

International Intelligence

AIDS Spreading like Wildfire, Says UNAIDS

That the AIDS virus is “spreading like wildfire,” was one of a number of alarming warnings from UNAIDS Director Dr. Peter Piot, in connection with World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. Speaking in Washington, Dr. Piot said that the world is “perilously close to a tipping point” in which the virus will “overwhelm the wider world” (that is, the world outside sub-Saharan Africa, which is already overwhelmed with 35 million cases and 2 million deaths yearly from AIDS).

“No country on Earth will escape the impact and the economic cost,” which Dr. Piot estimated to be about \$15 billion per year.

UNAIDS is warning, in particular, about India, China, and Russia, but the agency also stressed that the rate of new HIV infection is rising again in the United States. Notably, UNAIDS is now, in effect, recommending universal (but voluntary) testing for AIDS, in which all people in strongly affected countries are urged to get tested, through AIDS outreach and anti-retroviral distribution programs.

In its a new report, the agency forecasts a chilling total of 160 million “additional deaths from effects of AIDS” between now and 2025. This represents an added mortality in the world of a huge 8% to 9%. Now, about 55 million people die per year from all causes, and of those, about 3 million die from AIDS. The AIDS deaths are projected to rise to about 8 million per year: 100 million “additional deaths” are forecast in Africa; 19 million in China; and 25 million in India. Anti-retroviral treatment is still too expensive for the vast majority of people in these countries, without government programs to finance it.

Australia at ASEAN Meet, Refuses To Sign Treaty

Australia attended its first ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) meeting in November, but is refusing to give up its

Cheney-like “preemptive war” policy. Historically, Malaysia’s former Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, had led the opposition to Australia’s attendance at the Now that Mahathir is out of office, the ASEAN leaders agreed to invite Australia and New Zealand for this year’s event. But the invitation is not permanent, and it is not clear if the two countries will be invited back. Indonesia, in particular, is not keen on making it permanent.

It is thus of significance that ASEAN’s request for Australia to sign the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, which Russia and Korea signed in November and which India and Pakistan have also signed, has been rejected by Prime Minister John Howard, who doesn’t want to offend his superiors in Washington. ASEAN leaders well remember that only months ago, Howard talked about Australia’s right to invade Indonesia or the Philippines preemptively, if he perceived Australia to be at risk.

Indonesia’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Marty Natalegawa said that the best way for Australia to “dispel fears of its intentions” was to sign the treaty. Howard, however, is maintaining his Cheney imitation.

ASEAN and China Sign Trade Agreement

The China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA), signed at the ASEAN Summit meeting in Laos in November, will reduce tariffs among the nearly 2 billion people of China and the 10 nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to zero by 2010. There will be a three-person panel to resolve trade disputes among the 11 nations.

The deal includes an action plan which goes far beyond “free trade” per se: military training, early-warning for diseases, highway systems (including a Bangkok to Kunming road by 2007), a rail link from Kunming to Yangon (the date to be determined), and the completion of the “Asian Railroad” from Kunming to Singapore.

Agreements with Japan, South Korea, and India to begin immediate discussions on

trade agreements were also signed at the Vientiane, Laos meeting.

The Netherlands Now ‘Mercy-Killing’ Babies

Babies are being put to death in Dutch hospitals (euthanized), according to an Associated Press wire story from Amsterdam Dec. 1. So the Netherlands, which in the 1980s pioneered Nazi-style euthanasia against the elderly, the chronically ill, the mentally ill, the retarded, and finally, those who were simply depressed—has now taken a further step into bestiality.

The Groningen Academic Hospital recently proposed guidelines for “mercy killings” of babies said to be terminally ill—and then revealed that it had already begun carrying out such murders, using lethal doses of sedatives. Groningen carried out four such medical murders last year.

The hospital’s declaration came in the middle of growing discussion in Holland over whether to legalize euthanasia for people who cannot decide for themselves: The Dutch doctors’ association last Summer urged the Health Ministry to create an independent board to review euthanasia cases for those with “no free will.” As a matter of practice, of course, Dutch hospitals have been killing such people for years, to the point that numerous reports have reached *EIR* concerning the state of terror in which the Dutch elderly live.

Now, the so-called Groningen Protocol would enable doctors to do openly what they now do semi-secretly: Murder newborns and infants deemed to be in pain from incurable disease or deformities.

Roman Catholic organizations and the Vatican reacted with outrage. One Catholic critic wrote, “The slippery slope in the Netherlands has descended already into a vertical cliff.”

The Club of Life and the Schiller Institute have organized against the euthanasia lobby since the 1980s, including publication of a Special Report in 1988, “How To Stop the Resurgence of Nazi Euthanasia Today.”