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## 'Safer Sex' Campaign Exposed As Fraud

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# How Germany's Dr. Deinhardt invents his 'facts' about AIDS

by Jonathan Tennenbaum

Dr. Friedrich Deinhardt, president of the German Society for the Prevention of Viral Disease, director of the prestigious Max von Pettenkofer Institute in Munich, and leading advisor to the German government on AIDS, is a very peculiar sort of scientist. With almost medieval fanaticism, he insists that only "scientifically proven, hard facts" can be the basis for decisions on AIDS. He rejects all other scientific judgments and hypotheses as "irrelevant" and "mere dreaming."

But, closer examination reveals that the chief "scientifically proven facts" cited by Deinhardt in defense of the government's "safe sex" campaign, are pure inventions! Deinhardt admitted this himself in a recent discussion with the author and Dr. John Seale of the Royal Society of Medicine in London. No doubt, Deinhardt wishes to follow in the footsteps of the notorious Francis Bacon, famous for his detailed accounts of the results of experiments which had never been performed.

Unfortunately, if Deinhardt continues unchallenged, his "Baconian" disinformation campaign will cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of persons in West Germany alone who are going to be infected in the coming months as a result of "safe sex" propaganda. This propaganda aims to convince the population that as long as condoms are used, intimate contact with AIDS-infected persons is perfectly safe.

### Caught in the act

During a recent discussion in Deinhardt's Munich office, in the presence of the author and the journalist Jutta Dinkermann, the London doctor John Seale questioned Friedrich Deinhardt on his support for the "safe sex" campaign. Deinhardt, supposedly the leading German authority on AIDS, is caught literally *inventing* a figure of the number of virus particles (the "titer") contained in semen of AIDS carriers. We carry a detailed account of the interchange, since it reveals how very little Dr. Deinhardt really cares about the scientific facts concerning AIDS.

**Dr. Seale:** How do you think using a condom stops the virus getting across?

**Dr. Deinhardt:** [With a slight laugh] If the virus is in the semen. . .

**Seale:** What is the titer [amount of virus] in the semen?

**Deinhardt:** It can be, uh, as far as the studies go,  $10^3$ ,  $10^2$ ,  $10^1$ . . . .

**Seale:** Have you got a record of the studies? I would be most interested to read them.

**Deinhardt:** That is a study which Bob Gallo did. It was reported in Paris.

**Seale:** Oh, you mean the one with Zagury?

**Deinhardt:** Yes. But even if it would be  $10^5$  or  $10^6$ , it makes not much difference.

**Seale:** But, in fact, they did not find *any* virus, except in the lymphocytes, which they had to culture first of all.

**Deinhardt:** There haven't been more studies? At least, there might have been. . . .

**Mrs. Deinhardt:** [Also present] Gallo talked about this again two weeks ago. He didn't talk about titers, but he talked about very high levels.

**Seale:** Bob Gallo said in the international meeting in Paris, at the plenary session, "We think that the semen is a particularly rich source of virus." Those were his actual words. He also stated in an article in *Nature* that "high titers of cell-free infectious virions can be obtained from AIDS patients' semen," and gives references which say that they did not even do a titration! Does that not worry you somewhat?

**Mrs. Deinhardt:** [Very loud] How can *he* [Dr. Deinhardt] answer for Gallo?

**Seale:** Dr. Deinhardt was at the meeting as well.

**Deinhardt:** You should write to Bob Gallo and ask him for information, to which study he refers.

**Seale:** I have done so. So, you are quite happy that there *are*

high titers, you said  $10^4$ ,  $10^5$ . . . .

**Deinhardt:** No, no, no. I said it *probably* would be  $10^3$ , by analogy with what we see in the serum, what I remember from the studies which were published, although they did not necessarily titrate it, but from the amount of virus they could isolate, the ease with which they could isolate it, and from the amount of virus which was obviously there by electron microscopy. I could not say there could not be *more* [virus in the semen]. I would say probably at least  $10^3$ .

**Seale:** [Handing Deinhardt a copy of articles from *Science* magazine in 1984] Here are electron micrographs. . . .

**Deinhardt:** That's the paper from Gallo.

**Seale:** The trouble is, these pictures are of virus in the saliva!

**Tennenbaum:** There have been no electron micrographs published of AIDS virus in the semen.

**Deinhardt:** I have seen some, not here but . . . I have seen in *Nature* somewhere. [Very irritated] What is the *point*?

**Seale:** The *facts*, the *facts*, the scientific facts. We have had three papers published on virus in saliva and semen. . . .

And of these three papers, in one they isolated the virus from white cells in the semen from one person after culturing them in T-cell growth factor and Interleukin 2. The other one was of two patients, and they found the virus after culturing the lymphocytes in growth factor for six to seven days. In one paper, they specifically said that they could find no cell-free infectious virions. But, in the paper on saliva that was published, they grew the virus directly from saliva after passing it through a filter. . . .

**Deinhardt:** But, I don't see. . . .

**Seale:** The technical details are quite important. . . .

**Deinhardt:** [Raising his voice] But, Dr. Seale, you want to *get* to something. Why aren't you telling me what you want to *get* to? There is no use talking about technical details. I won't be examined. . . .

**Seale:** What I want to know is, *why* is it that you put so much faith in the condom, when nobody has shown that there is more virus in semen or in the vaginal fluid than there is in the saliva? The studies that have been published from the laboratory, show that there is as much or probably more in saliva. How much good is that going to do, if one is wearing a condom in normal sexual intercourse? Nobody has proved, that when the virus is transmitted from husband to wife that the virus went through the semen rather than saliva.

**Deinhardt:** Because there are a number of studies. I cannot, uh, I am not *willing* to be examined. It is an accepted fact.

**Seale:** *Why* is it an accepted fact?

The recent discussion in Munich was not the first time Deinhardt had been confronted on the lack of scientific evidence

on AIDS transmission by semen. Dr. Seale pointed to exactly the same problem in discussions with Deinhardt and others at an April 1985 conference of the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. At that time, Deinhardt appeared to be confused on the issue, mistaking an electron micrograph of the AIDS virus in *saliva* for an (apparently nonexistent) picture of virus in the semen. In the intervening nearly *two-year* period, Deinhardt had either not bothered to clarify this crucial matter, or decided to simply *invent* facts as he did in the recent discussion in Munich.

In another part of the Munich discussion, Deinhardt revealed that he is also quite prepared to simply *dismiss* facts which do not fit in with his adopted AIDS policy:

**Seale:** What do you feel about the study reported in the *Lancet*, from Duesseldorf, about the six-year-old boy who was infected from a three year-old brother who had a blood transfusion? Do you think the study was wrong? Do you think, in fact, it was sexually transmitted?

**Deinhardt:** No. I think it is an individual report. There are some things not entirely clear and it is the only report. . . .

**Seale:** Just to refresh our memories: The little boy had had a blood transfusion in the first few days of his life; he developed AIDS at the age of 3. Checked back—four donors, one was



U.S. Surgeon General C. Edward Koop, another leading advocate, along with Germany's Dr. Deinhardt, of the unscientific "safe sex" campaign.

found to be infected. The mother was not infected, the father was not infected, the brother *was* infected having had no blood transfusion. As a virologist, you must have *some* concept of how the virus got across. It certainly did not come across in the semen.

**Deinhardt:** The boy had a mark on his arm, though there was no blood.

**Seale:** So, do you just say it is a mystery? Unexplainable?

**Deinhardt:** The problem is, I could not talk to the parents or examine the case. I would have had a more *detailed* account of the case than was published in the *Lancet*.

**Tennenbaum:** Have there been further studies? The boy is in Duesseldorf.

**Deinhardt:** The doctor was in charge of it, not me. I cannot make any statement when I cannot judge.

**Seale:** So on the whole, you would prefer not to refer to that case.

**Deinhardt:** I think it is a case which probably can be dismissed.

### **A history of disinformation**

The discussion reported above is hardly the first time that Dr. Deinhardt has been caught spreading dangerous disinformation on AIDS.

In January of 1985, the *German Journal of Doctors (Deutsche Aerzteblatt)* published a policy statement on AIDS issued by the German Association for Combatting Virus Diseases, of which Deinhardt is the president. The official statement, entitled, "AIDS—What Remains After a Critical Examination of the Evidence?" and co-signed by Deinhardt himself, states in part: "On the basis of the epidemiology to date and the transmission routes of HTLV-III, a rapid spread of infection by this virus into the general population is not to be expected, and there is no basis for the idea that AIDS represents a new general epidemic acutely threatening the population." The document concludes with the words: "In summary, there is no basis for the supposition of AIDS spread into the general population of the Federal Republic of Germany."

This shameless coverup of the AIDS threat was exposed, soon after its publication, in a letter to the medical journal *Klinische Wochenschrift* by virologist Gerhard Hunsmann and Nobel Prize-winning biochemist Manfred Eigen. Characterizing Deinhardt's play-down of AIDS as "dangerous," the Göttingen University scientists presented a five-point rebuttal, showing that indeed, there was every reason to fear a spread of AIDS into the general population. They cited the dynamic of the epidemic in the United States, how it spread successively from the group of homosexuals, to blood transfusion recipients, and then into "non-risk" populations. They underlined the great similarity between the AIDS virus and

the deadly visna-maedi virus of sheep, and hence the likelihood of a very long incubation period for AIDS. Finally, they pointed out that "the immunological investigation of stored blood transfusion units already indicates an advanced stage of spread of LAV/HTLV-III. In Germany, 1-2 per thousand of stored blood units contain antibody and, most likely, also infectious virus." Hunsmann and Eigen conclude: "The facts reported here speak for themselves." Apparently, Deinhardt simply chose to ignore these facts.

Nearly a year later, in November 1985, the German health ministry of Rita Süßmuth sent out an "information folder" to every household in Germany, which was chiefly designed to counteract the anti-AIDS campaign of the Schiller Institute and the Patriots for Germany. The official brochure reassured the population that catching the AIDS virus was not so dangerous, after all: "Infection does not necessarily lead to getting the AIDS disease. Only 5-15%, at most 20% of infected persons get AIDS." This categorical statement was cooked up out of thin air, without any scientific basis. On the contrary, scientific evidence already existed at the time (and massively confirmed since then) indicates that a very high proportion—perhaps 100%—of infected persons eventually come down with the disease. Again, the leading advisor to the health ministry, Dr. Friedrich Deinhardt, voiced no objection to the cited and other lying statements in the ministry's "information" campaign.

### **Mass murder?**

How many people are going to die as a result of the continuing campaign of disinformation promoted by Friedrich Deinhardt and other so-called "authorities"? With the partial exception of Bavaria, the health authorities of Germany (and many other countries) have mounted a massive new "information campaign" whose basic message is that sex and other intimate contact with AIDS-infected persons is quite safe, as long as condoms are used; there is no need to know whether your partner is infected or not! Some of this official literature is so explicitly pornographic, that it is becoming the object of litigation by angry parents.

Meanwhile, scientific evidence continues to mount on the transmission of AIDS virus in saliva, by superficial skin injury, insect bites, and aerosols (as in mouth-to-mouth resuscitation). Even if we assume that condoms would be 50% effective in preventing new infection by the AIDS virus, failure to enact mass testing and other urgent public health measures will mean that more than 100,000 persons will be newly infected over the coming year in West Germany alone. If the policies recommended by Dr. Friedrich Deinhardt continue to be tolerated, then the chain reaction of infection will reach millions in Germany, tens of millions in Europe, hundreds of millions worldwide.

If humanity survives this holocaust, how will a future Nuremberg Tribunal judge the behavior of "experts" like Dr. Friedrich Deinhardt?