

U.S. Acknowledges: AIDS Is a National Security Threat

by Edward Spannaus

The Clinton Administration is now treating infectious diseases, and particularly HIV-AIDS, as a national security threat—something which *EIR* Founder Lyndon LaRouche has been demanding for many years.

This came to light as the result of an article in the April 30 *Washington Post*. In response to questions the next day, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said that the National Security Council has been looking at the global AIDS crisis as a national security threat for at least two years, and he pointed to a report issued in January by the CIA's National Intelligence Council, technically a National Intelligence Estimate, on "The Global Infectious Disease Threat and Its Implications for the United States."

The January CIA report should be studied by anyone concerned about the future of their family, of the nation, and of the world, for, among other things, the report demonstrates the interconnectedness of all of those.

LaRouche Vindicated

The report is also a stunning vindication of the warnings issued by LaRouche as early as 1973-74, when he forecast that International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank policies would result in biological holocaust, with the emergence of new deadly diseases, creating conditions like that 14th-century Black Death.

The report also represents a strong confirmation of LaRouche's repeated warnings about the deadly threat of the AIDS virus. For example, in September 1985, LaRouche issued a statement entitled "Spread Panic, Not AIDS," warning that every sector of the population was threatened.

In October 1985, LaRouche announced his candidacy for the 1988 Democratic Presidential nomination, with his campaign focussed on the global threat of the AIDS pandemic. LaRouche called for identification of infected persons, adequate hospital facilities for isolating infected persons, and

proper levels of sanitation and nutrition. Through his campaign, LaRouche continued to call for a crash program of medical research, public health measures, and upgrading medical facilities and health-care facilities.

For this, LaRouche was damned and vilified by his enemies, and by other ignorant or frightened people.

But the CIA now reports that 2.3 million people died from AIDS in 1998, up from 0.7 million in 1993, and that there were 5.8 million new infections in 1998. In Sub-Saharan Africa and other hard-hit areas of the world, the report says that HIV-AIDS could kill up to one-quarter of the population over the next 20 years.

But now you see, who was right, and who was wrong.

Post-World War II Optimism Fades

Among the most important of the CIA report's findings, is that there has been a *deterioration* of the situation with respect to infectious diseases in many important respects in the past two decades.

For example, even in the United States, there has been a *doubling* of the number of deaths from infectious diseases since 1980—despite all the talk of the great "prosperity" the United States is alleged to be enjoying. The report says that infectious disease-related deaths have increased about 4.8% a year since 1980 in the United States, compared to an annual *decrease* of 2.3% in the previous 15 years, i.e., 1965-80.

With respect to the worldwide pattern, the report describes the optimism of the decades following World War II, when it was believed that the global threat from infectious diseases would become increasingly manageable. "Optimism regarding the battle against infectious diseases peaked in 1978," the report states, "when the United Nations (UN) member states signed the 'Health for All 2000' accord, which predicted that even the poorest nations would undergo a health transition before the millennium, whereby infectious diseases



A demonstration of the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party in Philadelphia, April 6, 1987. The Clinton Administration has now officially recognized the threat of AIDS and other pandemics, which LaRouche has warned of since 1974.

would no longer pose a major danger to human health.”

But, instead, infectious diseases remain a leading cause of death, being responsible for one-fourth to one-third of all deaths worldwide in 1998, most of them in developing countries and among children.

The congruence of this with LaRouche’s warnings—many of which were published in *EIR*—is undeniable. The time-line which follows details many of these warnings, documenting how LaRouche and his associates repeatedly forecast that policies of austerity and negative economic growth would cause a deterioration of public health, and the resurgence of dread diseases.

The 1973 Benchmark

Beginning in 1973, LaRouche and his associates began focussing on the relationship between austerity policies and diseases, warning that austerity policies and economic deterioration in “Third World” countries would result in the spread of epidemics and new diseases, which would affect the populations of the advanced sector as well. LaRouche specifically warned, in 1973-74, that IMF and World Bank policies of slashing food and energy consumption, and the denial of health services to developing countries, would lead to the re-emergence of old, previously conquered diseases, and the emergence of *new* deadly diseases.

Now, in that light, look at what the CIA Intelligence Estimate reports:

- “Twenty well-known diseases—including tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and cholera—have re-emerged or spread geographically since 1973, often in more virulent and drug-resistant forms.

- “At least 30 previously unknown disease agents have been identified since 1973, including HIV, Ebola, hepatitis C, and Nipah virus, for which no cures are available.”

What We Were Fighting

What LaRouche and his associates were fighting against, for the past three decades, were policies that not only advocated austerity and brutal cuts in living standards for much of the world, but policy-makers who viewed these as a means of reducing population—especially the non-white population—worldwide.

For example, in 1974, then-National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger caused to be issued National Security Study Memorandum 200, which made global population reduction a national security objective for the United States. In 1979, World Bank President Robert McNamara demanded that all efforts be made to prevent a world of 10 billion people from coming into being, either through lowering birth rates, or raising death rates—and he noted explicitly that famine and disease are two ways of increasing death rates.

And in 1980, the U.S. State Department published its *Global 2000 Report*, urging that global population be reduced by 2 billion people within 20 years. A State Department official said, at the time, that “the quickest way to reduce population is through famine, like in Africa, or through disease. . . . Population reduction is now our primary policy objective.”

In the following pages, you can see for yourself, what LaRouche forecast and fought against, and what is now acknowledged to have happened over that same period, since 1973.

Now, will you listen to LaRouche?