

Report from Rome by Liliana Celani

Compromise on AIDS policy

It is coming down to a fight pitting the Schiller Institute and EIR against the Italian Communist Party's "gay" lobby.

In Italy, as elsewhere, panic is rapidly spreading over AIDS, which has already caused 300 deaths, many of the victims being babies born to drug addicts. The special commission to fight AIDS formed on Jan. 13 by Italian Health Minister Donat Cattin was not able to take the urgent measures which had been demanded by the Schiller Institute in Italy, including screening and quarantine. On Jan. 24, the special commission, chaired by Professor Aiuti, known for his Malthusian theories in favor of population reduction, came out with the first official "rules," which are the result of a compromise among the 28 "experts" forming it.

The government document on AIDS confirms that "AIDS is an infectious, communicable disease, with a very high mortality rate," that "the disease can be transmitted not only by patients, but also by asymptomatic carriers," and that other forms of transmission besides blood and sperm are "possible but not demonstrated," such as mosquitos, saliva, aerosols, etc. Nevertheless, it does not call for universal screening, or quarantine, limiting itself to "advice" such as "the population should not use drugs, and should avoid casual sexual contacts, or use condoms." These are not dissimilar from the "safe sex" rules adopted in other countries, and which will exterminate the world population within 40 years if nothing more is done. More precise rules are discussed in Italy only for service workers whose jobs "imply the use of

needles and cutting instruments, which can provoke the emission of blood, such as barbers, dentists," etc., but such precise rules are limited to disinfecting or changing the instruments each time.

Not mentioned in the government report, but one of the hottest issues inside the commission itself, is the compulsory reporting of AIDS cases to the operational center inside the Health Ministry. The government issued an executive order classifying AIDS as an "infectious disease," meaning "compulsory reporting," last November, a decree which drew hysteria from ARCI-GAY, the Communist Party homosexual organization, and the "organized prostitutes," a kind of prostitutes' union also established by the Italian Communist Party.

Instead of sticking to compulsory reporting by name, as was decreed, Aiuti's special commission on AIDS is discussing how to change the law on infectious diseases in order to avoid compiling a name card for each patient and seropositive individual, so as not to offend the "privacy" of homosexuals and prostitutes. Even on blood transfusion, one of the "experts" forming the commission, who should be sued for attempted murder, told *EIR* that it would be wrong not to accept donated blood, because it is an "act of generosity," and that tests should be done after the blood is donated. Some justify such criminal proposals by saying that screening and tests would put "patients in a ghetto," while others at least do not lie, and admit that "tests

would be necessary, but they cannot be done because of the budget cuts" imposed on the health budget by the International Monetary Fund.

It is not surprising that the government document on AIDS has only increased the fear and mistrust of Italians, who started calling the offices of the Schiller Institute and *EIR* in Rome, identified by the daily *Giornale d'Italia* as "the most advanced in the fight against AIDS," to find out what should really be done. Others started calling radio and TV stations airing broadcasts on AIDS to ask why nobody is speaking about the "economic reasons behind AIDS," such as starvation and lack of hygienic measures in Africa, and also in southern Italy and other poor areas of Italy.

Those who are truly eager to launch an emergency plan to stop AIDS in Italy will attend a Feb. 12 conference on "Italy's role in the fight against AIDS" organized by the Schiller Institute in cooperation with the Fusion Energy Foundation and *EIR*. *Giornale d'Italia* reported on Jan. 15, "Already in 1973, thanks to the initiative of the American politician Lyndon LaRouche, now a candidate for the White House, an *EIR* task force on biological holocaust was formed by Prof. Warren J. Hamerman, and with the cooperation of famous pathologists, biologists, and other researchers, published, also in Italian, the *Special Report* on AIDS distributed by *EIR*." In preparation for the international conference in Rome, conferences on the *EIR Special Report* were held in Milan, Rome, Trieste, Salerno, and Avola (Sicily). The attendance of hundreds of doctors, biologists, and citizens showed that very few people believe Professor Aiuti's lies, while the majority support the emergency measures and the campaign for tests and quarantine launched by the Schiller Institute.