

# German MDs demand AIDS policy shift

by Dr. Wolfgang Lillge

Leading medical spokesmen in West Germany outside the official "medical hierarchy" are calling for mass screening measures to stop the spread of AIDS, in contrast to the silly campaign of Health Minister Rita Süßmuth for condoms and voluntary education.

Prof. Eike von Hippel, in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* of April 15, issued a passionate call for a mass screening program for AIDS "as the only effective means" to identify almost all AIDS carriers. "Every day lost will mean the deaths of more than 100 people," stated Von Hippel, a law professor at the Hamburg-based Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Law. He reviewed all the relevant legal and social arguments that mandate an immediate policy change of the federal government and its health institutions:

- 1) Information about AIDS infection risks only, is ineffective and cannot be controlled.
- 2) Mandatory reporting is "discriminatory" only for those who deliberately act to spread the disease to others.
- 3) Mass screening provides urgent data concerning the real spread of the disease in different parts of society and enables health authorities to map out better preventive strategies.
- 4) Knowledge about one's own state as a virus carrier is the precondition for responsible behavior by the individual.
- 5) Repeated screening tests will uncover those who act irresponsibly and who consequently will be subjected to criminal proceedings.
- 6) The basic right to live as guaranteed in the constitution ranks higher than the individual rights of the infected or ill.
- 7) Containing the disease is in the interest of the infected citizens themselves, because adequate care can only be provided if the number of cases does not grow astronomically.

## Essen doctors evoke Nuremberg

Even more significant is another public memorandum issued by a group of eight clinic directors at the University Clinic of Essen with the title "AIDS—Look On, or Act?" This text may very well become the manifesto of all those who want to base public health policy on traditional measures of epidemiology. The Essen memorandum is tantamount to

a declaration of war against Health Minister Süßmuth and her advisers like Professor Friedrich Deinhardt of Munich who, in a recent discussion (see *EIR*, April 3, p. 10), was forced to admit open scientific fraud on key issues in AIDS research. The statement of the Essen doctors begins:

"To mention here only three of several insights of epidemiology: ● Combatting an epidemic is the more effective, the earlier and the more intensive it is conducted; ● the sources of infection must be identified with as few exceptions as possible, in order to ● interrupt the chain of infections by appropriate means.

"While with AIDS we have had the opportunity to study the epidemic's unfolding in the United States, and especially also the inefficacy of measures taken there, with a three-year time lag, in the Federal Republic of Germany not one of the above-mentioned rules has been followed."

Not only economic reasoning clearly demands a program of mass testing as favored by the Essen group, but moral considerations oblige us to act to safeguard as many people as possible from the tragedy of AIDS infection. The statement ends: "AIDS concerns us all, our children and our grandchildren. Later, nobody should claim, that we older physicians have kept silent although we should have known better."

This specific formulation, from the Nuremberg code against the Nazi war criminals, coming from German doctors, is the most dramatic argument for immediate action against the AIDS pandemic because, in effect, those who block public health measures and an Apollo-style research project are mass murderers who pale in comparison to what the Nazis did.

One of the most prominent German physicians, Prof. Nepomuk Zöllner, director of the Munich University Polyclinic and chairman of the prestigious German Society of Internal Medicine, wrote a letter to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, on March 23. He not only denounced Süßmuth's condom campaign as "a farce," but reminded politicians that "they can only make correct decisions [concerning AIDS] when they listen to the advice of physicians at the [battle]front, rather than to theoreticians and self-proclaimed experts."

These statements of sanity in the midst of total confusion produced by officially sanctioned lies, half-lies and cover-ups about AIDS contrast sharply with a mass rally held in Munich April 4, which brought together the same variety of people who torpedoed California's Proposition 64 back in November 1986. A rare coalition of homosexual groups, leftist sects, jet-set degenerates, along with the Green Party, terrorist sympathizers, social democrats, and communists numbering some 10,000 people, gathered to protest against the Bavarian state government's plans to implement measures against the most obvious sources of AIDS contagion, and even shouted death threats against Peter Gauweiler, the Interior Ministry official who crafted the measures.