

'AIDS shock' hits communist world, Moscow seeks emergency measures

by Mark Burdman

On Feb. 12, Radio Moscow's English-language news broadcast reported that Vladimir Pokrovsky, the senior Soviet Health Ministry official responsible for AIDS, had called for "emergency measures" to halt the spread of the disease, which he labeled the "plague of the century." The broadcast said that Soviet health officials are warning that by the year 2000, there will be more than 30,000 full-blown cases of AIDS, and approximately 1.5 million infected overall. This is significantly higher than previous Soviet public estimates.

The broadcast quoted Pokrovsky calling for a "global program" to fight AIDS, claiming that the Soviets "were the first to have called for a global program" of cooperation in fighting the disease.

This last statement is simply not true. *EIR* Founding Editor Lyndon LaRouche had published a document entitled, "Parameters for U.S.-Soviet talks on AIDS pandemic," which was released in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 11, 1986, the day the Reykjavik, Iceland U.S.-Soviet summit was opening. It was featured as the cover story in *EIR* (Vol. 13, No. 42), entitled, "How the superpowers could wage a common battle to stop AIDS."

The coverage of Pokrovsky's call on Radio Moscow may be a positive signal that the Soviets are prepared to place superpower and other forms of global cooperation on AIDS high on the international political agenda, in order to prevent catastrophe in the U.S.S.R.

Economic and biological holocaust

Whatever the Soviet government's exact intent, the Feb. 12 broadcast is the latest sign that a massive "AIDS shock" is hitting the entire communist world. The first important sign of this was the news from Romania in early February, that French medical doctors had confirmed that 36% of sick Romanian children in the 1-3 age bracket had tested positive for the HIV virus.

European press reports from Bucharest quoted French medical specialists warning that the Romania findings had "serious implications" for the Soviet Union, because of the tainted blood supplies and multiple use of needles, particularly in the treatment of young children.

But not only for the Soviet Union. Within days of the sensational news from Bucharest, the Chinese Communist authorities were publicly affirming that the spread of AIDS

there was much worse than previously admitted. After years of claiming that AIDS was solely a "Western" disease and only brought in by foreigners, the Chinese health authorities admitted that there were almost 150 cases in one southwest Chinese province alone. Chinese officials warned that AIDS was being spread by both contaminated blood and infected syringes of drug users, and stated that new measures would be taken to screen blood donors. But informed Hong Kong sources estimate that at least 1,000 people already have full-blown AIDS in China, and that the situation is "extremely alarming," particularly because of serious drug abuse.

One can surmise that the French medical reports from Romania caused particular anxiety in Beijing. Up to the moment of the overthrow of Ceausescu, China was the most enthusiastic supporter of the Ceausescu regime. Chinese security chief Qiao Shi was one of the highest-level luminaries to attend the last Romanian party congress in November 1989. Chinese-Romanian relations have been close for a long time, and Romania is the only East bloc country with which China maintained relations after relations were broken between China and the U.S.S.R.

If such a biological holocaust would occur in economically devastated Romania, then what must be happening in China? The cited Hong Kong sources themselves are probably underestimating the reality. Southern China is tropical, extremely crowded, and basic health infrastructure is virtually non line 95 existent.

The fundamental lesson of the "communist AIDS shock" goes beyond the debunking of the silly "AIDS is a Western disease" propaganda. The new admissions from the communist governments prove that in both the "communist" and "capitalist" sectors, what is causing the spread of AIDS is economic collapse, collapse of biological-medical infrastructure, and rampant malnutrition, all fueled by financial usury, official corruption and venality, moral decay, and the insane policies of the ruling elites.

This dramatically confirms what Lyndon LaRouche has been stating since the early 1970s, when he created a "Biological Holocaust Task Force": The spread of pandemic disease is a necessary consequence of the lowering of the relative potential population-density of nations by imposition of economic austerity policies and by denial of technological progress. The jailing and the slandering and harassment of

LaRouche and associates, are denying the world precisely the kind of conceptual and policy input it has needed to combat AIDS.

'The world must take urgent action'

In Romania, Ceausescu's lunatics *obliged* each mother capable of bearing children to have five children. Two of these were "donated" to the state. On the one side, this has caused horrible damage to many women in Romania. Often the women were grossly undernourished during their pregnancies. In many cases, because the state absolutely banned abortions, women resorted to horrible, primitive means to abort themselves.

At the same time, Ceausescu thoroughly looted his own people, in significant part to maintain food shipments to the Soviet Union and to pay the foreign debt. History may judge Ceausescu to have been the most faithful follower of the precepts of the International Monetary Fund.

As a result, adequate food was not available for many of the country's young children, and there has been rampant malnutrition and sickness among children ages 1-3. According to French medical specialists, they were given frequent injections of serums with vitamins, often via infected syringes, and/or micro-transfusions of plasma and globulin. Not only are these strange treatments from a medical standpoint in dealing with malnutrition, but blood is generally not even available in Romania for surgery, so why the compulsion to utilize scarce blood in the treatment of children?

The full story is still not known. One medical source of East bloc origin points to the possibility that blood was being *harvested* from the young children, as part of a so-called "Romanian revolutionary life-extension program." Elites from Romania and from the international jet-set have been wont to travel to Bucharest in past years, to visit a special "rejuvenation" center at which children's blood has reportedly been used, because of its ostensible powers in helping make the recipient of the blood transfusion young again.

Still another possibility, for which there is no proof, but which is not being excluded by knowledgeable individuals, is that Romania was *selling blood* of young children abroad. African countries frequently have resorted to selling blood to raise revenues. If there was a more sinister plan, by the Romanian Securitate police force or some satanic element, to spread AIDS through contaminated blood, no evidence has come to the fore.

Whatever the ultimate explanation may be, France's Dr. Jacques Lebas, president of the Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) organization, told a Bucharest press conference Feb. 5 that the Romanian AIDS situation was "an international emergency requiring a response on the level of famine relief. . . . The world must take urgent action to deal with this terrible disaster." He called the AIDS spread among very young children "worse than anything I have seen," and said that the conditions in the orphanages for AIDS-sick children

were even worse than for AIDS-sick children in Africa, since they sleep five to a cot in Romania, and don't have their mothers by their side, as they generally do in Africa.

In a dispatch from Bucharest Feb. 6, the French daily *Le Figaro* reported that the revelations made by Lebas meant that it was "urgently required to investigate the situation in other countries, notably the Soviet Union, where it might be comparable to the Romanian one."

U.S.S.R. at a crossroads

For the Soviets, the Pokrovsky statement is, hopefully, a sign of sanity in their approach to AIDS. If they don't find some way to put the AIDS spread under control, there could be incalculable social-political consequences. A source who has spent the past year in Moscow informs *EIR* that the collapse of the Soviet health system is already so thoroughgoing, that the authorities cannot even handle an epidemic of the "English flu" that has recently hit. Antibiotics are almost nonexistent, disposable syringes are rare, and so on.

Under such conditions, many people are turning to mystical faith-healers for succor. The most notorious of these are Anatoly Kashpirovsky and Alan Chumak, both of whom have weekly TV shows with audiences of tens of millions. In the past weeks, Chumak's broadcasts have been packaged for export to France, Britain, and Spain.

In Kashpirovsky's case, he had stated that would be working on a faith-healing "bio-energy" cure for AIDS, according to an Oct. 12, 1989 report on Radio Moscow. That day's *Daily Telegraph* of London reported that Kashpirovsky was becoming "a Soviet superstar, the talk of the land. . . . As faith-healer, hypnotist, national comforter, and healer of the sick, he has millions hanging on his words." Soon before that, the Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* had noted that "practically every city now has its popular extrasensory healer. . . . Glasnost, miserable medical care, and a certain naive belief in extrasensory powers have led to their remarkable success in the Soviet Union."

The cited Moscow source stresses that Kashpirovsky's influence has soared since October, and that certain powers that be may be utilizing the mystic in an exercise of social manipulation and control, which may be part of the creation of a full-fledged fascist ideology in the U.S.S.R., in the same sense that occultism and irrationalism were utilized in building the Nazi movement in Germany.

So, a rational solution to combatting AIDS is crucial for neutralizing the Kashpirovskys and Chumaks of the U.S.S.R.—and vice versa. It is therefore interesting, that on the same day as the Pokrovsky "global program for AIDS" statement was reported, the very next item on Radio Moscow was a report that Kashpirovsky had been arrested, charged with rape, and is now under investigation by Soviet state prosecutors. Maybe some elements among the Soviet *apparatchiki* are worried that the whole situation is getting dangerously out of control.