

West, but it is unnatural in our society.” At the International Conference on AIDS in London last February, Health Minister Yevgeni Chazov shocked journalists when he said that the Soviet people have “no need to panic,” implying strongly that they were *genetically superior* to their Western counterparts.

The same Chazov, writing for the Foreign Ministry publication *International Affairs*, stated, “Luckily, we are far better off than the capitalist states. . . . The virus has hit the population of North America the hardest (over 10,000 AIDS cases have been registered in New York alone), and that of Western Europe . . . an impressive number of victims, and their number is growing not in arithmetical, but in geometrical progression. . . . We have only one person ill with AIDS.”

In an Aug. 23, 1987 Soviet TV interview, the son of the president of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Vadim Valentinovich Pokrovsky, who runs the laboratory for prevention and treatment of AIDS, claimed that only four people, three foreigners and one Soviet, had contracted AIDS in the U.S.S.R., while some 100 foreign citizens had tested positive. But on Aug. 27, 1987, only four days later, *Trud* reported that 102 people in the U.S.S.R. have AIDS, 80 of whom are foreigners, i.e., 22 were Soviets.

An Aug. 27, 1987 Soviet TV program, *90 Minutes*, quoted Pokrovsky, “About 130 people are infected with the AIDS virus.” Now, official Soviet AIDS statistics for 1988 depicted an increase of 115% over only four months.

AIDS transmission is a crime

On March 24, 1987 the organ of the Moscow Communist Party Youth, *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, reported a growing problem of homosexuality in the Soviet Union, and demanded that homosexuality be treated as a crime. It said that the “increasing frequency” of divorce and single parenthood had “disturbed the process of sexual role identification.”

It denounced talk of repealing laws that defined homosexuality as “criminal behavior,” because that “would be the same as advertising for it.” Law enforcement agencies, it said, should be more diligent in patrolling areas where homosexuals are known to gather.

The Soviet Union has already taken unprecedented measures to stop the spread of the disease. Last autumn, the Supreme Soviet decreed that the transmission of the AIDS disease be made a “criminal offense,” retroactive to Aug. 25, 1987. The decree also provided for mandatory testing of everyone living in the U.S.S.R., and mandatory hospitalization of any citizen and expulsion of any foreigner refusing to be tested.

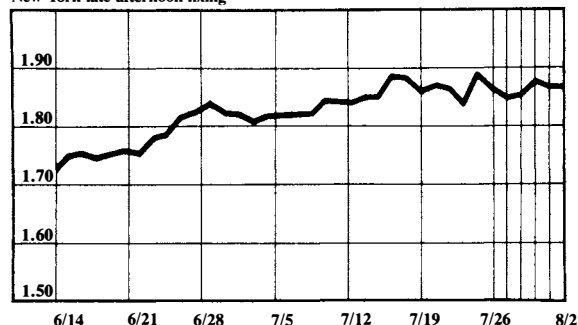
The next step could be quarantine, Soviet-style.

On June 10, Health Ministry official Mikhail Narkevich announced that 380 centers to test for AIDS had been established, and were performing more than 1.5 million tests a month. By the end of 1988, more than 1,000 such centers will have been established, he said.

Currency Rates

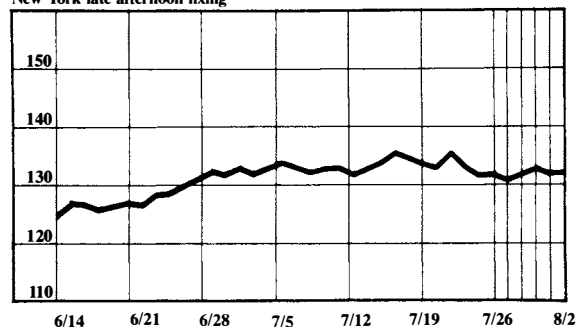
The dollar in deutschmarks

New York late afternoon fixing



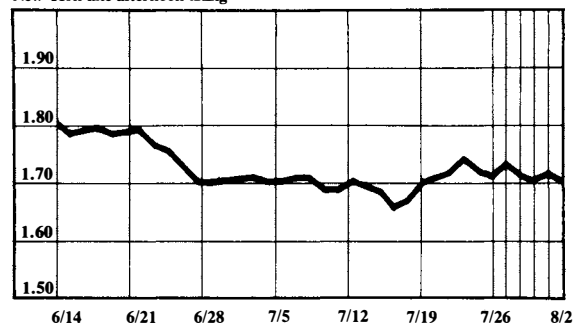
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

