

Soviets push AIDS spread in Europe

by Mark Burdman

According to inside sources in Geneva, an evaluation is now circulating among the officialdom dealing with AIDS at the World Health Organization, that *EIR* has been "foolish" and "unfair" in asserting that the WHO's AIDS work is under the control of the Soviet Union.

In the same breath, however, one official told a journalist that the big conference on AIDS in Europe, scheduled for Dr. Velimirovich's Institute of Social Medicine in Gratz, Austria April 7-9, is being coordinated by one Dr. Bytchenko, head of AIDS work at the European Region headquarters of the WHO in Copenhagen. He is . . . a Russian.

"Foolish?" "Unfair?" The assistant director-general for communicable diseases of the WHO in Geneva, the AIDS "czar" at the policy-command level, is a Russian, Sergei Litvinov. His assistant, in charge of all virology work at WHO in Geneva, is Yuri Ghendon, a Russian. He recently replaced Dr. Bektimirov, a Russian.

With Bytchenko in Copenhagen, the Soviets have command of AIDS work and information flow on the entire continent—and beyond. The European region covers *all* of Europe, East and West, and extends into Turkey, Morocco, and Israel.

The Israeli angle is of interest. Israel joined the European Region only about one year ago, shifting over from the Mediterranean Region. In February of this year, the director-general of the WHO's Copenhagen office, Dr. Asvaal, made a trip to Israel, meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Vice-Premier Yitzhak Shamir, and Health Minister Mordechai Gur, and made a special appeal to the Israelis to put significant efforts into AIDS work.

A positive development? Maybe. If one considers what's going on between Russians and Israelis these days, maybe not. If Israel is functioning as a Soviet asset on the strategic level, why not in this area, too?

In West Germany, where one would expect the most intensive work on AIDS research, the WHO mafia is directing just the opposite. Honest researchers complain that funds are woefully inadequate, that leading pharmaceutical companies are ignoring vital areas of research, and that leading research facilities such as the Max Planck Institute, have been phasing out those facilities that would be vital to AIDS work. On top of this, the government and political parties are, for

various reasons, complicit in a coverup of the extent of the danger.

Similar problems might be pinpointed in other key European countries.

Dr. Bytchenko claims to "know personally very well" and to "respect very much" Munich's Dr. Fritz Deinhardt, the head of the AIDS Collaborating Center in West Germany. Bytchenko, Deinhardt, and Soviet officials in WHO's Press and Information Department are known to insist that the Western media, especially in the United States and Germany, are "exaggerating" the AIDS danger.

An Israeli-linked source who recently spoke to Bytchenko, reports that the latter personally maintains the view that AIDS is "extremely dangerous," but "the danger should not be exaggerated very much." He supports the WHO-Geneva's clampdown on any discussion on AIDS's probable transmissibility by insects and other means, "to keep the populations quiet, and to avoid psychosis." Meanwhile, AIDS spreads, unreported.

Of course, the "Russian race" has no immunity from AIDS, and it will surely spread to that holy soil if left unchecked in Europe. But, the Soviet attitude is very simple, and should be a cause for reflection for those who complain that *Meldepflicht* (compulsory registration of victims) or quarantine are "Nazi" and "fascist." As one political veteran told us recently, "The Soviets have their own developed method of quarantine. It's called shooting people."

If current trends continue unchecked, there will be no Danes, no Swedes, no Germans, no Spaniards, etc., by some time early in the next century. Whether this disappearance is managed by Russian forces or not, even old European families who normally entertain global deals with the Russians, are capable of reading Edgar Allan Poe's *Masque of the Red Death*, and drawing certain conclusions from it.

There are some hopeful signs:

- Munich city-fathers have told *Der Spiegel* magazine that they don't want to become "the AIDS metropole of Europe," and demands for *Meldepflicht* and other measures have been raised.

- The chief medical adviser to the British Health Ministry, Dr. Donald Acheson, told a conference on AIDS, of the Newcastle Haemophilic Society in mid-February that AIDS had become "the biggest health problem of this century."

- The government of Sweden has enacted a regulation, usable in cases of epidemics, requiring abstention of AIDS victims from spreading the disease, at pain of imprisonment for three months. This is seen as intermediate, toward stronger measures to deal with AIDS.

Denmark has the worst AIDS situation in Europe; rioting there over certain AIDS-related incidents in 1985 may just be the harbinger of things to come across Europe, as the moment approaches for the critical decision: Will there be an AIDS "awakening," forcing governments and health authorities to act?