official theological journal of the Vatican. The document on sexual ethics admits that there are homosexuals who are irreversibly so constituted and through no fault of their own. Many of these would see celibacy as an impossible ideal, so they must aim at the ideal which is the most realistic and attainable. The document includes homosexual actions in the context of a responsible, loving and committed relationship.

Fr Fagan's words were indeed most encouraging in any gay person who wanted to remain in

the Church. It looked as if the Church had developed a deeper awareness of the complex nature of human sexuality and had begun to abandon its biased, inflexible attitude. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to the bishops of the nation was given publicity for the withdrawal of the booklet.

The most recent attack on homosexuals, and the most homophobic, came in the form of a letter from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to the bishops of the

rather sour once again recently with the removal of Fr Raphael Gallagher's booklet "Understanding the Homosexual" from the bookshelves of the Vatican. The Archbishop of Dublin, the book let was a *cri de coeur* for Christian compassion and understanding and it received high praise from many theologians. One particular line of special interest in the booklet was read: "Homosexuality is often used as if it automatically con-jured up a whole personality and way of life. For example, the statement that Shakespeare was a homosexual elicits no special response from people, but merely ordered towards an intrinsic and many people will believe that the homosexual person is a person who must be seen as an objective. The cardinal's views amount to a main opposition to homosexuality

Catholic Church. It is entitled "The Pastoral Care of Homosexuals" and such no longer "disorder" and "intrinsic moral evil." The cardinal goes out of his way to undo any tendency towards a more tolerant approach which might have been created by the 1976 Declaration. He writes: "... in the discussion which followed publication of the Declaration, the Church's over-benign interpretation was given to the homosexual condition itself, some going so far as to call it neutral, or even good. Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is more or less strong tendency ordered towards an intrinsic and many people will believe that the homosexual person is a person who must be seen as an objective. The cardinal's views amount to a main opposition to homosexuality

Traditionally, the Church's main opposition to homosexuality

has rested on a fixed and static concept of the Natural Law. Yet, as Bernard Lonergan, SJ, has pointed out, the inadequacy of the concept of a fixed human nature is not simply that it completely ignores man's historicity, but that, in considering man primarily in terms of substance, it deprives of man, namely that he is a conscious subject, intelligent and free.

In an article published in the *Catholic Herald* (November 7th, '86), Fr Robert Nugent, SDS, New Ways Ministry to America's homosexual community, pointed out that the Church's position in regard to homosexuality is in search and action against homosexuals people but comes dangerously close to condemning the very violence it condemns. The letter argues that since homosexual people have no right to claim that their sexuality is not disordered and no right to be surprised when "irrational and violent reactions increase" if they attempt to secure civil legislation. The letter wisely advises against reducing people to their sexual orientation. This comes, at least in part, from an unwillingness to see the positive aspects of homosexuality and the logical of the "sexual orientation." But the document promotes another reductionism by identifying orientation with behaviour.

The cardinal's letter could not come at a worse time for homosexuals. The dreadful hysteria over the AIDS problem has made life particularly difficult for the homosexual, and this Vatican attack can only make things even worse.

Traditionally, the Church's main opposition to homosexuality



Cardinal Josef Ratzinger... his letter could not have come at a worse time for homosexuals.

It could be said that homosexuality is no more "unnatural" than left-handedness and just about as morally neutral. There is nothing unworthy in any physical act of love, but it may well become a source of spiritual danger if it is not accompanied by the Church's constant condemnation of homosexuality as a sin. The Church's sexuality is utterly cruel and inhuman. One would expect the Church to be the very fountain-head of compassion, concern and understanding but instead, it is the embodiment of legalism and textualism.

What does the homosexual man or woman ask for? Nothing more than a recognition of his or her innate dignity as a human being and an acknowledgement of his or her right to love. The Church's constant condemnation of homosexuality is utterly cruel and inhuman. One would expect the Church to be the very fountain-head of compassion, concern and understanding but instead, it is the embodiment of legalism and textualism.

Unknown Source April 1987

into his life, to avoid self-indulgence and hedonism.

It should be pointed out that very many homosexuals devote themselves to partners in lifelong monogamous relationships of total commitment, and remain celibate. They do not seek to be encouraged such lasting stable relationships among homosexuals instead of constant dispiriting denunciations. A particularly unpleasant and disturbing aspect of the Church's present administration is the speed with which it abolishes the right of questioning within the Church.

We see this heavy-handed approach in the Vatican's treatment of Fr Charles Curran, Archbishop of Philadelphia, John McNeill, Archbishop of New York, and the Homosexual. The latter refuses to toe the party line and call homosexuality a moral evil, instructions have been issued to his superiors to expel him from the Jesuit order. This does not say much for the health of the Church.

There are many bishops and priests in the Catholic Church who strongly disagree with the Vatican's insensitive attitude and who hope and intend to have the courage and integrity to speak out publicly. Charity demands this. The latest diatribes against homosexuality will have two immediate effects. It will engender even greater hostility and prejudice towards homosexuals.

Fr Charles Curran, whose problems with Rome over the official Church teaching on sexual matters began in 1965, has now written a book about his experiences in relation to the Vatican since then. JOE CARROLL reports.

Theologian tells of clash with Rome

THE WHEELS of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith move slowly but inexorably forward. Fr Charles Curran, professor of Moral Theology at the Catholic University of America, in Washington, has now experienced. On August 2nd, 1979 he was informed that his theological positions were being "investigated" by the Congregation. On January 9th last Curran was formally at the university following the Congregation's finding that he was no longer "suitable or eligible" to be a professor of Catholic theology. This is the first time this has happened to a theologian in the United States.

Curran asks why he has been singled out by the Vatican when there are many other theologians who hold similar and even more radical positions on moral matters.

Curran has now written a book called "Theology and the Church: A Personal History" which is his commentary on the dispute with the Vatican and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The intervening years have now been described by Curran as "a period of painful dissent". The book is his commentary on the dispute with the Vatican and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Curran also describes his time in Rome with his chief accuser, Cardinal Ratzinger, who later requested that Curran be removed from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Curran's problems with official Church teaching began when he was appointed to his post in 1965. He had taught for four years because of his liberal views on artificial contraception. He was welcomed, however, at the Catholic University which had not had a growing reputation as a moral theologian.

He was also a marked man, however, and a conservative, Fr Lawrence, says he has been "personally hurt" by the Vatican's ban on his teaching of marriage. Over 600 theologians later publicly signed the statement.

The university trustees led by Cardinal Ratzinger of Los Angeles, California, and his dissenting colleagues, dismissed Curran from his post in 1968. The committee later vindicated their dissent but more important for Curran and his colleagues was the US bishops' pastoral letter which accepted the dissent under three conditions. These were: if the reasons were serious and well-founded; if the manner of dissenting did not impugn the teaching of the Church and if it was in the interest of the Church.

Curran himself says he has been "personally hurt" by the Vatican's ban on his teaching of marriage. Over 600 theologians later publicly signed the statement.

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Priest shares the suffering of AIDS victims

By Padraig Yeates

THREE people die every two hours in New York from AIDS, but the primary problem confronting the Catholic Church — and society at large — was not how to deal with AIDS, but the people who had AIDS, says the Rev Bernard Lynch, SMA.

This is not Father Lynch's first visit to Ireland (he is a native of Ennis, Co Clare), but it is undoubtedly his most controversial. Since the mid-1970s he has been a chaplain to Dignity, the support group for Catholic Gays in North America, and he came home this week to participate in International AIDS Day, including an appearance on last night's "Late Late Show".

Ministering to the disease has not been easy, in either personal or theological terms. "Yes, the pressure is quite strong," he admits. "I get on well with my superiors," he adds hastily. "The pressure is coming from the church in New York." Asked who, he replied: "At archdiocesan level. Even though we have more AIDS cases in New

York city than anywhere, they have not, won't, appoint an AIDS chaplain." Instead, Father Lynch and about 20 other priests, all of them members of orders, provide a ministry.

AIDS phobia in New York runs deep, he explains. "AIDS ministry crosses religious and sexual lines. We did a campaign at Christmas for children with AIDS. In hospitals we could not get staff to hold children with AIDS. We had to get people to hold them."

Overcoming his own phobia wasn't easy, he admits. "I had to work through my own homophobia, religious prejudice, fear of death and disease. I've come a long way. I'm not through it yet but I feel comfortable with people who are dying."

The hardest thing to overcome was guilt by association. "In order to be involved in this ministry, I had to be willing to lose my good name. Because I identified with marginalised groups I became marginalised myself. Letting go of that was the hardest thing, but if it is necessary in order to help the least of

the people, in society's eyes, on my willingness to do that I'll be judged."

Father Lynch grew up and received his early religious training in Ireland, so he understands the particular problems that confront families here when they discover that a son in America has contracted what one shocked father referred to as "the Rock Hudson disease". Altogether, he has attended 56 deaths in the last 15 months of people aged between 14 and 60.

He sees his main task as "reconciling someone to their God, so they can die at peace and reconciling them with their families so that they can die at peace with those nearest to them. Sometimes it doesn't work."

"Right now I need a break. I am unquestionably burnt out. But right now I have five people who are dying and it's like a contract to be there and it's a very heavy burden to carry."

A highly qualified psychotherapist, Father Lynch is still oppressed by the powerlessness to do anything other than share the suffering of the victims

and their families. In two of his current cases, both spouses have AIDS and in one instance the couple's two-year-old son is infected as well.

"I used to read the Gospel like it was a story 2,000 years old. Now I see people, whether they're Jew, Christian or agnostic and I just see Christ in action there louder than in any Gospel. A mother comes over from Ireland to see her son dying and I see her as Mary by the cross."

Because sexuality is so deeply involved in the AIDS problem it compounds it horrendously, says Father Lynch. "There are an estimated 40 million Catholics in America. That means there is an estimated four million Gay Catholics in the United States. Twelve priests have died of AIDS."

The Church does have hospices in New York which have effectively become AIDS treatment centres because they are located in places like Greenwich Village, where there is a large concentration of high risk groups, he adds. But the pattern is changing rapidly and the Church has still to come to terms with this. Eighty per cent of American AIDS

sufferers are gay but two out of three new sufferers are drug abusers, and predominantly black or Hispanic.

He treads warily on theological issues and matters such as the use of condoms. One of his colleagues, the Rev John McNeill, has been expelled from the Jesuits for his interventions in the AIDS debate. "The Church has an obligation to promote Christian chastity," he says, "but if I know a person who has the virus and they are sexually active it would be highly irresponsible not to advise them to take all steps necessary to prevent transmitting it. The first duty is to preserve life."

Other events for International AIDS Day include a flag day collection for the "Aid to fight AIDS" fund, a social in the North Star Hotel, Amiens Street, Dublin, tomorrow evening and the announcement of an "AIDS Helpline" phone service, which will start operations on Saturday, April 11th. This will provide a service every Saturday and Monday. It is hoped to extend it during the summer months as more resources become available.

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Unknown Source
April 1987

Motion on AIDS testing passed

MANDATORY blood testing for AIDS should be introduced for all rapists and carriers charged with attempted murder, the conference was told.

A Cork delegate, Mr John Murray, said that with the arrival of the AIDS virus the crime of rape had taken on a new and frightening dimension. There was now a real threat to the victim of a slow but certain death if the attacker was an AIDS carrier.

The conference unanimously passed his motion calling for a review of the laws dealing with rape and similar offences after Mr Murray had detailed what he described as the clear inadequacies of the 1981 Rape Act.

He said that the Act had failed to adequately define, and left victims open to, improper cross-examination about their sexual history. "What relevance can a woman's sexual history have to the crime of rape? Would it be a good line of defence for a bank robber to establish that the bank he is accused of robbing had been robbed previously?"

He also said that the "growing scandal" of incest needed to be tackled urgently. While very few of these crimes come to Garda notice, the evidence of social workers is that reports of it are frequent and widespread.

Ignoring the problems will never solve it. He said that the Incest Act of 1908 "had made a fair attempt to cope with the problem but now eighty years on we need to have a fresh look at this legislation and bring this hidden and horrible crime out into the open."

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Unknown Source April 1987

AIDS screening

ILLEGAL ALIENS should be tested for AIDS when they apply for legalisation under a new US immigration law, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service said in Dallas, Texas. Nearly four million aliens are expected to seek amnesty under the new law, which will grant amnesties to all foreigners who have lived in the US continuously since 1982.

Persons with five other contagious diseases are barred from entering the US. "We feel in the INS that AIDS should be part of the dangerous and contagious diseases," said INS official Mr William Zimmer.

The INS was considering the plan to screen illegal aliens for AIDS when they apply for legalisation. Those found positive would be barred from the country.

— (AP, AFP)

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