

Editorial

Getting serious about AIDS

The news that the Archbishop of San Francisco has celebrated a mass in the homosexual quarter of the city, reciting the liturgy traditionally used for victims of the Black Death in the Middle Ages, shows that the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is indeed taking on the features of moral insanity that accompanied the outbreak of the Black Death in 1348 and swept through Europe in repeated waves thereafter, claiming the lives of anywhere from 25 to 60% of the population.

There is no need, indeed it would be criminal, to profess helplessness in the face of AIDS, as if we had no capability to mobilize science and technology, and appropriate measures of public health developed in the centuries since the 14th-century plague, to turn the AIDS epidemic around before it is too late. It is most appropriate to be frightened—but we must respond to that fear by looking squarely at the causes of such pandemic diseases, and taking measures that address those causes, no matter how much they may fly in the face of accepted wisdom and powerful vested interests.

In 1348, as today, the hideous epidemic was not a natural phenomenon. It was caused, as can be proven, by oligarchist policies of slavery and the destruction of labor power, policies that followed the oligarchist delusion that reducing the human population would be desirable, since the riches would be distributed among a smaller number of people. These are the same delusions that guide the thinking of such individuals as Robert Strange McNamara, the butcher of Vietnam, who moved on to bigger "body counts" in his tenure as World Bank president, by forcing developing countries to strangle industrial and agricultural development and impose murderously impoverished living standards on their populations.

McNamara, now retired from the World Bank, still devotes full time to his fanatical pursuit of population reduction. His efforts to stop the Strategic Defense Initiative, the one program which could spark a technological revolution and turn back the global economic

depression he did so much to create, must be seen in the light of that murderous obsession.

A decade ago in 1975, *EIR*'s editors were warning, before the name of AIDS was known to the public, that the usurious debt-collection policies being forced by McNamara & Co. on Africa in particular, would lead to the outbreak of uncontrollable disease pandemics on the African continent and then spread to every corner of the globe. Then three years ago, at a Club of Life conference in Washington, D.C., *EIR*'s Medicine Editor Dr. John Grauerholz predicted that AIDS, which originated as projected in the most impoverished regions of Africa, would soon spread beyond the most-vulnerable "target" populations of homosexuals and drug addicts into wider and wider circles of the population.

Now the media, with their own motives of spreading irrational fear, have admitted that many individuals not in the "targeted groups" are contracting AIDS: AIDS is not merely a "homosexual disease." The great Italian poet Dante seemed to have some advance intuition on the nature of the problem, when he placed sodomy and usury in the same circle of his *Inferno*, but located usury as the deepest crime of violence against nature and God—pointing out that to direct investment away from technological advances that increase man's dominion over nature, as the usurer does, is to violate the most fundamental natural law.

The National Democratic Policy Committee is putting forward legislation for state legislatures around the United States, to adopt the kind of public health measures previously used for tuberculosis, to test for AIDS and keep its victims out of all food-service and similar public-service occupations. We wholeheartedly endorse this initiative.

Similarly, the efforts now centered in Ibero-America to end the usurious looting policies of the international banks and IMF, must be supported, as emergency measures to defeat the biggest enemy mankind now faces—the threat of deadly pandemics.