

# Evidence mounts of AIDS link to insects

by Warren J. Hamerman

From southern Florida to Italy to Africa, there is an increasing amount of evidence that in the economically collapsed areas of the tropics, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS, is transmitted "mechanically" by biting insects.

The latest developments present scientific facts that totally refute the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) lie that AIDS is essentially a venereal disease among so-called limited "high-risk" groups. What is the latest evidence of insect transmission?

1) Dr. Mark Whiteside and Dr. Carolyn MacLeod, who documented the pattern of No-Identifiable-Risk-Other-Than-Poverty AIDS cases in Belle Glade, Florida, have released data on "other Belle Glades." Whiteside and MacLeod report another cluster of AIDS cases in a poor black section of Delray Beach, a luxury resort 30 miles southeast of Belle Glade. They report 18 cases of AIDS among impoverished people with no other identifiable risk in a 30-square-block section of Delray Beach over the past four years. Whiteside indicates a similar pattern in two other nearby towns, South Bay and Pahokee. He suggests that the concentration of infection may be in car tires and other receptacles that hold stagnant water which breeds mosquitoes. In Delray Beach, 15 of the 18 victims have died.

2) In an interview to the Italian daily *La Stampa* on July 28, Prof. Giorgio Leigh, a dermatologist at the Novara Hospital, revealed that four people who died recently of AIDS in his hospital were neither homosexuals, nor drug addicts, nor hemophiliacs, but were infected by the many mosquitoes infesting this rice-producing area in northern Italy. According to Professor Leigh, the first European physician to publicly address the issue of insect-transmission of AIDS, mosquitoes can transmit not only hepatitis, but many other infectious diseases, including AIDS.

According to another chief doctor at the Ospedale Maggiore in Novara, Professor Isalberti, "This sickness did not explode just now. I remember that in the 1950s, we had to face inexplicable deaths, which were caused in the victims precisely by the disappearance of all immunological powers. Those cases were inexplicable then. Now, they would be considered AIDS cases."

3) A letter from two South African scientists published in the July 5, 1986 issue of *The Lancet* documents the recovery

of the AIDS virus from bedbugs one hour after they were fed on infected blood. Doctors S. F. Lyons, P. G. Jupp, and B. D. Schoub from the Department of Virology, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, wrote the following: "The survival of HIV [AIDS virus] for one hour in *C. lectularius* [species name for the common bedbug] following the feeding on a blood-virus mixture suggests that mechanical transmission of the virus between human beings could be carried out by bedbugs."

Mechanical transmission depends on an insect being infected while feeding on an infected host, and then moving to a susceptible host to complete its blood meal. The South African scientists draw the following conclusions: "There is strong evidence for mechanical transmission of hepatitis B virus by the common bedbug. . . . Similar transmission of HIV by bedbugs may be a cause of infection in African children. In Africa, 15-22% of AIDS cases have been in children, whereas in the U.S.A., this proportion is only 1-4%, suggesting that there are modes of transmission other than those recognized in the U.S.A."

4) Another letter in the March 6, 1986 *New England Journal of Medicine* reports finding antibodies to HTLV-III/LAV in 8 of 24 Venezuelan mine workers with malaria, who had no other risk factor for the disease.

## A doctor named Gaffe

To cover up the mounting evidence that there is a direct causal relationship between economic collapse—the "Environmental Factor Hypothesis"—and the widespread transmission of AIDS in the tropical belt, the CDC has responded by announcing that they will reclassify Haitians to the "High Risk AIDS group," since many of the victims in Delray and Belle Glade are poor Haitians.

In an article published by the *New York Times* on July 28, 1986, Dr. Harold Jaffe and Dr. Ken Castro, both of CDC, are quoted in a series of lies designed to "explain away" Belle Glade and Delray Beach. Their explicit quotes discount environmental factors and talk about the "correlation" between heterosexual

quoted international press wires of July 28, Jaffe and Castro were quoted as saying that the CDC was about to reclassify Haitians as a high risk group for AIDS.

Less than 24 hours after Jaffe and Castro were quoted in detail, a CDC spokesman tried to take back their indefensible position. On July 29, CDC's Don Herreth asserted from the CDC's Atlanta headquarters: "We have nothing to say about the report because the *New York Times* story is not correct. It is not true that Haitians will go back on the list [of high risk groups]."

Why did the CDC back down? Will Harold Jaffe change his name to Doctor Gaffe? Had someone even at CDC figured out that the logic of their argument was that they would have to declare the 30 million Africans infected with AIDS as Haitians!