

S. Africa wins fight for AIDS medications

by Scott Thompson

South Africa has won two major victories in a row, enabling it to begin production of affordable generic medications to fight AIDS, by removing all the obstacles placed in its way under the direction of Vice President Al Gore, Jr. and the major pharmaceutical companies.

The first victory occurred on Sept. 9: Some 40 pharmaceutical companies in the United States, Europe, and South Africa dropped their lawsuit against patent infringement, that had been before the South African courts, which had impeded the immediate production of the generic AIDS drugs. Then, on Sept. 17, U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky signed off on the production of the drugs, and dropped threats of trade sanctions against South Africa.

As *EIR* has made clear, Vice President Gore, who is closely allied with the “deep ecology” schemes of former Worldwide Fund for Nature president Prince Philip, and of Prince Charles, has been an advocate of neo-Malthusian genocide, lying that the world is “overpopulated.” Gore, who led the campaign to stop the generic production of anti-AIDS drugs, had also praised the work of Paul and Anne Ehrlich, who claimed that HIV/AIDS is the result of “overpopulation.”

Gore had to be forced, through the mobilization of a coalition called AIDS Drugs for Africa, to permit the production of these generic drugs by South Africa. Exposure of Gore’s genocidal motives, published in *EIR* and *The New Federalist* newspaper by this author, and circulated throughout the African-American community, helped bring pressure on the Vice President, as did Congressional hearings showing that there is an HIV/AIDS holocaust underway in Africa.

In a story entitled “Deal Made on AIDS Drug Sales,” the *Washington Post* pointed out on Sept. 18 that the breakthrough with Trade Representative Barshefsky came just in time to save Gore from yet another foreign policy disaster, since Gore would be meeting that week with South African President Thabo Mbeki in New York for another round of the U.S.-South African Binational Commission, where the AIDS drugs issue would be raised.

The *Post* noted that members of the AIDS Drugs for Africa coalition had pursued Gore on the campaign trail. “‘Gore’s greed kills,’ the protesters frequently yelled at Gore, claiming he had threatened Mbeki with trade sanctions

if South Africa permitted the widespread sale of cheaper drugs,” wrote the *Post*. The *New York Times*, in a Sept. 10 article entitled “U.S. Industry to Drop AIDS Drugs Lawsuit Against South Africa,” stated that “the dispute has generated public anger toward Vice President Al Gore, who in talks with South Africa, represented the drug company point of view. . . . He has been confronted at campaign appearances by protesters accusing him of heartlessness toward AIDS sufferers in South Africa.”

Only the beginning

At the 11th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, which opened in Lusaka, Zambia on Sept. 13, some 5,000 delegates listened to the latest research on the scope of the HIV/AIDS holocaust under way, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

According to the UN specialized agency UNAIDS, Africa’s workforce is being destroyed. Eleven million people have died of AIDS in Africa, while 22.5 million others are infected, and 80% of the world’s AIDS deaths have taken place on the African continent. Half of the new HIV infections on the continent are occurring among people under the age of 25. About 1.7 million young people become infected every year in Africa. In Zambia, the chances of a 15-year-old dying of AIDS is 60%. AIDS has already reduced life expectancy in southern Africa by an average of 17 years, from the early 60s to the mid-40s.

It was in the midst of this hecatomb that Al Gore wanted to block production of generic AIDS drugs!

Apart from producing those affordable drugs, which South Africa is prepared to do for the general welfare of its population, the terrible scope of the AIDS crisis means that a tremendous international effort must be made to build hospitals, laboratories, research and medical training facilities, and other public health infrastructure. This is also required to decrease the many deaths that occur in Africa each year due to diseases which can be cured, cheaply, or vaccinated against—such as malaria, yellow fever, and measles, to list but a few.

Cheap victory would mean defeat

The only way that such a massive undertaking could occur would be through implementation of Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche’s program for replacing the bankrupt International Monetary Fund System with a New Bretton Woods System, using a Eurasian Land-Bridge approach as the science driver for generating the highest possible levels of real physical economic profit for society.

Unfortunately, the AIDS Drugs for Africa coalition may be taken in by the victory of winning affordable AIDS drugs production in South Africa, and there is a danger that they may not push for a full-scale build-up of South African public health infrastructure, which is essential for treatment of all the effects of HIV/AIDS, including the identification of those who are infected.