

## AIDS 'apocalypse' subject of Florence conference

by EIR Reporters

Scientific and related papers presented to the Seventh International Conference on AIDS, in the city of Florence, Italy in mid-June, underline once again the criminality of the U.S. establishment in putting Lyndon LaRouche in jail, and the stupidity of the U.S. and other populations in not backing him and his associates in elections and other forums. LaRouche and his associates were vilified, particularly between 1984 and 1988, for the policy they proposed to deal with the AIDS epidemic—vilified by government agencies, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Hollywood celebrities enlisted in the effort.

Scientifically, evidence was presented at the Florence conference by a team from the Dana Farber Cancer Research Institute led by Dr. Michael Haseltine, which devastates the witchhunt-enforced, "politically correct" view of the transmission of the HIV virus imposed by the U.S. government Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The paper points to the role of special immune system cells in the mucous membrane, known as dendritic cells, as highly susceptible to "just a whisper of virus." The mouth is such a locus. Since 1984, LaRouche and his associates had advised that such routes of transmission be investigated. The CDC crowd insisted otherwise.

### AIDS reaching 'catastrophic proportions'

Politically, and economically, the central feature of the conference has been that the AIDS epidemic is about to dramatically decimate, and is already decimating, the large population centers of the Third World—Asia, Africa, and Ibero-America. Pleas are coming from African nations in particular, for the U.S. not to ignore the growing holocaust, which could reach an estimated 40 million people in the immediate years ahead. Again, from 1984, LaRouche and his associates insisted, against those who said AIDS was primarily what they called a "sexually" transmitted disease, that the cases of Africa and, in

the United States, of Belle Glade, Florida, proved otherwise. AIDS ought to be seen, LaRouche insisted, as a disease of poverty and deprivation. That was out of order, too.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni told the conference participants that much of Africa faces an "apocalypse" because of the spread of AIDS, with millions of people dying and whole economies and societies threatened with collapse. Museveni asserted that the AIDS epidemic "has reached catastrophic proportions" in Africa, and he called for a program of massive help from the outside for Africa, combined with a general return to traditional morality throughout the continent.

Officials of the World Health Organization presented new estimates of the spread of the disease, which double projections made only one year ago. Their projection now released is that 40 million will suffer from AIDS by the year 2000—one in every 250 people worldwide. According to the British newspaper the *Guardian*, the basis for the "drastic upward revision" was the situation in Asia. Dr. Ramalingaswami, AIDS adviser to Unicef, warned that in Asia, "We are just gently opening the door to a very major disaster." He said that if Asian governments continue to maintain a "false sense of security" about the spread of AIDS, the consequences could be "extremely dangerous."

### Epidemic like a 'nuclear explosion'

Dr. Michael Merson, head of the World Health Organization's AIDS program, told the French newspaper *Le Monde* that the effect of the international spread of AIDS is "like a nuclear explosion." He put special stress on the "very alarming" spread of AIDS in Asia, which is a relatively new phenomenon. In India, it is spreading very rapidly, with the rate of spread among prostitutes in cities like Madras and Bombay being on a par with certain African cities. Also, according to Merson, AIDS is spreading rapidly in the "Golden Triangle," comprising Burma, Thailand, parts of China, and Cambodia.

For Africa, Merson pointed to two trends. One is the relatively new spread of the disease into *West* Africa, whereas in the past it had mostly been in East and Central Africa. Countries like Ivory Coast, Togo, and Nigeria are badly hit. Also, in certain countries, like Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia, there are sections where 30% of the population tests sero-positive.

For Central and South America, Merson pointed to the traditional Caribbean flashpoint, but also stated that the authorities in much of South America are underestimating the degree of danger to populations there.

Those who opposed LaRouche when he pointed to the developing holocaust in Africa, did not want to deal with the disease, just as they insisted, ostensibly for “cost” reasons, on limiting research into the narrowest areas. The question is, why?

### **Death rate will double**

James Chin, chief of surveillance and AIDS forecasting for the World Health Organization, told the conference, “There can be no doubt that AIDS, in most developing countries, will become the leading cause of death among adults in their most productive years, and will also be one of the leading causes of infant and child mortality in many regions. He stressed that while, in the Western countries, the number of AIDS cases will “peak” over the next few years, in the Third World and particularly in Africa, the epidemic will continue to escalate, doubling the present death rate.

In this way the conference has brought into the open what the LaRouche movement alone as a political force has insisted upon: that AIDS is a pandemic spread by poverty and International Monetary Fund conditionalities, and only a massive financial and political commitment to making fundamental breakthroughs in the biological sciences, and saving every human life possible, can hope to prevent a holocaust for all mankind. LaRouche’s last presidential campaign, beginning in 1985, focused on this crisis. Several *EIR* Special Reports, “An Emergency War Plan to Fight AIDS and Other Pandemics,” published in 1986, and “AIDS Global Showdown: Mankind’s Total Victory or Total Defeat,” published in 1988 and updated in 1989, elaborated both his plan for victory against AIDS, and the growing holocaust in Africa.

LaRouche and his associates warned about the species-threatening communicable nature of AIDS. They called for an Apollo-style project in the life sciences, in what is called optical biophysics, to develop the scientific knowledge which could defeat the disease, while fighting against those who insisted that the 100% fatal AIDS virus ought to be treated as a civil rights issue. They were targeted by the political establishment. Had they been listened to, many lives would have been saved.

### **Focus on mucous membranes**

The Haseltine study indicates that the AIDS virus, even

in low concentrations, can infect the cells in mucous membranes, and that, once infected, they can produce large amounts of the virus. The largest concentration of mucous membranes is in the mouth. AIDS, therefore, can be transmitted through a wider range of sexual and non-sexual activities than was generally believed. Such avenues of research have been brutally suppressed by the CDC, with researchers fired and funding cut off, while the CDC and the budget-cutting establishment, who insisted “it costs too much,” have promoted a callous, murderous, genocidal policy. Their policy to cover up the truth of this deadly threat to mankind, is the biggest scandal of the Bush and Reagan administrations, bigger than the so-called “October Surprise” or Iran-Contra scandals. How many millions have died or will die because of this coverup?

LaRouche and his associates insisted that the financial institutions were acting to actually spread AIDS through their conditionalities policies—in line with their malthusian depopulation objectives. Recent documents uncovered from the Kissingerian foreign policy crowd in Washington underscore this point, with AIDS being cited as the only means on the horizon of reducing high rates of population growth in Africa.

In 1986, while LaRouche and his associates were backing a California ballot initiative to bring AIDS under the traditional public health guidelines mandated for communicable diseases, officials inside and outside the Reagan-Bush administration associated with Henry Kissinger were looking to the AIDS virus as a means of eliminating what they called “overpopulation.” As we document in our *Feature* this week, a still-classified section of a report on U.S. strategy was published in summary form in the spring 1989 issue of the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies publication *Washington Quarterly* under the title “Global Demographic Trends to the Year 2010: Implications for U.S. Security.” The authors of the demographic section are Gregory Foster of the Defense Intelligence Agency’s National Defense University, and Ambassador Marshall Green, who in 1976 had been detailed by then-National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft to run population control policy for the National Security Council as mandated in documents NSSM 200 and NSDD 314, which identified population growth as the largest threat to U.S. national security.

They wrote: “The World Health Organization estimates that 5-10 million people are infected with the virus worldwide, a count that could reach as high as 100 million by 1991. Some analysts argue that if 100 million people were infected, total deaths from AIDS in the 1990s could be 50 million. The number of infected then could double several more times after that and wipe out some countries in 10 to 20 years. If the number of infected increased to 20% of the world’s population, the delayed deaths could begin to cancel global population growth.” Compare this with the WHO’s estimates presented in Florence. Is this why LaRouche’s efforts against AIDS were suppressed?