

I'm sure of that," he said. The official estimated that hundreds of people received transfusions of imported blood before the ban was imposed.

By Dec. 19, a health ministry official confirmed that China is requiring that all foreigners coming to study or do research in China to take blood tests for AIDS. Wang Chao, an official of the ministry's Epidemic Prevention Department, said the requirement will affect about 2,200 foreigners annually. Students will not be forced to take the tests, Wang said. "We'll just advise them to do so and leave the authorities of their universities to decide what more to do." But all new students will be tested starting next year. "If they refuse, their study opportunities in China will be removed," she said.

Japan: untapped research potential

Japan is one of the few nations in the world which could lead an all-out assault on the AIDS epidemic. Japan made the critical political decision to end the post-war era at the turn of the year, by breaking the limit on its defense spending and launching a new degree of foreign-policy assertiveness. It has yet, however, to commit its economic or research capabilities to stopping AIDS. More funds for research and screening have been committed, but to date these are far too small, even to curtail AIDS within Japan itself. In December, the 1987 budget for AIDS prevention was increased to yen 155 million, the *Japan Times* reported Dec. 31. The government spent only yen 43 million against AIDS in 1986. The research budget for AIDS prevention will go up to yen 148 million in 1987, a 300% increase, and administrative costs will be up to yen 7 million, a 200% increase from last year.

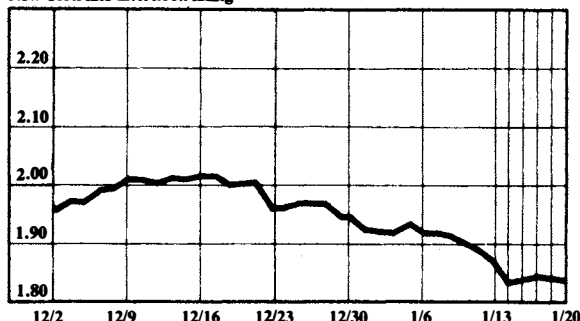
AIDS was first discovered in Japan in 1985. As of Jan. 18, 1986, there were 26 cases of AIDS, 17 of whom had died. But there are at least 11,000 carriers, according to Takashi Kitamura, director of the Department of Enteroviruses at the National Institute of Health, the *Japan Times* reported Nov. 21, 1986. Kitamura said he expected the AIDS cases to reach 1,500 in three years, but with one woman already having a full-blown case of AIDS, and an estimated 300,000 homosexuals in Japan, the potential for rapid spread is great.

The Government Council for Science and Technology decided Dec. 11 to launch urgent research on AIDS, to measure the quantity of the AIDS virus, and to evaluate the effects of anti-AIDS drugs and measure the disease's progress, the *Japan Times* reported Dec. 12. Then, five days later, the health and welfare ministry established the AIDS Countermeasure Experts Conference, led by Yuichi Shiokawa, professor emeritus at Juntendo University, which met in Tokyo to set up a surveillance committee to diagnose AIDS patients and monitor AIDS virus carriers, in cooperation with 2,000 hospitals and clinics in Japan. It also set up four research groups to develop medicinal treatment for AIDS and study transmission of the virus. The 19-member conference will hold a symposium on AIDS in February and will invite experts from other countries.

Currency Rates

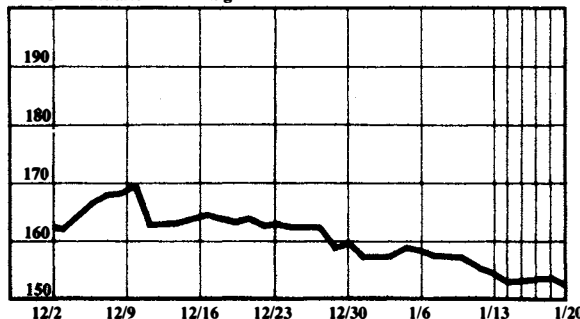
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



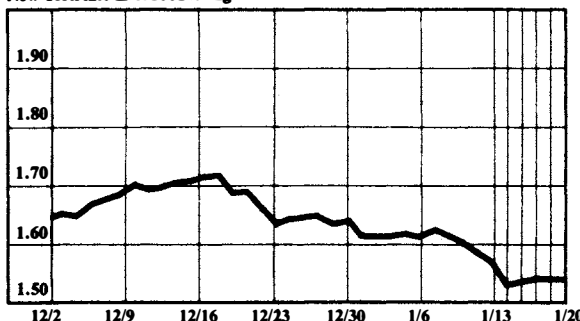
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

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The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

