

outbreaks of vector-borne diseases. Dr. Gubler ended his discussion of the plague with a map showing the worldwide distribution of plague reservoirs around the world. The single largest reservoir for plague vectors, according to the map, is the western part of the United States.

The world needs DDT

Dr. Don Roberts from U.S. Department of Defense Division of Tropical Public Health presented a detailed and hard-hitting documentation of why we must reverse the ban on the use of DDT. While Dr. Roberts has been extensively researching the tracking and eradication of malaria using remote sensing, most of his presentation centered on a fierce attack on the banning of DDT. With detailed maps and graphs, he demonstrated, conclusively, how DDT and mosquito control programs had all but wiped out malaria through most of the world, and how this success turned to defeat in the 1970s, when malaria infections went from nearly zero to an exponential growth. He used country case studies, Belize and Colombia, to make his point.

Dr. Roberts also demolished the myth that insects are resistant to DDT, pointing out that in places where DDT is still used for household spraying (he cited the case of southern Mexico), it is still very effective in preventing malaria, even in the face of resistant mosquitoes.

Major U.S. health threat

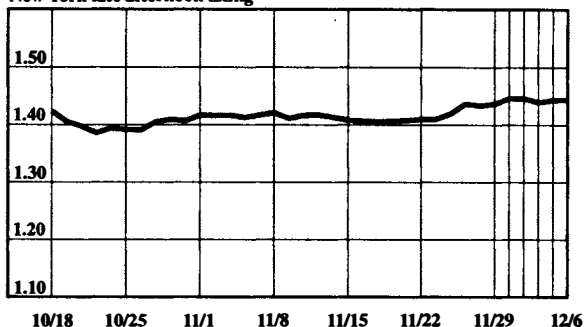
Newt Gingrich, the self-described Robespierre of the Conservative Revolution, is the most dangerous infectious disease threatening the U.S., according to one public health official participating at the conference. The official told *EIR* point-blank that the most serious infectious disease threat now facing the United States "is the Republican Congress." He clarified that Newt Gingrich and his budget-cutting policies were going to decimate public health in the United States. According to this individual, who used to work for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, the CDC and the U.S. infectious disease surveillance network has been leveled by budget cuts over the past several years. After detailing the collapse of critical programs, he outlined how Gingrich's policies were going to wreck what was left. He added that that public health experts "are very scared" and that Americans had no idea of the severity of the threat they are facing.

In stark contrast to Gingrich's hatred for the poor and the downtrodden, many of the conference speakers discussed the uplifting story of Dr. Cyril Ponnampere, the Sri Lankan scientist who founded the Third World Foundation as a means to transmit advanced technologies to improve the health and standard of living of people in Third World nations. Dr. Ponnampere taught and researched at the University of Maryland for the past 20 years and came up with the idea for this conference before his untimely death last December.

Currency Rates

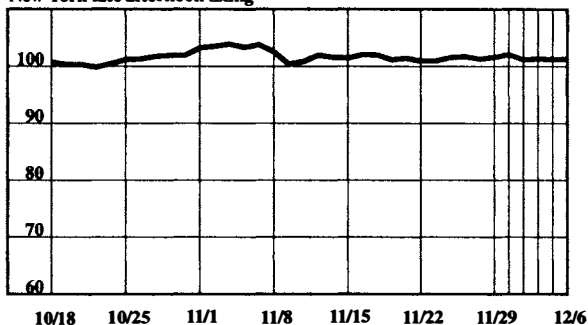
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



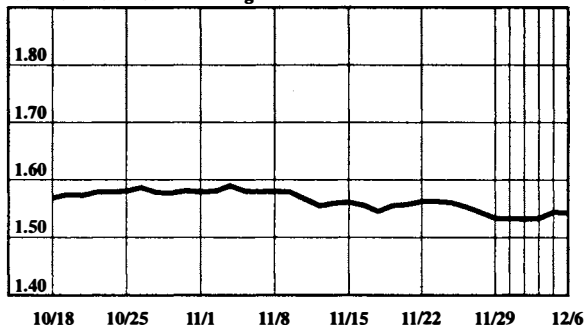
The dollar in yen

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

