

Editorial

Unseating the horsemen of the Apocalypse

We had the good fortune to attend a panel discussion on "Medical Damage and the Fight Against Genocide" at the Sept. 16 Club of Life conference in Washington, D.C. John Grauerholz, M.D., deputy medical examiner for Passaic County, New Jersey, presented a paper he had co-authored for the Fusion Energy Foundation with Ernest Schapiro, M.D. of New York City, titled "Will AIDS Be Another Bubonic Plague?" which clarified many of our questions about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and the rise of epidemics in general.

Dr. Grauerholz began by declaring, "Despite all the hysteria on the subject, I think we can confidently answer no, AIDS will not be another bubonic plague—if we only look at this one disease. There are already promising research leads which should help us to bring it under control in the near future. But AIDS is only a symptom of the type of diseases which proliferate in conditions of social collapse. It is this proliferation of disease, which is directly correlated to the growing conditions of famine and social dislocation in Africa and the Mideast, and now in Ibero-America and Asia, which can easily spill over into the advanced sector. Historically, it is precisely these conditions which have always been the breeding ground for global plague."

Dr. Grauerholz went on to stress the strong correlations between malnutrition, chronic infection, and the prevalence of a number of cancers and cancer-like diseases, including Kaposi's sarcoma, which is associated with AIDS. "AIDS," he said, "can be the harbinger of a series of holocaustal epidemics, not only because of social degeneration"—in the case of promiscuous passive homosexuals, the damage to the immune system seems to stem from an overload of multiple foreign proteins in the bloodstream and to the fact that semen acts as an immune suppressant—"but because of the worldwide decline in nutrition and sanitation, the collapse of health facilities, and the growing large-scale dislocation of whole populations who are reduced to living in concentration camps," as in the case of Haitian refugees.

It is well known that malnutrition (particularly lack

of animal protein, the most concentrated form of biological energy potential) puts the human immune system in jeopardy, in the same areas of the world where disease agents are rampant. Generalized immune system suppression, malnutrition, malaria, and a prevalence of viruses associated with cancer all coincide in regions including sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, coastal areas of South America, parts of the southeastern United States, and parts of Japan (researchers believe the Portuguese-Venetian slave trade originally spread such viruses from Africa to other areas).

It is often assumed that cancer is rare in the underdeveloped countries. "Obviously, there is a certain higher incidence of cancer in the advanced sector because of greater life expectancy," commented Dr. Grauerholz, "but it is false to conclude that 'industrialization breeds cancer.' If we adjust for the age profile in Africa, Asia, and so on, we find the same reported incidence of cancer, and the actual rates may exceed those of the advanced sector. Kaposi's sarcoma has been prevalent in Africa for many years; and the same virus which in the advanced sector produces infectious mononucleosis instead gives malaria-weakened African children the deadly cancer known as Burkitt's lymphoma."

Bubonic plague itself is on the rise, he noted. What is to be done? American methods of high-technology agriculture can be exported to feed the world. Malaria, which is sweeping the Third World owing to the environmentalists' ban on DDT, can be conquered with genetic engineering-produced vaccine. Nuclear waste can be used to sterilize water and irradiate food. "I would have to say that civil engineers have saved more lives than doctors, because it is water treatment and sanitation that are the key to halting these major diseases," Dr. Grauerholz declared. "We require a large-scale coordinated effort. What we must not do is seek the immoral and utopian solution of trying to isolate the United States, or the advanced sector as a whole, from a global ecological holocaust." Then, under conditions of economic collapse and lack of medical care, the Black Death would await its triumphal return.