

**Sher:** Yes, full-blown.

**EIR:** What was the number of infections at that time?

**Sher:** The number of infections was 48,951. This data came from laboratories testing for HIV infections; it came from blood transfusion studies; and it came from clinics at the mines.

**EIR:** When you said that you didn't know any physicians in Johannesburg who send their statistics in on AIDS, why is that?

**Sher:** Of the three clinics—I've asked one of the other chaps and he said he hasn't sent in—I think it is because there is no mechanism of collecting the figures. We are not asked to submit these things. There have been no sort of formal follow-ups.

When I was doing it, I used to phone up all the physicians and all their laboratories and get their figures from these people; that is not occurring now. That's the reason why. These figures are there; they could be looked up in the hospital records and what all.

**EIR:** Since tuberculosis is a marker for AIDS, have you seen any dramatic increase in the number of deaths resulting from an infection of tuberculosis in the country?

**Sher:** Yes. We are seeing a very lot of tuberculosis in the population. And as you probably know, it usually starts a little bit earlier than the other opportunistic infections. Because we do have such a high prevalence of tuberculosis in any case.

**EIR:** The number that you had mentioned before? The 600,000 positives at the end of 1993?

**Sher:** This is from certain insurance actuaries, such as Metropolitan Life.

**EIR:** I've heard also from sources close to the Surgeon General's office that the actual rate of infection in South Africa now is 10-12%.

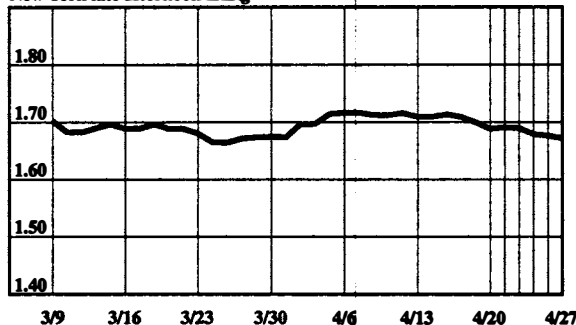
**Sher:** I don't believe that. I'm not sure where those figures came from, but if you look at studies done at the Blood Transfusion Service, the antenatal studies in Johannesburg, they were only about 7-8%. In Durban, it was a little bit higher than that; I think it was up to 10% or maybe more. That's in antenatals. I think if you are looking at the total number, I don't think it is more than 3-4% overall. Mind you, it's pretty high in places like Durban; if you look at their studies, you'll find them high. Antenatal studies in Durban would be 10% or more, but the overall infection rate is not 12%. But we are sitting on a time-bomb. We must not get away from that.

**EIR:** It must be alarming to you that there is very little public discussion or attempt really to do much about AIDS, as far

## Currency Rates

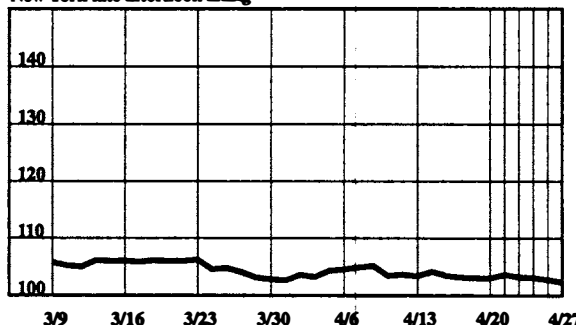
**The dollar in deutschmarks**

New York late afternoon fixing



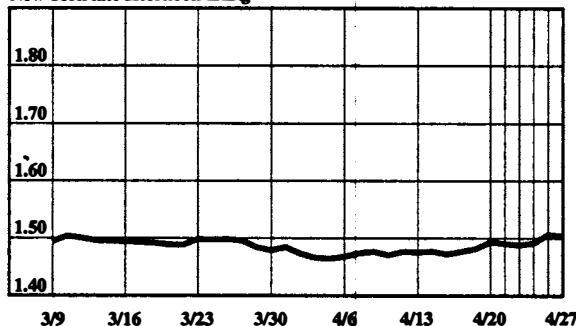
**The dollar in yen**

New York late afternoon fixing



**The British pound in dollars**

New York late afternoon fixing



**The dollar in Swiss francs**

New York late afternoon fixing

