

link between the increase in tuberculosis in New York City from 1981 to 1984 and the AIDS epidemic. A report compiled by the Department of Health, and published by the New York Lung Association, states that black and Hispanic males from 25 to 44 years of age had shown the highest increase in incidence of tuberculosis and that they were demographically similar to the intravenous drug users at risk for AIDS. As the number of AIDS cases rose, there was a parallel increase in the number of AIDS-associated tuberculosis cases; the increase was most profound among black and Hispanic males. For the fourth consecutive year, the incidence of TB has increased in the city, with 1,651 cases reported last year, up 57 over the previous year, for a TB rate of 23.4 per 100,000 population, more than twice the national average. Currently, new TB cases in New York City are running over 20% above last year, indicating a phase shift toward an outright epidemic.

In Florida, where CDC studies show AIDS to be increasing more rapidly than anywhere else in the United States, Dr. Mark Whiteside of the Palm Beach Health Department says that he believes that environmental factors, such as squalid living conditions and mosquito- and rat-infested houses, are responsible for the outbreak of AIDS in Belle Glade, which has the highest incidence in the country, greater than one case per 1,000 people. He and Dr. Carolyn McLeod fear that the CDC will ignore that aspect of the outbreak in that community, where 19% of AIDS victims don't fall into the high-risk categories.

The implications of the Belle Glade cases were drawn in a recent *Life* magazine article, which pointed out that Florida farm workers migrate with crop harvests in the Eastern United States, and Belle Glade prostitutes are patronized by long-distance truckers. As conditions in more and more of the United States approach those of Belle Glade, visiting viruses will find receptive hosts.

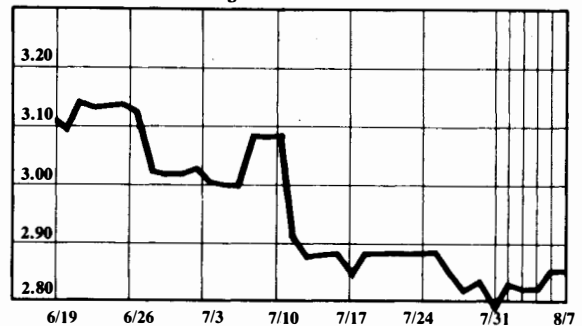
While the availability of a blood test for exposure to the virus should reduce the risk of transfusion-transmitted AIDS, the most common type in non-homosexuals and non-drug users, the long incubation period ensures that more cases will occur over the coming years. This, and the activation of disease in other already infected individuals, would continue to produce an increasing number of cases, which will constitute a growing reservoir of the disease, which could expand rapidly under the present conditions of collapsing health infrastructure in the United States and Western Europe.

The irony of this is that, even with present knowledge, the disease could be significantly contained by vigorous public health measures, as tuberculosis was, even before a definitive cure is found. Behind the present hysteria is a simple question of whether Western civilization is willing to take the action necessary to survive. AIDS is merely the biological correlate of the present economic and military threats to the survival of human civilization. All of these are susceptible to being dealt with by vigorous and decisive action. All of them will only grow rapidly worse if such action is not taken.

## Currency Rates

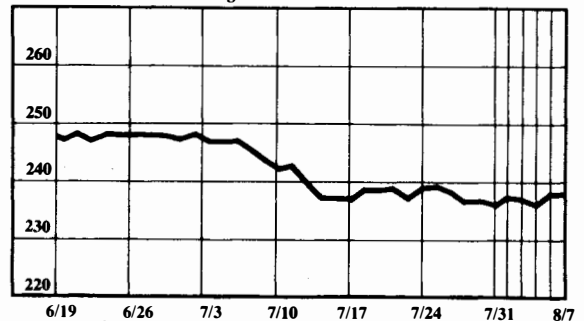
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



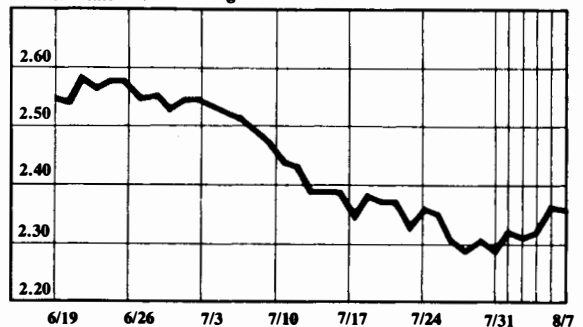
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

