

place, accused Miller of directly taking part in the demonstration, and even inciting it.

Afterward, U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis personally went to the jail to try to spring Miller, and the embassy put out the story that Miller was on his way to the airport—in sneakers, blue jeans, and on foot! Later, Davis told a meeting of the opposition that Miller was attending the demonstration as an official observer.

Israelis support measures on AIDS

“The public is a little panicked, actually, I would say, the public is quite panicked.” This is the view of a leading AIDS expert working at Israel’s Al-Sam anti-drug center. Public concern that the AIDS pandemic could spread uncontrolled throughout the country’s tiny 4 million population, has gone a long way toward assuring that the Health Ministry’s recent introduction of screening enjoys popular support. Indeed, letters continue to pour into Israel’s dailies, from readers demanding more government action to expand testing.

At present, testing is compulsory for active military personnel, prisoners, and “those suspected of carrying a contagious disease,” e.g., prostitutes and intravenous drug-users. In the army, urine tests had already been introduced to identify drug users; last year 700 soldiers were sentenced for drug abuse. Now, as a result of a Supreme Court ruling denying “civil rights” arguments against testing, since any soldier may be exposed to drugs and to AIDS infection, they may be forced to submit to testing for both.

Military police to date have tested all those persons known to have taken drugs, to have been engaged in criminal activities, or to have been exposed to AIDS. In addition, all new recruits are tested. Since soldiers on active duty are asked to donate blood every six months to the national Red Cross, and all donations are tested for AIDS, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) has de facto instituted regular screening.

Intravenous drug abusers, whose number is estimated to range between 12,000

and 20,000, are also being tested for AIDS. Since government authorities have registered heroin users and those in methadone programs, centralized data make it possible to identify, and test, persons considered members of this “fast-track” transmission group. The Health Ministry has a reading of results of urine tests, as centralized in the Sheba Medical Center.

AIDS-infected persons are not allowed to conduct activities which may endanger others. Thus, not only prostitutes are barred from communicating the disease, but also persons employed in food-handling, etc., if infected, are employed elsewhere.

Kremlin and State Dept. deal-making in Mideast

Reports indicate that the Middle East and Northern Africa are being “crisis managed” by the State Department and the Kremlin—in the Soviets’ favor.

On Sept. 12, Radio Moscow praised the Chad-Libya ceasefire, making no attacks on Chad. Usually, Soviet reports on the Libyan aggression against Chad, and its military reversals by the Chadians with U.S. and French support, are stridently pro-Libyan. The even-handed tone of the Radio Moscow broadcast would indicate that the ceasefire reflects an East-West deal.

Soviet radio also reported that OAU President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia has announced that the OAU committee formed to attempt to settle the dispute will meet in the Zambian capital of Lusaka Sept. 24-25. Chester Crocker, the State Department’s “regional matters” negotiator with the Russians over the region, was recently in Zambia.

In the same vein, the *International Herald Tribune* has reported that both Washington and Moscow intervened to prevent Libya from delivering Soviet-made sea mines to Iran. The United States sent a strong warning to Libya, saying that if any U.S. ship would be hit by such mines in the Gulf, Libya would be considered responsible. The Soviets are also said to have pressured Libya not to go through with the deal.

Briefly

● **3 MILLION** Muslim workers have been “released” from their jobs in the Soviet Union, and shipped off to Siberia. Soviet officials say the “releases” were due to “redundancies” caused by “increases in productivity.” On the state railways, 280,000 workers were laid off, and in the oil industry, 70,000 workers were released—most of them in the poorer Islamic Central Asian regions, suffering from, according to Soviet officials, “a surplus of manpower,” due to “rapidly growing birth rates.” Most signed up for jobs in designated, manpower-short development centers in Siberia and the Far East.

● **CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC** voters, unhappy with the Kohl government’s economic policies, virtually boycotted two elections in the German states of Schleswig-Holstein, where turn-out for the ruling party was down 8.2%, and Bremen, down 5.4%. In the twin city-states of Bremen and Bremerhaven, the Christian Democratic vote fell from 33.3% in 1983 to a record low of 23.4% this year.

● **AMIRAM NIR**, one of four Israelis exposed for involvement in illegal U.S. weapons sales to Iran, was fired Sept. 15 by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Nir had been the prime minister’s adviser on terror.

● **THE ROMANIAN** news agency announced the appointments of two deputy prime ministers and the dismissal of three others, in a move described as “strengthening the management of economic sectors and ministries.” In August, the Soviet weekly *New Times* and youth paper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, had sharply attacked Romania’s economic policy.

● **AIDS LEAFLETS** containing basic information about the disease are being delivered to every letterbox in Moscow, according to *Izvestia*.