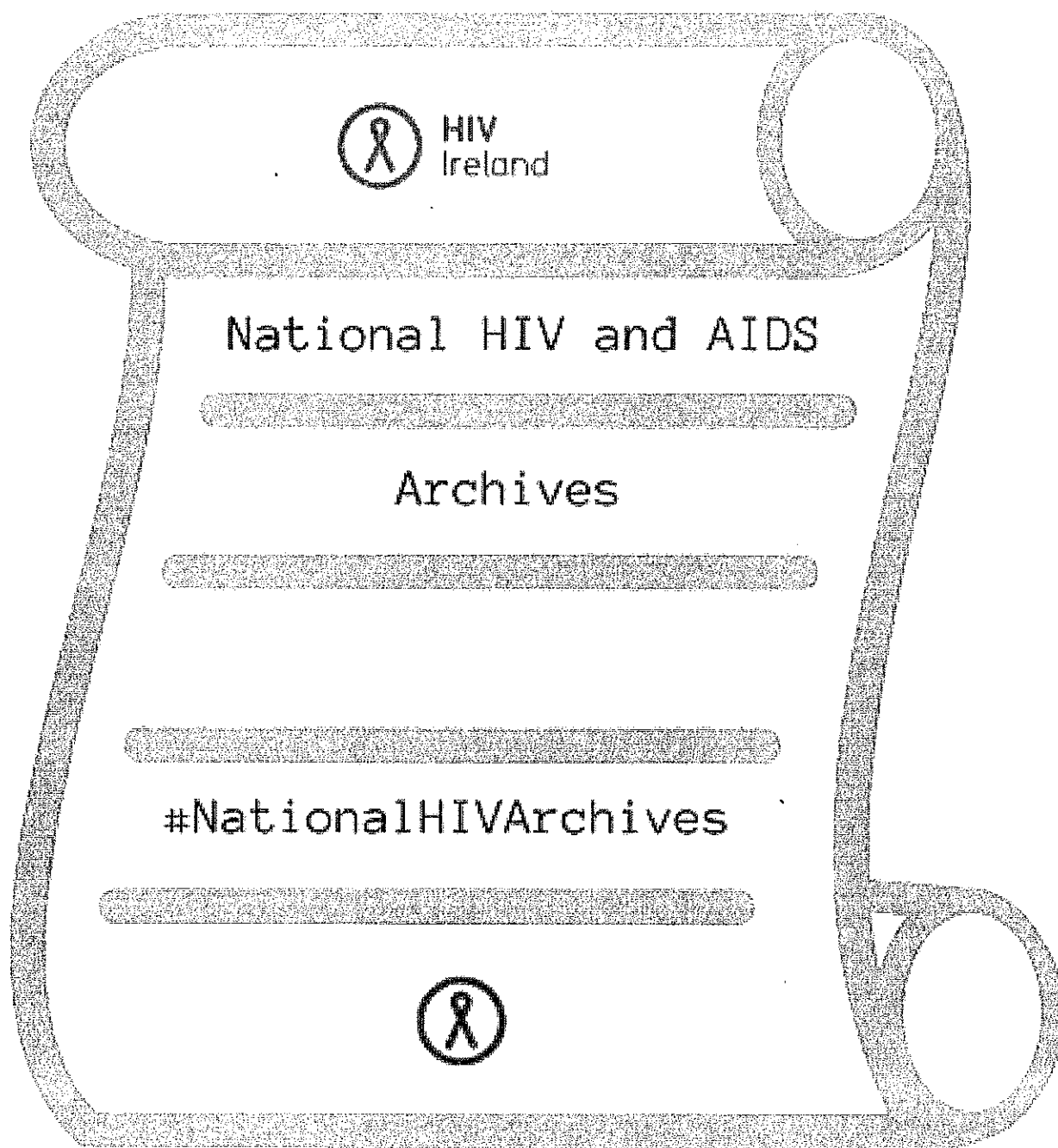


Print Media



1st to 3rd June 1987

Evening Press
1st June 1987

AIDS LIKELY TO BOOST HEALTH BILL

FEDERAL OFFICIALS and health economists say the AIDS epidemic will cost America at least 10 billion to 15 billion dollars a year by 1991, and they warn that it may require major changes in the financing of health care.

But even those figures, which include the costs of care for AIDS patients, research, health education and blood testing, will be dwarfed by the value of earnings and output lost, researchers say.

Citing these estimates, Dr. Otis Bowen, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, said recently that the economic costs of the epidemic would "strain our entire health care system."

If government projections are correct, acquired immune deficiency syndrome will be one of the ten leading causes of death in 1991, according to Dorothy Rice, former director of the National Centre for Health Statistics, and it will be the leading cause of death among people 25 to 44 years old.

So far, the costs of the epidemic have fallen heavily on big cities and their public hospitals, but that trend is lessening. New York City and San Francisco have accounted for 36 per cent of all AIDS cases reported in the United States. But the public health service estimates that by 1991, New York and San Francisco will have accounted for less than 20 per cent of all cases.

Although specific figures are elusive, the public health service and other experts say it will cost at least 8.5 billion dollars to provide medical care for AIDS victims in 1991, a dramatic increase from the 1.1 billion dollars spent last year. Such care could cost as much as 16 billion dollars in 1991, the public health service says.

The estimates of future spending reflect the projected purchasing power of dollars.

Research, health education, blood testing and other services related to AIDS will cost the nation 2.3 billion dollars in 1991, according to the most comprehensive study of the issue, done under a Federal contract with government data. The comparable figure last year was 542 million dollars.

The study, by Rice and Anne Scitovsky, an economist at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation in California, says the earnings and output lost as a result of the sickness and premature death of AIDS

patients will total 55 billion dollars in 1991, up from 7 billion dollars last year.

Paradoxically new therapies, by prolonging life without curing the disease, may increase total costs of caring for AIDS patients, according to the congressional office of technology assessment, some doctors and local health officials.

The New York State Health Commissioner, Dr. David Axelrod, recently estimated that hospitals in New York City would spend 1 billion dollars a year on the care of AIDS patients by 1991, up from 400 million dollars last year.

Evening Press
1st June 1987

AIDS cure 'not likely for years'

The largest ever International Conference on AIDS opens in Washington today with little advance promise that researchers are on the verge of finding a cure.

A vaccine to prevent Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome which has claimed at least 50,000 lives worldwide and threatens millions more, is unlikely to be available until the mid-1990s, and a cure may be even further away, international experts say.

But Dr. Samuel Broder, a top AIDS researcher at the U.S. National Cancer Institute, says that research results from some experimental drug treatments "provide some measure of optimism in the search for future successful strategies in treating AIDS."

The nearly 6,000 researchers and public health officials from some 50 countries have come to the conference looking for some nuggets to mine among the more than 1,000 technical papers and scores of speeches to be presented.

President Reagan set the stage for the conference opening with a speech saying he did not advocate a massive, explicit education programme to alert the public to the dangers of the disease, which is transmitted largely through sex and among drug users sharing contaminated needles.

However, education is to be one of the major topics addressed at the conference. Several studies to be presented show that groups at high risk of AIDS were not altering their sexual behaviour in order to lower their risk.

"As many as four out of every five men engaging in risky sexual behaviour may be underestimating the danger inherent in their behaviour," states a report from a cancer centre in New York.

While no major breakthroughs on a definitive treatment of effective vaccine are expected to be disclosed at the conference, there should be some promising developments. Several researchers also said their studies found promising results in early tests on humans of diethyldithiocarbamate, also known as DTC or Imuthiol. These early results "suggest that further controlled studies in larger numbers of patients are warranted," according to one research team.

SV

'Routine' Aids tests call widely criticised in US

PRESIDENT Reagan last night called for "routine" Aids tests for millions of Americans, including people applying for marriage licences, hospital patients, prisoners and immigrants.

By "routine" the administration apparently means that if any Americans object strongly enough they can escape being tested, and the President's initiative is already being criticised by public health officials and Congressmen as a compromise forced on Mr Reagan by conservatives.

Public health officials have called for more Aids education projects and the conservatives have called for mandatory quarantining of Aids sufferers, even though there is no official in the administration who advocates such a move. As the debate heats up, the issue may become a litmus test for conservative support for candidates in the 1988 elections.

Republican candidates George Bush and Jack Kemp have already called for mandatory tests for applicants for marriage licences.

Mr Reagan's initiative was also being seen here as the opening shot for an Aids "theme" for this week's seven-nation industrial summit conference in Venice, where leaders are expected to declare the disease a major world health problem and call for more international co-operation.

The President's proposal was "a triumph of politics in the administration over all the advice of

From Peter Pringle
in Washington

the public health experts", charged Congressman Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California who is chairman of the House of Representatives subcommittee on health. Mr Waxman said that routine testing was the most expensive and least effective way of educating the public on the dangers of Aids.

"I fear that mandatory testing could have an adverse effect by sending those at risk — such as intravenous drug users — further underground than they already are. What we need is an education campaign for everybody," he said.

Conservatives believe that curbing the spread of Aids should be the responsibility of individuals as well as the federal government. "Every hospital, every school, every property-owner should have the right to test people seeking to use their facilities," said Howard Phillips of the Conservative Caucus, a right-wing lobby group. The cost of Aids testing was not prohibitive, he claimed.

Mr Phillips charged the administration with "copping out" to the pressure of homosexual activists. "Quarantining is something we have to consider... we are facing a crisis where there will be an estimated 150-200,000 live Aids carriers in 1991," he said.

"The job of government is to

protect the innocent and there should be a stigma attached to homosexual behaviour, it's an abomination."

Mr Waxman replied: "The right-wing would like to make it a political issue and I think that is a reprehensible activity, and we need to follow the guidance of the health people and not get a point where we panic people. What you see here is traditional right-wing bashing of homosexuals, using the disease to go after people they don't like."

Doctors who have been treating Aids patients recently complained in an open letter to President Reagan that, while the administration has been good on funding research to find antidotes to the virus, it has fallen down on educating the public about how not to spread the disease. Specifically, the doctors said they would boycott the President's proposed advisory commission on Aids because no homosexual had been appointed to the commission.

"It is stupid not to include people who can give you some important information," said Dr Paul Volderberg, director of Aids research at San Francisco General Hospital.

■ CARSON CITY, Nevada — A bill which would impose sentences of up to 20 years for prostitutes infected with Aids who continue to solicit for customers has a good chance of being passed in this state famous for its licensed brothels, AFP reports.

Irish Times
1st June 1987

Prisoners face test for AIDS

PRESIDENT REAGAN, saying the AIDS epidemic "calls for urgency, not panic", announced yesterday that he is ordering testing of Federal prisoners for the deadly virus.

The President also said he is recommending that states offer testing to marriage licence applicants.

In his first major speech on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Reagan also said the virus will be added to the list of diseases for which immigrants can be denied entry to the United States, or refused permanent residence.

"In addition, I've asked for a review of other Federal responsibilities, such as veterans hospitals, to see if testing might be appropriate in those areas," he said.

Reagan's AIDS proposals attacked

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S plans to test prisoners, immigrants and hospital patients for AIDS were attacked yesterday.

The Terence Higgins Trust Britain's leading AIDS charity, warned that routine testing would drive those most at risk further underground, preventing them from coming forward for early treatment.

The proposals, which also recommend testing for people applying for marriage licences, were made during the Presi-

dent's first major speech on AIDS at a fund-raising dinner in Washington on Sunday night.

But Terence Higgins Trust spokesman Mr Nick Partridge said President Reagan's initiative directly contradicted advice from his own public health officials, including his surgeon-general.

The President's remarks, made on the eve of a week-long scientific conference on the disease, brought boos from the audience when he announced plans for expanded testing.

His calls for "urgency not panic" brought only criticism from the Trust.

"We are now seven years into this major epidemic and it is disgraceful that this is the first major speech President Reagan has given about AIDS," said Mr Partridge.

Vice-president George Bush endorsed President Reagan's proposals yesterday, but said such blood tests must be kept confidential, a point his boss omitted in a major speech this weekend.

Bush, delivering the

keynote address at the opening of the third international conference on AIDS, said the need for expanded testing to stem the spread of the deadly disease conflicts with the constitutional right to privacy.

But Bush said the No. 1 priority is clear, "we must absolutely protect those who do not have this disease."

Like Reagan, Bush was hissed and booed when describing these measures. One man in the audience shouted, "we need a new presi-

dent," receiving scattered but energetic applause.

In a related development, police wearing bright yellow gloves as protection against contracting AIDS arrested about 50 gay rights activists after their demonstration in front of the White House spilled onto Pennsylvania Avenue, blocking traffic.

The gloves were used earlier this year by police in a raid on a homosexual bar in Washington. Their use angered local gay activists and police

officials, while acknowledging the gloves were controversial, said they would continue to use them when warranted.

The co-discoverer of the AIDS virus told an international scientists' meeting on the disease yesterday that another deadly AIDS-like virus has been found in Nigeria.

He said the discovery at such an early stage in the disease's development should be regarded as promising that an early cure can be found.

Dr Gallo reported that he knew of no vaccine to prevent AIDS.

International Conference on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome that the new virus, which he described as similar in its effects to the AIDS virus but structured differently, had been detected in 10 cases in Nigeria.

"We shouldn't panic," Dr Robert Gallo of the U.S. National Cancer Institute said of the discovery. He told the Third

Aids talks protest

A WORLD conference on Aids got off to a contentious start in Washington when Vice-President George Bush was jeered and Aids rights activists were arrested at the White House by police wearing bright yellow rubber gloves.

Mr. Bush was jeered and booed when he endorsed President Reagan's proposals for routine Aids testing of prisoners, immigrants, and those who plan to marry.

But he was applauded when he said Aids tests results must be kept strictly confidential, a precaution that Mr. Reagan failed to mention.

The co-discoverer of the Aids virus told the conference that another

deadly Aids like virus has been found in Nigeria.

"We shouldn't panic," Dr. Robert Gallo of the U.S. National Cancer Institute said of the discovery in the African nation.

Dr. Gallo made his announcement before some 6,000 scientists and public health officials from more than 50 countries at the opening of the third international conference on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids).

Dr. Gallo said the new and distinct virus had been detected in 10 cases in Nigeria sufficiently early to encourage hopes that a cure could be found.

As the conference got

under way, 74 gay rights activists were arrested in front of the White House, about a mile away, as they blocked traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The arresting officers wore bright yellow rubber gloves of the style that enraged Washington gay rights activists earlier this year during a police raid on a homosexual bar.

Free literature was made available to the public today as part of the Irish Family Planning Association's Aids information week. The association is making the information available at its clinic at Cathal Brugha Street until Friday.

AIDS — 'test all coming from U.S.'

BY ALAN BYRNE

PRESIDENT Reagan's plans to introduce AIDS tests for all immigrants to the United States was condemned today by an Irish expert on the disease.

Protestors held with rubber gloves

Dr. Derek Freedman said that the move would be counter productive and added that it would be much more appropriate in view of the incidence of AIDS in America to test people who were leaving the United States.

Dr. Freedman, genito-urinary physician at Dublin's St James's Hospital, and author of "AIDS: The Problem in Ireland", said that the antibody test, which the American authorities are planning to subject all visa applicants to, did not always pick up the presence of AIDS antibodies.

"It will not reveal AIDS antibodies in the first three months after they are contracted and, in some cases, the antibodies fail to register at the stage when people are about to develop full-blown AIDS", he added.

"In a few cases the presence of antibodies in somebody who is actually a carrier might not show up for anything up to two years," said Dr. Freedman.

Describing the introduction of the screening system by the American authorities as being "the work of politicians who know little about the infection" he claimed that it could result in driving the disease underground and would encourage more people to attempt to enter the US illegally.

"In any case, it is going to make very little difference because the greatest number of people known to be infected with AIDS outside Africa are in the United States so it would be much better to test them when they are leaving," he said.

Dr. Freedman added that the American authorities would also have to consider testing tourists because one of the principal ways in which the disease was transmitted was through what he described as "sex tourists" visiting the United States.

Meanwhile, Britain's leading AIDS charity has reacted angrily to President Reagan's plans to test prisoners, immigrants and hospital patients for the deadly virus.

The Terence Higgins Trust warned that routine testing would drive those most at risk further underground, preventing them from coming forward for early treatment.

The proposals, which also recommend testing for people applying for marriage licences, were made during the President's first major speech on AIDS at a fund-raising dinner in Washington at the weekend.

But Terence Higgins Trust spokesman Mr. Nick Partridge said yesterday President Reagan's initiative contradicted advice from his own public health officials, including his Surgeon-General.

The president's remarks, made on the eve of a week-long scientific conference on the disease, brought boos from the audience.

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The co-discoverer of the AIDS virus told the conference that another deadly AIDS-like virus has been found in Nigeria.

"We shouldn't panic," Dr. Robert Gallo of the U.S. National Cancer Institute said of the discovery in the African nation.

Dr. Gallo made his announcement before some 6,000 scientists and public health officials from more than 50 countries at the opening of the Third International Conference on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Dr. Gallo said the new and distinct virus had been detected in 10 cases in Nigeria sufficiently early to encourage hopes that a cure could be found. He gave no details of the new virus but papers were expected on the subject later this week.

Other researchers reported that while many homosexual men at risk of contracting AIDS have reduced their number of sexual partners and accepted "safe sex" practices, they still must drastically change their sexual habits to avoid AIDS.

As the conference got under way, 64 gay rights activists were arrested in front of the White House, about a mile away, as they blocked traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The arresting officers wore bright yellow gloves of the style that enraged Washington gay rights activists earlier this year during a police raid on a homosexual bar.

A police spokesman said the gloves had been in use since 1975 and "are not designed for protecting officers from any specific disease. They can be used whenever an officer has to search somebody," he said.

Meanwhile, heterosexual contact is spreading AIDS twice

as fast in the United States as homosexual or bisexual relationships, researchers are expected to tell the conference today.

The federal Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta will report that the number of cases from heterosexual contact increased 135 per cent in 1986 while cases reported from homosexual or bisexual male contact rose about 80 per cent for the year.

"The largest percentage increases were among heterosexual men and women in geographic areas other than New York, California and Florida" — the previous AIDS hotspots — CDC researchers said in a summary of their study distributed in advance to conference participants.

Another government report will show that of 29,582 AIDS cases reported to the CDC between June 1981 and January 26, 1987, nearly 17,000, or 57 per cent, have died.

Financial Times
2nd June 1987

Bush booed on AIDS

US Vice-President George Bush was booed at a Washington conference on AIDS when he spoke of the importance of the disease as an issue in forthcoming elections. President Reagan had launched a controversy by his announcement that he was ordering mandatory AIDS tests for such groups as prisoners and immigrants. Page 3

Moral perils of Aids screening

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S backing on Sunday for "routine" Aids tests for millions of Americans, including people applying for marriage licences, hospital patients, prisoners and immigrants, will have sent a shudder through ministers on the British Government's Aids co-ordinating committee. It is an idea — promoted by the moral right in the United States — which the United States, with its longer and greater experience of Aids than any other Western country, should long ago have discarded. It cannot too often be stressed that any such compulsory mass screening for Aids is both pointless and unjustifiable. The test detects antibodies to the virus, not the virus itself. It can take three to six months for antibodies to appear. Thus a negative result is no guarantee that anyone screened is in fact free of the virus.

Doctors, nurses, prison staff and others are far better protected against Aids by standard, routine procedures preventing their infection against hepatitis B and other blood-borne infections, than by a test whose accuracy is not guaranteed. Aids remains incurable. Those advocating mass testing have to address the question of what would be done with those found to be infected. What sort of quarantine or concentration camp would be advocated for them? But Mr Reagan's misplaced call is a reminder that whoever wins the election the question of screening in this country will shortly have to be addressed.

A Government working party is still mulling over the issue. Mass screening it will sensibly oppose. But it may still back a valuable,

though controversial proposal for "blind" or "anonymous" screening. In such screening, patients' permission would not be sought. A small part of blood samples given for a whole range of purposes in hospitals and clinics would be tested for Aids antibodies. Samples would be identified only by the patient's age and sex. Such anonymity would mean they could not be told of a positive result. The proposal has met heavy opposition. But it should be supported. Better than any other method it should help answer two vital questions in the battle against Aids.

First it would provide a much better estimate of how many people in the UK are infected. The Government's present estimate of 30,000 to 40,000 is little more than a guess. The number may be considerably lower or much higher — some Aids specialists estimate 100,000 people may be infected. A more accurate figure is needed to allow services for Aids patients to be planned effectively. Second it would show, over time, how fast the numbers were increasing. That too would help in the planning of services. Equally importantly it would give some clue as to whether the £20m Aids education programme was proving effective in reducing the spread of the disease, or whether it needed modifying.

Objections that infected patients could not be told are outweighed by the public health need to help answer these questions. Such screening would not prevent anyone who suspected they were infected finding out — Aids tests are now freely available throughout the NHS. It is a proposal which should be supported.

Irish Press
2nd June 1987

Aids indicates moral decline says Moderator

THE NEW Presbyterian Moderator said last night that the Aids crisis was a frightening indication of the extent to which moral standards had declined throughout Western society.

Speaking at his formal installation in Belfast, the Right Rev. William Fleming said the people of Ireland would have to face the reality of this decline, and the Christian Churches would have to assume a special role in combating it.

The Moderator said it was a matter of deep regret to Christians that the standards of purity and chastity before marriage and faithfulness within it were being steadily abandoned.

He said it was regrettable that the Government "could not see clearly the duty to discourage promiscuous beha-



Presbyterian Moderator,
Rev. William Fleming.

viour", but had inferred that this way of life was acceptable if the consequences could be avoided, especially by the use of condoms.

Rev. Fleming said people — including Irish people — were turning more and more away from God to a permissive society, and were opting for "idolatry and immorality".

He said he would use his term of office to impress upon our leaders that the people of this island to return to God and to glorify him by keeping his laws. "This is the only way of prosperity and peace."

In reference to the violence in Northern Ireland, the Moderator said that the murder and destruction which was the result of terrorism over the past 18 years would have to be brought to an end.

He expressed the hope the new government in London after the general election would make it clear that they were not willing to tolerate "this ongoing iniquitous situation".

The outgoing Moderator, Dr. John Thompson, said Presbyterians had made known their unhappiness with the Anglo-Irish Agreement and their desire to have an alternative to it. He believed that many forms of opposition to the Agreement had been both unsuccessful and counter-productive. What he wanted to see was cross-community efforts to end the violence and terrorism.

Irish Press
2nd June 1987

The AIDS campaign

AN BORD Altranais (nursing board) welcomes the public education programme on AIDS being provided by the Department of health and acknowledges the excellent role being undertaken by R.T.E. with its programmes. An Bord Altranais urges the Department and the Government to provide additional resources for the training and education of nurses in the care and management of AIDS patients.

NOEL DALY,
C.E.O.

An Bord Altranais
11 Fitzwilliam Place,
Dublin 2

Bush booed over mandatory AIDS testing

From Sean Cronin,
in Washington

CHEERS and boos interrupted Vice President George Bush's keynote address at the opening of the third international conference on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome here yesterday when he urged mandatory testing for AIDS.

The interruptions surprised and annoyed Mr Bush and as he sat down he muttered to an official, "Who was that? Some gay group out there?"

Tests are already being conducted in the military and foreign service, Mr Bush told the 5,000 scientists, researchers and public health workers from more than fifty countries, including Ireland, attending the conference. "The Federal Government will soon require testing for prisoners, immigrants and aliens who want to reside in this country," he added. It was at this point that the booing began.

As it persisted Mr Bush remarked irritably: "Free speech — that's what it's all about."

The Vice-President was merely repeating President Reagan's Sunday night speech to the benefit banquet hosted by Elizabeth Taylor for the American Foundation for AIDS Research. It was his first major address on the subject and what the administration plans to do about the epidemic.

"AIDS affects all of us," Mr Reagan declared. "America faces a disease that is fatal and spreading. This calls for urgency, not panic."

The President received far more applause than hisses for his remarks, although there were a few boos from the \$250 a plate dinner guests. The boos came when he announced mandatory testing for federal prisoners and that AIDS will be added to the list of contagious diseases for which immigrants can be barred from the United States.

Mr Reagan argued that manda-



Jerry Hall (left), Mick Jagger's girlfriend, and Bianca Jagger, the pop star's former wife, at last night's AIDS charity auction at Christie's, London. Ms Jagger is modelling a white Emanuel creation, one of 15 dresses donated by famous designers to be auctioned for the AIDS Crisis Trust. — (PA Wirepictures)

tory testing will "give us more information on which to make decisions, but in the case of marriage licences it might prevent at least some babies from being born with AIDS." Marriage licences come under state, not federal jurisdiction.

"Since we don't yet have a cure or a vaccine the only thing that can halt the spread of AIDS right now is a change in the behaviour of those Americans who are at risk," the President added. He believes that Americans must return to traditional values, a common view among conservatives.

Here he is at odds with the Surgeon General, Dr Everett

Koop, also a political conservative, who says that "children should be taught to be abstinent until they grow up, assume the role of a responsible adult and a mutually monogamous relationship... For individuals who won't abstain yet, do not have a monogamous relationship either. I strongly advise that they take every precaution to protect themselves and their partners from the risk of getting AIDS."

Dr Koop had hoped that Mr Reagan would endorse the British precedent of informing every household in sexually explicit language about AIDS. However, all Mr Reagan said apart from urging traditional values was: "It is time we knew exactly what we were

facing and that is why I support routine testing."

Dr Koop and the medical profession in general fear that mandatory testing will drive AIDS sufferers underground. Yesterday Mr Bush walked a thin line between the President and Dr Koop saying: "Those of high risk must be educated on how to avoid contracting the disease."

At the same time he commended Dr Koop for his work "in this country and around the world" and drew strong applause.

"Aliens we have no choice about," said Dr Koop of the President's order on AIDS testing. "Federal prisoners are under the Department of Justice."

The speeches of Mr Reagan and

Mr Bush indicate far greater concern by the administration about the spread of AIDS than heretofore. Federal spending this year on AIDS is \$416 million — more than a billion dollars when state and local funding are added. In 1983, only a few million dollars of public money was spent on AIDS.

Press reports show that AIDS victims recently included a congressman with a grown family, a Methodist bishop of Texas, also with a family, a priest-psychiatrist in Washington who ministered to religious with alcohol and sexual problems, a fashion designer in New York, a Hollywood film star, a nationally known professional football player, the editor of a classical music magazine, a leading conservative publicist and fund raiser, and the founder of a Greenwich Village puppet theatre.

The AIDS issue is expected to be on the agenda of the Venice industrial summit next week.

● An AIDS charity auction of 150 items donated by various celebrities realised £250,000 in London last night. Anonymous buyers paid £14,000 for a David Hockney pen and ink drawing (expected to fetch £6,000) and £3,000 for a diamond ring donated by Elizabeth Taylor, the actress. Each catalogue cost £25, which was added to the charity's fund. — (PA)

● At Sunday evening's outset, Elizabeth Taylor, the foundation's national chairwoman, brought the AIDS debate to the centre stage, drawing cheers as she split with Mr Reagan by calling for "voluntary, confidential testing."

Miss Taylor, who invited the President to the dinner, later noted the "difference of opinion" over testing — a division evidenced a half-block away by demonstrators carrying candles in memory of AIDS victims. She ended the evening on a conciliatory note by saying Mr Reagan "is basically in concurrence with what we all hope and pray for: that there will be a cure for AIDS." — (UPI)

Irish Times
2nd June 1987

O'Hanlon rejects US AIDS move as 'too drastic'

Irish Times Reporter

THE DECISION by President Reagan to introduce compulsory testing to prevent immigrants with the AIDS virus entering the United States was described last night as "too drastic" by the Minister for Health, Dr O'Hanlon.

The test could be applied to tens of thousands of Irish illegal immigrants now in the US who are eligible for citizenship amnesty and the several thousand people here who recently obtained some of the 10,000 special entry

Bush booed over AIDS testing: French predict eight-fold increase: page 6.

visas. However, a spokesman for the American Embassy in Dublin was unable to say last night when the new visa requirement would be implemented and who precisely would be affected.

Dr O'Hanlon said that from the health point of view, he would not be inclined to restrict the free movement of people in that way. He would not favour any similar restriction on people coming into this country.

Dr O'Hanlon's disagreement with Mr Reagan's action is supported by voluntary groups dealing with the AIDS problem here. District Justice Gillian Hussey, chairwoman of the Catholic Church Task Force on AIDS, said the decision "will be very hard on Irish illegal immigrants in America who have been infected with the AIDS virus." It may also affect Irish AIDS sufferers who need to go to the US for treatment, she added, "and it presents a major problem on the confidentiality of testing for the virus."

The AIDS Action Alliance, which operates a voluntary AIDS helpline service at Dublin 307888, also said last night that it was "totally opposed to any form of compulsory testing," saying it should be left up to the individual whether to have the virus antibodies test or not.

The announcement by President Reagan on Sunday that he is adding the AIDS virus to the list of contagious diseases for which immigrants can be denied entry provoked immediate criticism in the US and internationally. He was booed by AIDS experts gathered in Washington for a major world conference on the problem when he told them of the decision at a function, and he was criticised by the actress, Elizabeth Taylor, who was hosting the event. Vice-President George Bush was also booed at the opening session of the conference yesterday when he supported President Reagan's move. The conference is being attended by more than 5,000 delegates from all over the world, including Ireland.

EEC Health Ministers, including Dr O'Hanlon, last month condemned any moves towards compulsory mass screening for the AIDS virus, particularly at borders.

Aids is symbol of moral decline

THE problems posed by Aids have highlighted the steady decline in moral standards over many years, the newly-installed Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly said last night.

The Right Rev Dr William Fleming told hundreds of people at his installation service at Church House in Belfast that his theme for the year was Glorify the Lord.

"I would give a call to the people of this land to return again to God. There has been a steady decline over many years in our moral standards," he said.

"The problem of Aids has highlighted this during the past year, and at the same time reminded us that the God-given standards of purity, and chastity before marriage and faithfulness within marriage, preserve health and well being as well as the security and happiness of home and family life."

He said it was regrettable that the Government could not see

By JOHN COULTER

clearly the duty to discourage promiscuous behaviour. Rather, he said, it had inferred that this way of life was acceptable if the consequences of sin could be avoided.

Northern Ireland had been afflicted with terrorism with its resulting murder and destruction for 18 years and that situation must be changed, he said.

"The Government which rules in justice and in the fear of God should not tolerate this ongoing iniquitous situation. Neither should the people become hardened to bloodshed, suffering and sorrow," he said.

"My vision for this year of a Church and nation which returns to glorifying God, is one in which Government and those governed restore integrity, purity and honesty in dealing the one with the other. This will bring peace and goodwill."

The duty to glorify the Lord, he said, was not only for those involved in Government, but for every person in life from the humblest man in the street to all those in authority in the land.

"The Bible says that righteousness exalts a nation and God blesses those who honour him. The



New Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr William Fleming, who was installed at Church House, last night.

history of Israel is God's example to us.

"When Israel served God and honoured his laws, blessing, peace and prosperity was their portion. When they turned away from God to a permissive society, following idolatry and immorality they came under divine judgement and lost their wealth and freedom."

"I call upon our leaders and peoples of this land to return to God and glorify Him by keeping His laws. This is the only way of prosperity and peace."

He said his vision for the Church was of a people who lived out the Christian life in sincerity and integrity, motivated constantly by a

desire to seek the glory of God.

"It is essential that we have doctrinal and Biblical teaching as a regular feature of our Church life, but this is not enough."

"Calvinism or any other system of doctrine that men may produce needs practical application, otherwise it results in sterile orthodoxy, without a vital spiritual life and experience of God," he said.

Dr Fleming said that if his theme, Glorify the Lord, was applied to practical every day living, the religious life and experience of the Church and country would be revolutionised.

"Oh, how we need that revolution," he said.

The Times
2nd June 1987

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2/6/87

Jeers and boos greet Reagan's Aids plan

From Thomson Prentice, Washington

Plans by President Reagan to introduce routine Aids screening in the United States for couples about to marry, some hospital patients, prisoners and immigrants, were widely condemned at the world's biggest conference on the disease in Washington yesterday.

Vice President George Bush was loudly booed and jeered by many of the 6,300 delegates when he raised the controversial issue at the conference.

The proposed measures are among the most far reaching of any country and reflect the US government's concern about the spread of the disease which has so far resulted in over 35,000 cases with more than 20,000 deaths. Up to two million Americans are now believed infected.

President Reagan announced his proposals at an Aids Research Organisation meeting on Sunday night. "It is time we knew exactly what we are facing. That's why I support routine screening," he said.

However, delegates at the conference expressed deep misgivings about the impact of the plans on civil rights, particularly the right to privacy, and many suspected that it would lead to discrimination against persons found to be carrying the Aids virus.

Mr Bush was jeered when he said: "If society feels compelled in some circumstances to test its citizens, then it is absolutely imperative that these records are kept appropriately confidential. It is also imperative that help should be available for those who test positive. We need testing but only accompanied by guarantees that everyone is treated fairly."

One delegate then stood up

and shouted: "What we need is a new president."

The plans received only guarded support from Dr Everett Koop, the US Surgeon-General whose forthright demands for action on Aids have made him one of the most popular figures at the conference.

He said: "I'm not in favour of mandatory testing, but as I see it these measures involve free will. I think the screening should be offered and it will help us find out the incidence of the disease. But if getting this information ruins people's lives because of the stigma of Aids, the rights of the individual to privacy and protection supercedes the need to know."

The plans also appear to conflict with the views of the World Health Organisation. Dr Jonathan Mann, the director of the WHO Aids programme, said: "We strongly believe that screening should never take place in the absence of a broad social debate. It is not a simple activity and if it is not done properly it can cause great harm despite the fact that its objective may be quite laudable."

Britain's leading Aids charity also reacted angrily yesterday to President Reagan's plans. Aids A spokesman for the Terrence Higgins Trust, Mr Nick Partridge, said "what is urgently needed is an expansion of the education campaign which will be the most effective way of stopping the spread of infection in the future."

He added: "We are now seven years into this major epidemic and it is disgraceful that this is the first major speech President Reagan has given about Aids."

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Wall Street Journal
2nd June 1987

* A new AIDS virus has been discovered in Nigeria, a co-discoverer of the deadly virus told the Third International Conference on AIDS in Washington. The new strain seems to be somewhat less dangerous than the original one, Dr. Robert Gallo said.

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Cork Examiner
3rd June 1987

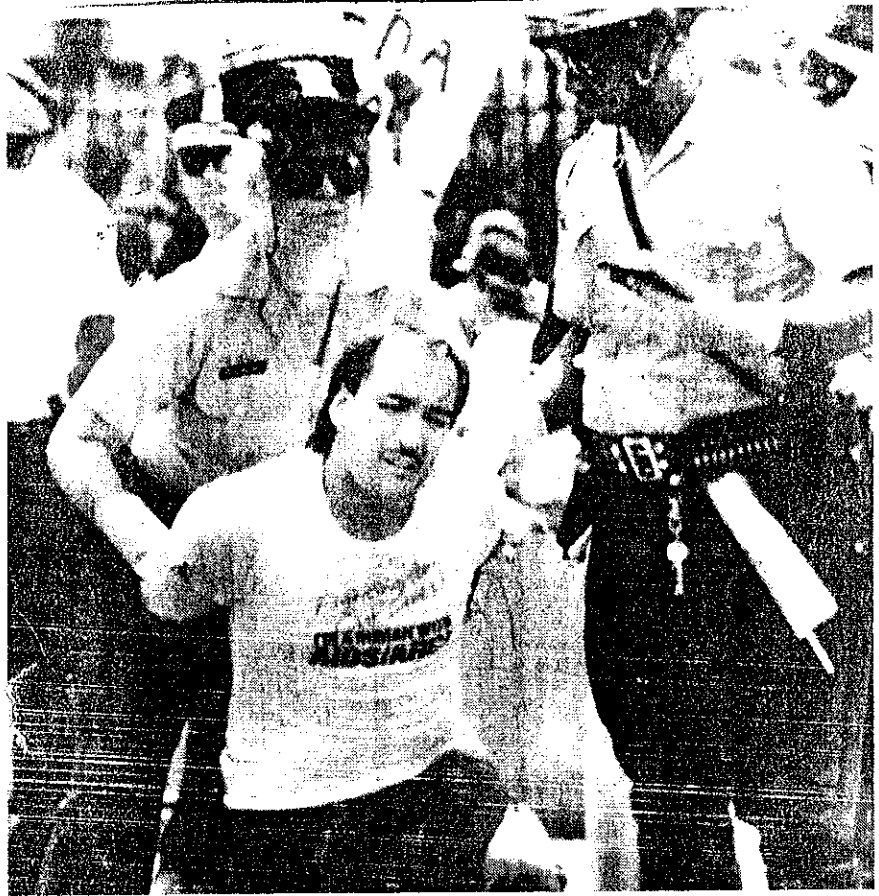
AIDS and condoms

SIR — It is being suggested that the use of condoms to prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus is legitimate, and that the use can be condoned by the Church. The intention is not contraceptive, the argument runs and so the use is not covered by the Church's condemnation of contraception. But a prior question needs to be faced. Is the use of the condom a direct sterilisation of the act of sexual intercourse? If it is, then the use is morally unacceptable, regardless of the intention inspiring it.

I find it impossible to see how wearing a condom can be other than an act of direct sterilisation. The intention may be to prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus, but the deed sterilises directly the act of intercourse. The sterilisation may not be what is directly desired, but is so directly caused that it cannot be put outside the intention.

In short, I do not see how the principle of double effect can be applied here, and so the use of the condom does fall under the Church's general prohibition and can not be condoned.

**MICHAEL C.
McGUCKIAN S.J.**
Dooradoyle Road,
Limerick.



District of Columbia police officers, wearing rubber gloves, take into custody a protestor yesterday, in Washington, who was taking part in the demonstration concerning Aids. The group including gay and lesbian rights activists are protesting in conjunction with the Third International Conference on Aids.

Bush Aids boob

VICE-PRESIDENT George Bush appeared to take the booing in his stride, then asked, "who was that, some gay group out there?"

Bush's offhand remark, made after he had finished his keynote address to the Third International Conference on AIDS, was directed at Assistant Health Secretary Robert Windom and picked up by television and radio microphones.

CBS news described it as a "political mis-step" for Bush, who hopes to be the Republican candidate for President next year.

"That's a new high in insensitivity," said Dr. Michael Gottlieb, a Los Angeles immunologist.

"We're here to battle a terrible plague. That is not what we need from our leaders," Gottlieb

said, according to the *Washington Post*.

Bush endorsed President Reagan's call for expanded Aids testing across the country but noted conflicts with constitutional rights to privacy.

"If society feels compelled, in some circumstances, to test its citizens, then it is absolutely imperative that those records are kept appropriately confidential," the Vice-President said.

Like Reagan, Bush was booed when he outlined the Administration's proposals for mandatory testing of federal prisoners and immigrants seeking permanent U.S. residence and "routine testing" of applicants for marriage licenses or patients at clinics for sexually transmitted diseases.

The Vice-President also was heckled when he declared solemnly: "We need money for research and treatment. We need education. We need testing, but only accompanied by guarantees that everyone is treated fairly."

"We need a new president," a man in the audience shouted in response, drawing cheers and scattered applause.

As Bush finished, he turned to Windom and asked, "Who was that, some gay group out there?"

Homosexual groups have been critical of the Administration, maintaining Washington has not done enough to combat Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, a disease Bush described as "an equal opportunity merchant of death."

Independent
3rd June 1987

Testing for Aids in the Soviet Union

Dear Sir,
In the article "Russians may test foreigners for Aids" (23 April) your Moscow correspondent, Rupert Cornwell, states that "foreigners permanently resident in the Soviet Union could be facing yet another form of official surveillance — blood testing to ensure they have not got Aids." Such compulsory screening has already been introduced in some countries, for instance West Germany, and others, but not in the Soviet Union.

The legal, ethical and other issues relating to such screening can present the epidemiologists with considerable problems. Furthermore, even with considerable expenditure and given the most favourable circumstances, such a test would delay the spread of the human immune deficiency virus for a time but would not resolve the problem.

It is common knowledge that the communication of Aids depends on the behaviour of an individual, not on his birthplace or on whether he moves from one country to another.

Without assessing the epidemiologic situation it is impossible to resolve this problem. And such an assessment is based mainly on the results of serologic studies. That is why laboratory services have been set up in the USSR for anyone who wishes to attend on a purely voluntary and confidential basis.

Epidemiologic supervision and

control is an altogether different thing. This is compulsory for the main high-risk groups in the USSR — such as blood donors, pregnant women, drug addicts and prostitutes. The main task is to prevent communication of immune deficiency virus to uninfected people.

To rule out risk of communicating the immune deficiency virus during blood transfusion, a programme of laboratory screening of all donor blood will be fully in operation next year. Screening of high-risk groups should be completed this year.

Extensive work is to be done in hygiene education, within the framework of special epidemiologic research. A mere 32 Aids cases, most of them "imported", have been registered in the USSR so far, but there can be no ground for complacency.

Since neither a vaccine nor therapeutic means of combating Aids on a large scale yet exist, and as they are unlikely to be developed in the next few years, hygiene education, laboratory research and screening, and also international co-operation, are crucial to preventing infection.

Yours,
VICTOR ZHDANOV
Director

The Institute of Virology
USSR Academy of
Sciences
Moscow
12 June

10 Irish Independent, Wednesday, June 3, 1987

AIDS-test emigrants, Reagan told

By JEROME REILLY

AIDS tests should be made on those people leaving, rather than entering, the United States, Ireland's leading expert on the killer disease said yesterday.

Dr. Derek Friedman condemned President Reagan's proposal of AIDS-test immigrants. It seemed to be the work of politicians "who know little about the infection," he said.

Describing the move as "counter-productive", he pointed out that the antibody test, to which the American authorities were planning to subject all visa applicants, did not always pick up the presence of AIDS antibodies.

"It will not reveal AIDS antibodies in the first three months after they are contracted and in some cases the antibodies fail to register at the stage when people are about to develop full blown AIDS," said Dr. Friedman, genito-urinary physician at St. James's Hospital in Dublin.

His condemnation of the plan came as a top US expert estimated that one in 30 of all young and middle-aged men in the US is already infected with the AIDS virus.

Dr. James Curran, director of the AIDS programme, at the U.S. centre for Disease Control, said by 1991, AIDS would be second only to accidents as a cause of premature death among American men. Currently, the disease ranks eighth.

Meanwhile, a wide range of free literature and information leaflets was made available to the public yesterday as part of the Irish Planning Association's AIDS information week.

The association, in conjunction with the AIDS Action Alliance, is making the information available at its clinic at Cathal Brugha Street in Dublin until Friday.

A series of educational videos dealing with all aspects of the disease will run continuously between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. each day.

US researchers say an easily synthesised chemical known as Peptide T effectively prevents the AIDS virus attacking human cells and holds potential as both a treatment and vaccine.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved clinical testing of the naturally-occurring brain chemical.

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Irish Times
3rd June 1987

jected.

AIDS test is voted

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3/6/87

THE US Senate voted 96-0 yesterday to require AIDS tests for U.S. immigrants, the first congressional endorsement of mandatory screening for the fatal disease.

The Senate amendment will require President Reagan to order tests for all immigrants including three million illegal aliens expected to seek legal status under the immigration reform bill passed last week.

Irish Times
3rd June 1987



● Police officers, wearing rubber gloves, arrest a protester in Washington, who was taking part in a demonstration concerning AIDS. The group, including gay and lesbian rights activists was protesting outside the building where the Third International Conference on AIDS was taking place.

M & S dump AIDS-plot food

THREE Marks and Spencer stores in London were last week forced to destroy £25,000 worth of food because of an AIDS threat, Belfast High Court was told.

The AIDS threat was part of a plot to blackmail the supermarket giant of over a quarter of a million pounds.

Details of the plan were

revealed during a successful bail application by a Belfast man charged with attempted blackmail.

A Crown lawyer claimed that Kieran Joseph King (27), of Laburnum Green, Twinbrook, Belfast, was arrested last Tuesday outside Belfast City Hall, allegedly waiting to collect the ransom demand from an M. & S. employee.

A photocopy of a letter sent days earlier to the Marks and Spencer, London headquarters, demanding £350,000 in cash, was also found on him. Counsel claimed.

The letter also allegedly contained a threat to contaminate food stuffs in three other London stores with blood from an AIDS carrier

if the money was not paid. As a result, Marks were forced to dump over £25,000 worth of food which had been identified in the letter.

King was arrested after the company informed the RUC. Counsel further claimed that King later admitted his involvement in the plot to the police.

AIDS plot forced store to dump food

THREE Marks and Spencer stores in London were last week forced to destroy £25,000 worth of food because of an AIDS threat, a Belfast Court heard yesterday.

The AIDS threat was part of a plot to blackmail the supermarket chain for £350,000.

Details of the plan were revealed during a successful bail application by a 27-year-old Belfast man in the city's High Court, who is charged with attempted blackmail.

A Crown lawyer claimed that Kieran Joseph King, of Laburnum Green, Twinbrook, Belfast, was arrested last Tuesday outside Belfast City Hall allegedly waiting to collect the ransom demand from a Marks and Spencer employee.

Counsel further claimed that a photocopy of a letter was found on him which had been sent days

earlier to the Marks and Spencer Baker Street headquarters in London demanding £350,000 in cash.

The letter also allegedly contained a threat to contaminate foodstuffs in three other London stores with blood from an AIDS carrier if the money was not paid. As a result of the threat, said counsel, Marks and Spencer was forced to dump over £25,000 worth of food which had been identified in the letter.

King was arrested after the supermarket informed the RUC. Crown Counsel further claimed that King later made a full statement of admission to the police outlining his involvement in the plot. He was granted his own bail of £250, with two sureties of £1,000 each on condition he report twice weekly to the police until his trial.

Store dumped Aids threat food

Three Marks & Spencer stores in London were forced to destroy £25,000 worth of food because of a threat to contaminate it with Aids-infected blood, a court heard yesterday.

The threat was part of a plot to blackmail the stores

giant of £350,000, a crown lawyer told Belfast High Court.

He was speaking during a successful bail application by a 27-year-old Belfast man charged with attempted blackmail.

The lawyer, who was not named for security reasons, claimed that Kieran Joseph King, of Laburnum Green, Twinbrook,

Belfast, was arrested last Tuesday outside Belfast City Hall allegedly waiting to collect the ransom from a Marks & Spencer employee.

Counsel further claimed that a photocopy of a letter sent to Marks & Spencer's Baker Street headquarters in London demanding £350,000 in cash was found on the man.

The letter also allegedly contained a threat to contaminate food in three other London stores with blood from an Aids carrier if the money was not paid.

Marks & Spencer was forced to dump more than £25,000 worth of food identified in the letter, said Counsel.

King was arrested after the

supermarket giant informed the RUC. Counsel alleged that King made a full statement of admission to the police outlining his involvement in the plot.

King was granted his own bail of £250, with two sureties of £1,000 each on condition he report twice weekly to the police until his trial.

Isolate Aids mums demand

Women infected by the Aids virus should be isolated from other new mothers in hospital after they have had a baby, midwives urged yesterday.

The measure was necessary to protect the other mothers and babies in maternity units, said the Royal College of Midwives.

Its general secretary, Miss Ruth Ashton, said there was a very free atmosphere in some hospitals, and mothers often held each others' babies. Without segregation there could be a risk of infection, as the babies might still be bleeding from their umbilical cords.

Miss Ashton and Miss Greta Balfour, the college's professional officer, said extra care should be taken in labour wards when delivering mothers who were HIV positive.

The college also backed the idea of asking women in the early stages of pregnancy whether they thought they could be in one of the groups at risk from Aids. Those who were could then be offered an Aids test, and if it was positive, counselling and a possible termination.

So far, very few babies have been born with the Aids virus, but the midwives and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have been jointly discussing how to handle the Aids issue. Their report is due to be published next month.

Miss Ashton was speaking at a Press conference in London where the college published its ideas for the future of Britain's Maternity services. A report, called Towards a Healthy Nation, called for midwives to be given a greater role, and the same right as GPs and obstetricians to admit women to maternity units.