

contamination from poor sanitation or certain sexual practices, are highly susceptible to even small amounts of virus.

One particularly glaring example of this is the asymptomatic mother, who shows no evidence of disease, but passes the virus on to her children in the uterus, who subsequently die of AIDS while she remains clinically well.

Non-sexual transmission

Reports of non-sexual transmission between family members are just beginning to appear, mostly in Africa, where immunological collapse in the population is most marked. As nutrition, medical care, and sanitation continues to decline in other areas, this can be expected to become more common.

The association of AIDS with these conditions makes the disease a useful barometer of the general health of a society, and one would expect a sudden increase in the disease, or its extension to previously uninvolved population groups, to indicate a non-linear breakdown in general health conditions. This is exactly what is now occurring in economically depressed areas in the United States.

An interesting negative proof of the relationship of unsanitary living conditions and poor nutrition to AIDS is the case of the Haitian refugees. Originally one of the four risk-groups, along with homosexuals, intravenous-drug-users, and hemophiliacs, they have come to represent a smaller percentage of the total cases since no longer being confined to concentration camps.

More deaths than Vietnam

Present projections are that over 47,000 persons in the United States will have died of AIDS by 1987-88, more than died in the Vietnam War. This is based on extrapolation of present trends, and does not adequately consider the effect of major dissemination under conditions of accelerating nutritional and hygienic collapse. It is estimated by researchers studying the African cases that the incidence of AIDS is 20 to 30 times higher in Zaire than in the United States, where already over 10,000 cases have been diagnosed, half of whom have already died. Along with the screening studies cited above, this indicates a large reservoir of virus capable of rapidly disseminating under favorable conditions.

The Center for Disease Control estimates that the first 9,000 cases of AIDS resulted in total costs of nearly \$10 billion, consisting of \$4.2 billion in lost earnings and \$5.6 billion in medical costs.

This problem is not confined to the United States and Africa. Active cases, and presence of the virus, have been documented in Europe, Japan, South America, and even the Soviet Union. As more active surveillance takes place, the incidence in these areas can be expected to increase. This illustrates again the propensity for infectious diseases to find their way to susceptible hosts around the world, and the extreme difficulty of containing such pestilences.

Currency Rates

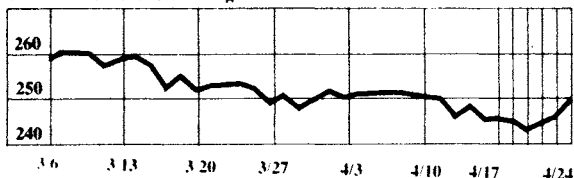
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



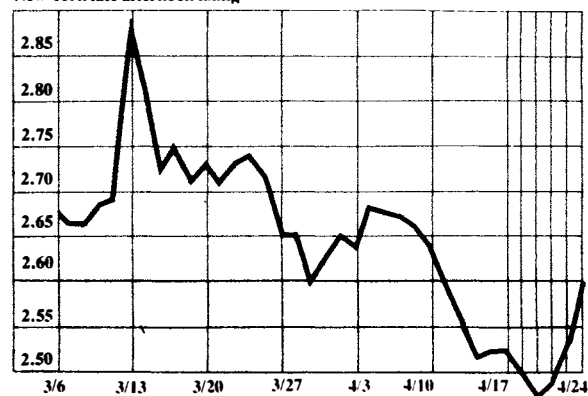
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

