

EIR Investigation

AIDS epidemic explodes: What is the Russian angle?

by Warren J. Hamerman

The 100% lethal disease Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has hit the Western world like a bombshell. If its spread is not arrested, the experts fear, its devastation will soon be worse than that of nuclear war. Has this fact escaped the notice of the Kremlin? What is the Soviet angle in the spread of AIDS? Consider the following singular developments:

- The coordinator for all AIDS task-force work at the Swiss-based World Health Organization (WHO) is none other than a Russian named **Sergei Litvinov**, the assistant secretary general of WHO for Communicable Diseases. By his own admission to a European journalist, Litvinov is designated to coordinate all AIDS work globally for the WHO in Geneva. In other words, all statements and policies on AIDS from the WHO are issued through a direct Soviet chain of command. Litvinov, who was trained as an epidemiologist at the Institute of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology in Moscow, is to this day still an official of the Soviet ministry of health.

According to Litvinov, the Soviets have four institutions actively engaged in AIDS research: 1) the Zhdanov Institute, 2) the Soviet Institute of Virology, 3) the Soviet Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, and 4) the Gomaleya Institute. From Geneva WHO headquarters, Litvinov is responsible for "coordinating the activities" of Dr. Assad of WHO, Prof. Frederick Deinhardt of West Germany, and the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. Under Litvinov's direct chain of command, the facilities for running the blood banks in Africa have been run from the Warsaw Pact. Pro-

fessor Deinhardt is now engaged in a special project to transfer a blood-serum bank to Africa from Czechoslovakia.

What is Litvinov's position on AIDS? He peddles the Soviet propaganda line. As he told a journalist: "There has been a panic and exaggeration emanating from the originating country where AIDS developed—namely, the United States of America."

Litvinov confirmed that the Soviets have been carrying out massive vaccination of their populations, while the U.S. programs have collapsed.

- **Rakhim M. Khaitov**, deputy director of the Soviet Immunology Institute in Moscow, journeyed to Atlanta, Georgia, in April, where he maintained, in an official paper, as well as in private discussions, that there were no cases of AIDS in the Soviet Union. He has insisted upon this point in statements to the Western media during recent weeks, and in interviews with Soviet publications he has maintained that "there is no reason to believe" that the AIDS virus can be transmitted through droplets in the air.

- Soviet Deputy Minister of Health **Pyotr Burgasov** was quoted in the Russian trade union newspaper *Trud* that the reason for the high number of cases in the West and the lack of cases in the Soviet Union was the sexual perversity and drug use in the degenerate West. The article, entitled "Portrait of a Sneaky Enemy," appeared on Oct. 6. Dr. Burgasov emphatically stated that there are "no cases of AIDS in the U.S.S.R."

- Yet, Poland has placed an *army general* at the head of a national task force on AIDS. **Gen. Jerzy Bonczak** has been

named the official AIDS plenipotentiary.

● We know that intensive laboratory research work on AIDS is occurring in the Soviet Union, including by Boris Labin, retro-virus expert at the Sukami Primate Center, and Professor Ivanovskii at the Institute for Virus Research.

An 'AIDS Curtain'?

While AIDS spreads like wildfire through the United States and its allies, the Soviet Union does not acknowledge any native-born AIDS victims. While West German scientists estimate the number of AIDS victims in the Federal Republic to be 1,400-1,500, with the epicenter being in West Berlin, East Germany claims to have zero cases of AIDS, according to East Berlin dermatology professor Niels Sönichsen.

How can there be such an "AIDS Curtain" sealing off East from West Berlin?

In the interview published below, British expert Dr. John Seale asserts that the Russians "would have to be morons" not to encourage the proliferation of AIDS, even though there is no evidence that they started the epidemic themselves. Perhaps the Soviets merely see an opportunity to foster the West's decline through what they perceive to be its "Achilles heel": the disease-spawning policy of economic austerity and the degenerate drug-rock-sex counterculture.

EIR's Biological Holocaust Task Force wants to know, given the outbreak of AIDS in the West, will General Secretary Gorbachov laugh his way to victory over the West without even firing a shot?

How could the Soviets "assist" the spread of AIDS in the West? There are four principal ways: 1) encourage and assist narcotics trafficking and supply; 2) encourage and assist the pornography industry; 3) encourage and assist prostitution; and 4) encourage and assist the dissemination of false and deceptive medical information on AIDS.

In light of this potential, the response to the issue by Lord Carrington, NATO's secretary general, to a question at a press conference at the State Department on Oct. 7, should raise eyebrows in the security services of allied nations. Asked by an *EIR* correspondent whether NATO was planning to follow the lead of the Pentagon and institute an AIDS screening test for new recruits in all the member countries, he exclaimed, "Of all the questions I thought might be asked me here, I never thought I would get this!" He said would be up to the individual nations in NATO to decide whether or not to institute such a test, "certainly not up to the secretary general of NATO!"

Blood supply: a national-security issue

There can be no more acute threat to a country's national security than the contamination of its blood supply with a deadly and highly contagious disease. Leading U.S. experts such as Dr. Myron Essex of the Harvard School of Public Health are now asserting that indeed America's blood supply,

despite the precautions recently introduced, is still contaminated with the AIDS virus. But despite the evidence at hand, government health officials and the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control are maintaining their cover-up.

At an extraordinary forum on AIDS on Oct. 3, sponsored by the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Myron Essex, chairman of the Department of Cancer Biology, warned that in the next 5-10 years, 4 to 5 million Americans could be infected with the AIDS virus. Dr. Essex declared: "We need to act fast if those numbers are not to be 40 million to 50 million Americans infected and 4 million to 5 million with AIDS outright." Dr. Essex further emphasized that, despite reassuring statements to the contrary from the Red Cross and other agencies, "unfortunately, our blood supply is not safe."

The Harvard forum was titled "Can AIDS Be Stopped?" and was opened with remarks by Harvey V. Fineberg, dean of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Essex asserted that it was "a gross exaggeration" to imply, as national public-health officials have done, that the "blood supply is now fully safe. I don't believe that. The blood supply is safer than it was a year ago, but it would be totally misleading to have people think the blood supply is safe. If I were considering the possibility of elective surgery, I would donate my own blood in advance." Dr. Essex added that, although tests might detect 95% of the contaminated blood samples, in the actual setting of a blood bank, "it's extremely unlikely that the test is picking up more than 90%, and my guess is it's 75-80%. I'd be shocked if it's any better than that."

Dr. Essex's statements directly contradicted the assurances of Dr. James Mason, the director of the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the acting assistant secretary of health of the United States. At the Harvard forum, Mason testified, consistent with the CDC posture of scrambling to cover up the real story on AIDS, that the disease is "not spreading" outside the so-called high-risk population. Mason also claimed that the nation's blood supply was "in the range of 99% safe." Dr. Mason acknowledged that federal officials already have the authority to apprehend and examine any person with a highly communicable disease, but he stated that a quarantine might discourage victims from seeking treatment and discourage their doctors from reporting cases.

Dr. Mason has been *actively* dismissing the fact that AIDS poses a direct national security threat to the United States.

Dr. Essex was the second Harvard medical expert in the span of a few days to warn of the real threat to our national security. On Sept. 26, Dr. William A. Haseltine, the chief of the Laboratory of Biochemical Pharmacology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at the Harvard Medical School, testified before a Senate subcommittee chaired by Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.). In his shocking testimony, Dr. Haseltine revealed that over 1 million Americans and more than 10 million Africans, in what he called the "AIDS Belt" of central