

Euthanasia lobby seeks new victims

by Barbara Spahn

“Once again, there are powerful forces in society that are threatening human life. Euthanasia, mercy killing out of supposed pity, is again, terrifyingly, a frequently recurring word and finds new misguided defenders.” With these words, Pope John Paul II commemorated the brave resistance of Cardinal von Galen against Nazi euthanasia policy.

For two reasons, this subject has the greatest immediacy. First, cultural pessimism has spread through all the Western industrial nations. Everywhere organizations that propagate active and passive euthanasia have sprung up like mushrooms. Their perfidious propaganda puts forward a right to determine one’s own death, a right to suicide, as the essence of freedom. Thus the German Society for Humane Death publishes a book with “fail-safe” instructions for killing oneself, which was edited by its counterpart organization in England. The American branch of this “humane death” outfit is called the Hemlock Society; the question is whether they intended to give the mistaken impression that Socrates committed suicide, or whether this reference to Socrates’ death by the poison cup is meant to be an evil omen for the ever more numerous victims of euthanasia.

Second, these people increasingly bring up the euthanasia “solution” to the problem that with AIDS, we are moving toward health-care costs of unimaginable magnitude. In only a few years, expenditures for health services will double. Simultaneously, the age groups most critical for the productive process will be the hardest hit by AIDS. Thus while the need for health services will grow, the economy will drastically shrink. All those who reject sparking an economic recovery by reorganizing the world monetary system, fall into—wittingly or not—the barbaric decision of eliminating on, “cost-benefit” grounds, those “incurably sick with AIDS” as “useless eaters” or “lives not worth living.”

It comes as no surprise that Julius Hackethal, a leading German advocate of euthanasia, grandly announced in the daily *Bildzeitung* on May 6, “Euthanasia with AIDS is not a taboo for me.” Earlier, in December 1985, the Dutch physician and spokesman for the euthanasia movement Dr. Pieter

Admiraal said in a newspaper interview: “The AIDS epidemic will claim many victims; why do we not grant them release from a terrible death?” He added: “I believe that the AIDS problem will check the resistance to euthanasia.”

In April, the director of the AIDS Department of the Amsterdam University Hospital announced that 11 of the 97 patients—over 10%—who had died of AIDS in the Netherlands have been “killed on request.”

However horrifying this is, the total extent of the practice of euthanasia in the Netherlands is far worse. Although the Dutch still boast of their resistance against the Nazi Occupation, it is a generally accepted fact that each year between 8,000 and 10,000 human beings die by euthanasia. Opponents of this policy suspect that the number is actually 16,000, of which at most 2,000-3,000 cases represent people who actually want to die.

Although euthanasia—death on demand—is still against the law in Netherlands, no charges were filed against any of the doctors, such as Dr. Admiraal or Dr. Danner, who openly confessed to having performed active euthanasia. In August 1985, a government commission published guidelines specifying the conditions under which euthanasia is exempt from punishment. These stipulate that 1) the patient must be at the end of his or her life; 2) there is no chance of a cure; 3) an additional doctor is consulted; and 4) the district attorney is informed. In the Netherlands, a law legalizing euthanasia is very close to passage.

This creation of a legal grey area for transforming prevailing legal principles, is what the Federal Republic of Germany’s euthanasia lobby would like to emulate. Dr. Hackethal tested the waters on June 10 with his announcement of killing a young paraplegic woman—that is, he wished to have the de facto repeal of Article 216 of the Criminal Code, dealing with “Death on Demand.” He has had, up to this point, no success in this effort. In 1984, after Hackethal had killed cancer victim Hermy E. with potassium cyanide, the Traunstein attorney general launched an investigation and filed charges against him in 1986. But on Dec. 20, 1986, the district court in Traunstein refused to open the case against Hackethal. After this most unusual ruling, the First Criminal Division of the Superior Court must decide whether it will bring Hackethal to trial or whether the euthanasia lobby will get off scot free.

‘Pluralism’

Exemplary of the thinking in Holland that has led to the de facto legalization of euthanasia, is a statement of principles by the Royal Netherlands Medical Association (KNMG) in 1984—the Dutch equivalent of the American Medical Association—avowing that: “The central committee expressly emphasizes to its membership that it is not its purpose to debate the permissibility of euthanasia, since, in a pluralistic society such as our own—including medical groups—

thoughts and ideas on this subject will always differ. . . . The commission and the central committee assume in their remarks *that euthanasia is practiced.*" The statement even goes so far as to call upon doctors who reject euthanasia on principle or with other well-grounded arguments to allow their patients to seek another doctor! Patients can be killed on demand if it is their free decision, if their suffering is unbearable and hopeless, and the decision is irrevocable. On the other hand, it is irrelevant whether or not the patient is already dying.

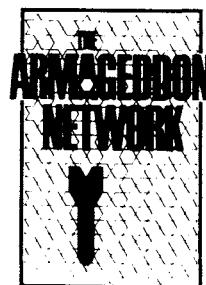
Meanwhile the discussion in the Netherlands has centered on the question, not of whether death on demand should be legalized, but rather of who must die by euthanasia: patients in a coma, babies born with birth defects, AIDS patients, Alzheimer patients, old people? Dutch euthanasia advocate Eugene Sartorius in early July told the *Los Angeles Times*, that based on the growing ratio of elderly people in the population and rising health-care costs, "in the next 30-40 years not everyone can be treated," and hence euthanasia for Alzheimer patients "for purely economic arguments must be accepted."

In April, the Netherlands Humanistic Study Center wrote, in a report on euthanasia for coma patients, "Death can merciful. In the first place, for the suffering person himself, but also for those around him who suffer with him." Euthanasia could also be practiced on economic grounds. The report goes on to say that, if it is "unlikely" (hence, not totally excluded) that a coma patient will awake, then his existence would be "unworthy of a human being" and the decision must be made in the interest of the majority of those affected.

Death cult for AIDS sufferers

The German AIDS Support, Inc. is the newest branch of the euthanasia movement in West Germany and sends homosexuals suffering from AIDS into various seminars on dying. In its publication *Positiv*, of October 1986, the Frankfurt AIDS Hilfe reported on a several day meeting with the notorious Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, who has for years glorified the cult of death. The seminar was a kind of brainwashing and conditioning session to wish for death. The description of the proceedings is grotesque: Through "smashing telephone books into pieces, twisting towels," the poor participants were to abreact against worldly aggressions. From the "loving transformation to kisses," the brainwashes then proceed to spiritual things and the devotion to death then becomes a "high" experience. Orwell could not have thought of anything worse. Had the homosexuals themselves desired such a fate?

In view of the hysterical rejection of public-health measures for the control of AIDS from the homosexual lobby, Dr. Gert Früssner wrote in the *Süddeutschen Zeitung*: "If I did not experience daily the stupidity and illogic of the arguments of the representatives of the high-risk groups, as well as their fanatical imperviousness to facts, I would have to believe in a holocaust sanctioned with a cold intellect."



Michael Saba

"Saba's book describes how highly placed American government officials have confused their loyalties; the story is a frightening one. Even more frightening is the failure of the American government to determine what damage has been done to the United States through this misguided action. The book is an instructive lesson in how the American government can be manipulated; it should be studied carefully. It might even provoke American government officials to take actions to correct these abuses."

James E. Akins
Former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

"Michael Saba presents a chilling account of the depth to which Israel has penetrated the centers of U.S. power where sensitive information is held—and vital decisions are made."

The Honorable Paul Findley
Former U.S. Congressman

"Michael Saba's THE ARMAGEDDON NETWORK is a gripping work, as much the chronicle of an individual's effort to halt a dangerous trend, as it is a history of public deceit, hypocrisy, and cynicism. It is an important milestone in contemporary writing about America's role—misinformed, unjust, destructive—in Middle East affairs.

Dr. Edward Said
Columbia University

"Mike Saba has written a controversial, thought-provoking book sure to challenge the traditional U.S.-Israeli relationship. The conclusions Saba has reached should be debated at the highest levels of government.

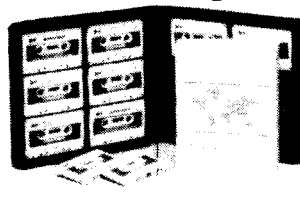
The Honorable James Abourezk
Former U.S. Senator

Send \$9.95 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling per book to

AMANA BOOKS

Dept. E, 58 Elliot Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Speak German like a Diplomat!



What sort of people need to learn a foreign language as quickly and effectively as possible? *Foreign service personnel*, that's who.

Now you can learn to speak German with the same materials used by the U.S. State Department—the Foreign Service Institute's *Programmed Introduction to German*.

The FSI spent thousands of dollars and many years developing these materials for use by members of the United States diplomatic corps. Today people in all walks of life who need to learn to speak a foreign language are turning to this outstanding audio program.

The FSI's German Course is by far the most effective way to learn German at your own convenience and pace. It consists of a series of cassettes, recorded by native German speakers, and accompanying textbook. You simply follow the spoken and written instructions, listening and learning. By the end of the course you'll find yourself learning and speaking entirely in German!

This course turns your cassette player into a "teaching machine." With its unique "programmed" learning method, you set your own pace—testing yourself, correcting errors, reinforcing accurate responses.

This Programmed Course comes in two volumes, each shipped in a handsome library binder. Order either, or save 10% by ordering both:

- Volume I. Programmed Introduction to German. 10 cassettes (13 hr.), and 647-p. text. \$135
- Volume II. Basic Course Continued. 8 cassettes (8 hr.), and 179-p. text. \$120

(CT residents add sales tax.)

To order by mail, clip this ad and send with your name and address, and a check or money order—or charge to your credit card (VISA, MasterCard, AmEx, Diners) by enclosing card number, expiration date, and your signature.

The Foreign Service Institute's German Course is unconditionally guaranteed. Try it for three weeks. If you're not convinced it's the fastest, easiest, most painless way to learn German, return it and we'll refund every penny you paid. Order today!

130 courses in 46 other languages also available. Write us for free catalog. Our 15th year.

Audio-Forum
Suite P235
On-The-Green,
Guilford, CT 06437
(203) 453-9794



AUDIO-FORUM