

## Report from Rome by Galliano Maria Speri

### Nurse contracts AIDS from patient

*Turin case explodes as Italy's official anti-AIDS program is revealed a sham.*

In the years of "Il Duce" Mussolini, the Fascist regime decided to censor press coverage of violent crime, so as to lull the population with a sugar-coated image of reality. The blackout of all news of atrocious crimes naturally had no impact on crime rates, and soon became a laughingstock.

The Italian government is now trying to do the same thing with the AIDS virus, with the disastrous result of exposing the entire citizenry to incalculable risks. Yet, reality is breaking through the official cover-up.

The press has given wide coverage to the case of a nurse in Turin who contracted AIDS through casual contact with the blood of a patient who was carrying the virus. Blood splashed on the nurse's hands and face, and a month later, she tested seropositive for the AIDS virus. The official story is that the virus penetrated via a microscopic wound in her hands or possibly through her eye.

It must be noted that this mode of contagion is not supposed to be possible, according to the official line of the Italian Health Ministry.

The Turin case, besides sparking justified worry among professionals who work with AIDS patients, is also starting to worry the "AIDS mafia," the clique of professors which dictates the official line on the disease. One of these, Professor Moroni of Milan, was forced to grudgingly admit that given cases such as that of the Turin nurse, "some of the present convictions on the rare contagiousness of the infection should be reviewed."

Reality is demonstrating that *EIR*—the Italian edition of whose *Special Report*, "An Emergency War Plan to Fight AIDS," was circulated to every leading health authority in Italy—was right last year to sound the alarm on the potential for casual transmission as a threat to not just so-called risk groups, but to every citizen. Now, who will want to give first aid to a person injured in a highway accident who might be infected with AIDS?

Prof. Fernando Aiuti, the top authority on the National Commission on AIDS, stunned many when he was quoted in the press during the campaign for the June 14 national elections, appealing to Italians to vote for the Radical Party. The Radical Party is headed by Marco Pannella, the first Italian politician to openly campaign for "gay rights" over a decade ago. We wonder if it is compatible for a member of the commission against AIDS, to support a party which openly calls for full legalization of drugs, and which ran a prostitute, "Cicciolina," as its standard-bearer in the last elections!

In any case, Professor Aiuti's scientific competence is called into question by the evolution of the AIDS epidemic in a way that shows his own predictions to have been wide of the mark. Months ago, at a conference called by the Communist Party, Aiuti stated that there was no need for particular precautions in the handling of AIDS patients, adding that he himself did not even use gloves, since there was no danger of contagion whatsoever.

The facts speak otherwise. According to data put out on June 24 by the National Commission on AIDS, new cases in Italy have risen to 110, at a rate of almost four per day, in the last month. That took place only a very short time after the Commission had announced that AIDS cases were *decreasing* in the country.

There is also total silence on Professor Moroni's estimate that there are 200,000 seropositives in Italy. How many of them are practicing professions where they might infect others? For example, it is well known that the Communist Party forced the hiring of a large number of ex-drug addicts at San Giovanni Hospital in Rome. How many of these contracted AIDS during the period when they were using IV drugs? What measures have been taken to protect patients from contagion?

The famous "28 Wise Men" of the Health Ministry's National Commission on AIDS told the press in June that of the 150 billion liras approved to spend on AIDS, only 6 billion have been appropriated, to agencies which had already done research on AIDS—Sacco Hospital in Milan and Catholic Hospital in Rome. Not even the travel expenses of the "28 Wise Men" for their weekly trips to Rome have been paid. No money has been spent for hospital infrastructure, none for general screening. Research funds are a pittance.

With the government paralyzed, a PR firm, Pubblicità Progresso, has funded an advertising campaign against AIDS out of its own pockets. As in other countries, however, this private effort will merely help to spread AIDS, by lobbying for the "civil rights" of the virus. The firm's managers say, "Our advertisements will stress the social problems linked to AIDS, such as a possible ghettoization of the risk groups."