

demagogic dangers lie in collective humiliation under the regime of an unjust system of foreign debts."

Kamphaus, a co-author of the May 13 bishops' statement that denounced the private banks as well as World Bank and IMF for their debt policy against the developing sector, gave a similar speech in Bonn April 18.

AIDS

West German panel divided on disease

Figures released in a report by a commission on AIDS appointed by the West German government, say that more than 2,000 people are sick of the killer disease in West Germany. At a press conference releasing the report, however, it became clear that sharp differences divided the members of the commission.

The majority of commission members expressed support for Health Minister Rita Suessmuth's "do-nothing" policy of accord-ing civil rights to the virus.

However, the four Bavarian members, Professors Zoellner, Spann, Gallwas, and Christian Social Union parliamentarian Geis, voted against the majority report and presented their own. The minority report's conclusions included the statement that AIDS is a disease within the meaning of the federal epidemic law and must be treated according to this law; i.e., public health measures of quarantine and prevention are required. It also said that people in high risk groups and those who are infected have the duty not to endanger the health of others.

While the majority of the commission members insist that there is no risk of infection through casual contact or coughing, the minority report points out that this is still not settled.

The majority report insists that the government has no responsibility for fighting the disease, that that is entirely up to the individual. "The importance of the individual citizen's responsibility for the individual citizen's protection against AIDS must be underlined. It must be clear that this respon-

sibility can not be delegated to the state."

It appears that the only country in the world to now be successfully checking the spread of AIDS is Fidel Castro's Cuba. A Health Ministry report published there says that nearly one-third of Cuba's sexually-active population, and 20% of the total population of 10 million, have been tested for the disease, "probably the highest percentage worldwide." Tests uncovered 230 carriers, of whom 34 have developed the disease. Seven people have died. Those found to be carriers have been quarantined.

The report said that based on the geometrical progression of AIDS in most countries, without these containment measures, Cuba would now have between 2,000 and 3,400 AIDS carriers.

Deindustrialization

French daily describes U.S. 'apartheid'

"Terrifying, abandoned, and poverty-stricken; certain American towns presented as 'models' at the beginning of the 1960s have become 'ghost towns' today." So reads a report in the French daily *La Tribune*.

It continues, "In East St. Louis, Illinois, the garbage has not been collected for six months. The inhabitants have to put their rubbish out on the roofs out of the way of dogs and rats.

"In Camden, New Jersey, thieves have literally taken down, bit by bit, the whole town. . . .

"In Benton Harbor, Michigan . . . 60% of the population lives directly on public aid money. . . . Two-thirds of the housing is below standard. . . .

"These are just a few examples, but are representative of dozens of towns in the United States, towns which are never discussed because they are too far from American standards. . . .

"This descent into hell began 20 years ago, with the epoch of deindustrialization and the departure of the better-off part of these towns' population, generally the white population. The process was accelerated by the progressive disengagement of the federal government. It is apartheid, American-style."

Briefly

● **BRITISH** financier Robert Maxwell is planning to raid Belgium's Société Générale de Belgique. Within hours of an announced settlement wherein Italian financier Carlo de Benedetti reduced his stake in the huge minerals and financial holding company, Maxwell told press he plans to go after a stake.

● **HUNDREDS** of children in Moldavia, U.S.S.R., died of drinking improperly treated tap water in 1987, West Germany's *Bild Zeitung* reported June 25.

● **THAILAND'S** economy is expected to grow by 9% this year, second in the Far East only to the anticipated 10% growth in South Korea, Dr Phisit Pakkasem, deputy secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Board, reported June 13. Thailand also recorded a payments surplus during the first quarter of the year, and its international reserves rose to \$5.7 billion.

● **EAST GERMANY** was accused of responsibility for the death of fish and seals in the North Sea by Bavarian Prime Minister Stoiber June 24. He said that releasing untreated industrial waste into the Elbe River is standard practice in East Germany. As a result, poisonous algae have invaded the North Sea, entering the respiratory systems of all living creatures to a depth of 15 meters and killing them. More than 1,500 seals have died.

● **LIBYA** is now China's fourth-largest source of investment, the *China Daily* reported June 19. Libya invested the equivalent of \$14.3 million in China in the first quarter of the year. Hong Kong is by far the largest investor at \$599.26 million, followed by the United States, \$41.93 million; Japan, \$41.66 million; and West Germany, \$11.01 million.

● **12% OF ITALY'S** GNP reflects black market activities, the largest being drug trafficking, according to a study published by the country's Censis think tank.