

Schiller Institute warns of AIDS danger; Mexican President responds

by Carlos Wesley

An overflow audience of 500 persons—300 of them doctors, nurses, and other health professionals, including officers from the Armed Forces medical corps—turned out for an international symposium, “The True Dimensions of the AIDS Pandemic,” held at the 21st Century National Medical Center in Mexico City on Dec. 11. The forum capped a week-long series of forums and news conferences in several Mexican cities as part of an organizing drive against AIDS conducted by the Schiller Institute and others.

Overflow audiences of hundreds, most of them health care professionals, attended forums held in Hermosillo, Sonora; Mexicali and Tecate, Baja California Norte; and in Guadalajara, in the state of Jalisco. Millions more learned of what was said through massive television, radio, and print coverage. On the eve of the forum in Mexico City, for example, television networks Multivisión and the state-owned Imvisión, which is seen throughout Mexico and beamed by satellite to several Ibero-American countries, featured coverage of the upcoming forums. So did several radio networks, including Radio Red, and prominent articles appeared in the newspapers *Novedades* and *Excelsior*. The news magazine *Proceso* has also scheduled an article for its next issue.

The popular ferment generated by the forums, which were designed to expose the lie that AIDS is solely a “sexually transmitted disease” and to demand that public health measures be taken to fight the AIDS epidemic, forced Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to publicly address the issue of AIDS during a visit to the border city of Mexicali with Secretary of Health Jesús Humate. During the visit, which took place 72 hours after the distinguished panelists addressed an audience of over 400 persons, the Mexican President said the problems the United States faces with AIDS and drug addiction “should put us on guard to redouble our efforts to prevent” Mexico from suffering the same fate. Salinas said that being a modern nation also “implies suffering the diseases of a modern state,” such as AIDS.

Transmission by mosquitoes

The experts who spoke at the Schiller Institute’s forums included Dr. Ricardo Veronesi, president of the Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases and of the Infectious Diseases

Division of the Pan American Medical Association; Dr. Mark Whiteside, Associate Director of the Institute of Tropical Medicine of Florida; Dr. John Grauerholz, director of medical intelligence for *EIR* in the U.S. and a member of the Schiller Institute’s biological holocaust research team; Dr. Berta Farfán, also of the biological holocaust research team; and Marivilia Carrasco de López, president of the Schiller Institute of Mexico.

The myth that AIDS is solely transmitted by sexual contact or by contaminated blood is purposely intended to negate the role of environmental factors, these experts said, starting at the first conference which took place before an audience estimated at 600 in the city of Hermosillo. The forum was co-sponsored by the University of Sonora, the Social Security Institute, and the Sonora State Committee Against AIDS which was represented by state legislators Adalberto Rosas of the National Action Party (PAN) and Cecilia Soto de Estévez of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM). Dr. Clemente Avila Godoy opened the proceedings on behalf of the president of the University of Sonora, Marco Antonio Valencia Arvizu, and the Bishop of Obregón, Vicente Bernal García, sent greetings to the participants.

Dr. Veronesi, the Brazilian expert, said that mosquitoes and other insects are likely carriers of AIDS. By placing the onus on the individual to protect himself from AIDS by practicing “safe sex,” governments avoid their responsibility for changing the economic policies that have led to the deteriorating living conditions in which the disease spreads, said Veronesi. Other speakers warned that Third World countries, including Mexico, have sharply curtailed or abandoned mosquito control in order to save money to pay their foreign debt to the International Monetary Fund and the New York banks.

Dr. Veronesi said that the American health establishment is responsible for promoting the almost pathological refusal to believe that insects can transmit AIDS. “They also dismissed the claims of Cuban scientist Carlos Finlay, the 19th-century discoverer of the fact that mosquitoes transmit yellow fever,” according to Veronesi, until one brave American volunteered to be bitten by infected mosquitoes. He got the disease, and Dr. Finlay was proven right.

But today, said Veronesi, none of those American doc-

tors who dismiss the role of mosquitoes is willing to volunteer for a similar experiment. "I challenge them to show the courage of their convictions," he said, "by going into a room with an AIDS victim and five or six mosquitoes."

Sexual transmission not proven

Dr. Whiteside, who has conducted studies on the AIDS epidemic in Belle Glade, Florida, a community with poverty like that in Mexico, told the audience in Mexico City that "so far no one has conducted laboratory tests to prove that sexual contact is really the way the HIV virus is transmitted. Neither has anyone proven that insects are not transmitters of the disease," the Dec. 12 Mexican daily *El Universal* reported. Dr. Whiteside joined with Dr. Veronesi in demanding that the U.N. World Health Organization and other health authorities examine "non-traditional" ways by which AIDS might spread.

"It is vital to again implement basic measures of hygiene and sanitation, including cleaning up open-air garbage sites and eliminating pools of stagnant water that can serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other insects," he reportedly said.

Dr. Grauerholz noted at the Hermosillo conference and at one held two days later in Mexicali, that most of the measures promoted to fight AIDS are ineffective against the disease, but are part of other agendas. Condoms are promoted because they are very effective in limiting population growth, not because they prevent AIDS, he said.

Grauerholz presented several charts showing that deteriorating living conditions are responsible for the rapid spread of the pandemic. "The U.S. is not doing all that well with those diseases that are known to be sexually transmitted," he said. "There is a syphilis epidemic, even though we have a cure for it. There is a treatment for tuberculosis, yet it's on the rise; we have a vaccine against measles, but there is a measles epidemic."

Panic in official circles

The extraordinary attendance at the forums and the widespread coverage in the Mexican media, show rising discontent with government policies of peddling condoms while the number of confirmed AIDS victims rises daily in Mexico. Besides the personal intervention by President Salinas, *El Nacional* reported that Sonora State Health Secretary Filiberto Pérez Duarte insisted that his department has taken the right path against AIDS, claiming that "since sexual transmission is one of the main agents for the spread of the epidemic, the ways to prevent the population from getting infected, are education and information." Pérez Duarte said he was willing to debate the experts at the Schiller Institute forums, but "I was not even invited."

But Institute spokesmen say the official refused to receive them when they went to invite him to the forum. And when a TV commentator offered to arrange a debate between Pérez

Duarte and Veronesi, Pérez Duarte found he had other pressing matters to attend to.

Emilio Velázquez of the Tijuana AIDS Organization attacked the Schiller Institute for "proposing fascist measures, such as isolating those who are sick."

The media coverage also upset some. A radio host took a call from a hysterical individual: "How is it possible that the Schiller Institute gets so much air time? There are politicians behind them like Lyndon H. LaRouche, who is in jail in the U.S. for tax evasion," the caller whined.

LaRouche, who, with his wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche, co-founded the Schiller Institute, was also attacked by organizers of the Binational Symposium, a series of forums organized in Mexico by people from Mexico and the U.S. to claim that AIDS is the special preserve of homosexuals. In Mexicali, at one of their poorly attended forums, a government official from Los Angeles, California charged LaRouche with "murder" for supposedly stopping the distribution of condoms in Los Angeles County and halting a plan to distribute "clean needles" to drug addicts.

Documentation

Mexicans alarmed by no action on AIDS

On Dec. 11, the following article was published by Mexico's principal daily, Excélsior. The article, entitled "R. Veronesi: Under certain conditions mosquitoes can transmit AIDS," was written by Juan Gerardo Reyes based on a press conference by Brazilian AIDS expert Dr. Ricardo Veronesi at the Casablanca Hotel in Mexico City.

The history of humanity can change due to AIDS, just as has happened with other diseases. There is even the danger that humanity might disappear within the next 50 years, as there is also the possibility that the population can become auto-immune within the next five years, which would establish a natural equilibrium, said Brazilian doctor Ricardo Veronesi, who asserted that AIDS can be transmitted by mosquitoes under certain conditions.

For that reason, he demanded that there be more research to "make humanity aware about this pandemic." The worst thing that could happen would be to close off all avenues of research and deny that there can be other forms of transmission that are not sexual or through the exchange of blood.

Ricardo Veronesi is in Mexico to hold several conferences. He already held conferences . . . where he set off an

intense controversy because of his theory that mosquitoes can transmit the human acquired immune deficiency virus, admittedly under special conditions.

Among the highlights of his outstanding *curriculum vitae* and academic training, are the fact that he is a full professor of Infectious and Parasitological Diseases at the Medical School of the University of São Paulo, president of the Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases, president of the Division of Infectious Diseases of the Pan American Medical Association, and the author of several books on infectious diseases in Brazil and abroad.

Given the grave health problems in the world, it is necessary to observe nature, which is the great laboratory that generates the phenomena that can be observed, studied, and analyzed, to learn something from them.

From that standpoint, the doctor explained that the environment is a determining factor in the spread of the AIDS disease, because malnutrition, environmental pollution, behavior, promiscuity, and all the other negative factors that can be present are influences that determine the spread of the disease; transmission is not solely sexual.

Regarding the transmission of AIDS by mosquitoes, he said that for it to occur there must be specific conditions, such as their presence in places where more than 50% of the population is infected with the HIV virus, as is the case in certain African populations.

"But, we must also understand that the AIDS virus is not a new virus: It is more than 100 years old. Before, it was known as the pernicious equine anemia which affected horses and eventually it moved to humans, which places us at a disadvantage. But the most negative thing is to evade our responsibility and not allow any other hypothesis other than those from the big monsters of American medicine.

"In no way are we trying to scare people, just to put them on the defensive, to make them aware and not wait to inform the population when there is no longer anything that can be done."

From Veronesi's standpoint, the AIDS pandemic is so serious that humanity could be changed by this disease and even disappear within the next 50 years, although "regarding the latter I am not in agreement, because nature always has shown its great wisdom and it only employs these situations as a way of natural equilibrium," he said. "That's why I lean towards the view that within the next few years humanity might itself develop auto-immunity against this pandemic."

On Dec. 4, Sonora's El Imparcial, which has the largest circulation in the state, published the following article entitled "Bugs could transmit AIDS; health authorities accused of hiding truth about disease."

There is the possibility that the retrovirus that causes AIDS could be transmitted by insects, according to French scientific studies.

That was said by the president of the Schiller Institute in Mexico, Marivilia Carrasco de López, who noted that investigators from the French Pasteur Institute have proven that the retrovirus can survive in the tissues of insects, including African ants.

It was proven that those African insects preserved the retrovirus in their tissues, which is why it is thought that there is a possibility that mosquitoes can transmit AIDS to man, she said.

The comments were made during a news conference called yesterday to highlight some of the points to be discussed at the international seminar, "The truth about the AIDS pandemic," to be held at the Gándara Hotel today, which will feature Drs. Ricardo Veronesi, John Grauerholz, Berta Farfán, and Mrs. Carrasco de López.

Among the points stressed, Dr. Veronesi from Brazil said that American health authorities are hiding the truth about the dangers of AIDS.

Dr. John Grauerholz from the United States presented graphs that will be shown in his talk today, which prove the failure of U.S. public health policy.

. . . Dr. Grauerholz will be talking about "AIDS as an instrument for reducing populations."

In that regard, Carrasco de López noted that Dr. Grauerholz is convinced that U.S. authorities are blocking on a cure for AIDS with the purpose of reducing the non-white populations of Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

On Dec. 11, the national circulation daily Novedades published the following article entitled "It is revealed that insects can also transmit AIDS," based on a news conference by Dr. Ricardo Veronesi.

Besides sexual contact and contaminated blood transfusions, mosquitoes and other insects can transmit AIDS, said Dr. Ricardo Veronesi, president of the Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases, who charged that public health officials are covering up the truth about the dangerous disease.

At a news conference, the expert, who is in Mexico to talk about "the full extent of the AIDS pandemic," noted that researchers at the Pasteur Institute of Paris, France, have proven that the retrovirus can survive in the tissues of insects, including certain African ants, which it is why it is believed very likely that they can transmit the disease.

He asserted that public health authorities have openly lied about the numbers of AIDS sufferers, and said that just in New York City alone, there are 1 million infected people, while researchers continue to lie to people worldwide.

For example, they have not said that there are hundreds of health professionals, doctors, nurses, etc., who have become infected without having engaged in any sexual relations or without having received any transfusions of infected blood. He stressed that 6% of the health workers in the United States are infected, which translates to 3,000 people.