

International Intelligence

Top Israeli doctor blasts euthanasia policy

The head of the Israeli Medical Association, Ram Ishai, has attacked the practice of euthanasia, especially in the case of Holland, and warns that euthanasia may increasingly be justified "to avoid economic burdens on society."

In Holland, 11 of the 90 AIDS sufferers who have died, were victims of "mercy-killing."

In an op-ed in the June 17 *Jerusalem Post*, Ishai reports on an April 1987 lecture in Amsterdam by Dr. Sven Danner, head of the AIDS Unit at Amsterdam's Academic Medical Center. Danner presented statistics which indicated that "one in eight deaths from [AIDS] was due to euthanasia." In many cases, these were patients who, without question, "could have lived months before dying."

Writes Ishai: "Most religions, and especially the Jewish religion, relate to every killing *per se*, regardless of whether it concerns a young, elderly, healthy or sick, or even a dying person. In the Mishna: 'One who is in a dying condition is regarded as a living person in all respects.' This is also the opinion of the Babylonian Talmud, and also the code of Maimonides, which prohibits any action that might hasten death. . . .

"Therefore, one can say, along with Britain's Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits, that: 'Any form of active euthanasia is strictly prohibited and condemned as plain murder,' and passive euthanasia as well, when it is performed on a person who may live further weeks or months, as was the case with the Dutch AIDS patients.

"Moreover, in present-day conditions, euthanasia could be performed to avoid economic burdens on society. If there is not sufficient provision of nursing care, we will witness an increase in euthanasia cases in the near future. It is a slippery slope and we can easily pass from the case of a patient dying from cancer in unbearable suffering to cases of the very aged sick, the crippled, and the mentally ill."

Wiesenthal finds no proof against Waldheim

Austrian "Nazi hunter" Simon Wiesenthal has attacked the World Jewish Congress for its behavior in the affair of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who has been banned from entering the United States on the basis of charges that he was a Nazi. Writing in Italy's newspaper of record, *Corriere della Sera*, June 23, Wiesenthal reprimands the WJC for "putting collectively under accusation all Austrians. How can a Jewish organization," he asks, "formulate a collective threat against a whole people? The wave of anti-Semitism was a consequence of this threat, and the WJC has given arguments to the anti-Semites."

As far as Kurt Waldheim's alleged Nazi past, said Wiesenthal, "I am interested in the truth, and I want to know the truth, and this truth has not come out yet."

The U.S. Office of Special Investigations, as in many other instances, used only Soviet-concocted "evidence" to get Waldheim declared *persona non grata* in the United States.

The strange thing about the Waldheim affair, is that no one has proved Waldheim guilty of anything, Italy's *La Stampa* daily commented June 23. Only Simon Wiesenthal, according to the paper, has actually looked into relevant archival material, including documents on the Nazi period at the Berlin Documentation Center, at the United Nations archives, at the Ludwigsburg archives in West Germany, and at the Belgrade, Yugoslavia Historical Archives. In all cases, the result was the same: He found nothing.

French minister: AIDS is no venereal disease

French Minister of Health Michèle Barzach affirmed, in an interview published in the June 15 issue of *Le Point* magazine, that it is "medically inaccurate" to describe AIDS as a Sexually Transmitted Disease.

The minister is in a quandary.

Like Surgeon General C. Everett Koop in the United States, she is an advocate of the "safe sex and condoms" approach, which tirelessly maintains that AIDS is not a species-threatening epidemic, but a disease which can only be transmitted by sexual contact.

Yet when the Alpes-Maritimes department (regional government) of France tried to set up a confidential data bank on AIDS carriers, it used the precedent of a 1983 law which allowed local governments to carry out testing for venereal disease. The minister, who opposes such measures, hit the roof. "The fight against the human immunodeficiency virus is not among those tasks which were entrusted to the department by the decentralization laws," she told *Le Point*. "AIDS is not a venereal disease!"

Secretary of State for Health Edmond Hervé in 1985 created a working group to provide "help for the dying," whose report, published in October 1986 by Barzach, envisaged the creation of hospices for AIDS victims.

Soviets said to build giant laser facility

U.S. intelligence agencies are watching with concern as the Soviets build what appears to be a giant laser facility near the Afghanistan border, the *Chicago Tribune* reported June 22. Speculation centers on whether the Soviets are building an advanced anti-satellite weapon or merely a laser "research" facility.

The secret installation is 30 miles southwest of Dushanbe, the capital of the socialist republic of Tadzhikistan. It was first spotted by U.S. reconnaissance satellites several years ago. There has been no public comment, but many in the U.S. intelligence community believe that the Soviets may have begun deployment of the world's first operational ground-based anti-satellite system.

The just-released *Jane's Military Communications Annual Review* notes that "recent photos taken near the Afghan border suggests the Soviets' laser capabilities may