

## Conspiracy Theories and **AIDS**

**California (Econet)  
25 February, 1987  
AIDS Virus :  
Man-made in the  
USA?**

Stefan Hyme, a controversial author in both Germanies, recently discovered a 50-page research report on the origins of the HTLV-III AIDS virus. The report was written by East German biologist Jakob Segal, former head of the Institute for General Biology at the Humboldt University in East Berlin, and was reported in English only in Harare, Zimbabwe.

In the 3-page interview in West Berlin's *Tageszeitung*, Hyme asked the scientist about the results of his genetic and epidemiological research. Segal said that he ended up tracing the virus to the military research institute at Fort Detrick in the United States. The theory that AIDS was originally a harmless monkey virus was "deliberate disinformation", he said. "The transformation [from monkey to human] is so immense that it lies beyond all probability."

Segal said that virological evidence was the most convincing. Genome analysis indicates that the AIDS virus is a so-called virological chimera that consists of segments of the Visna virus as well as the HTLV-III virus. As there is no natural biological process by which an exchange of genomes could have taken place, the AIDS virus was the result either of a miracle or of genetic engineering, he said.

The AIDS virus was first identified by Professor Luc Montagnier at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, in the spring of 1983. He termed it Lymphadenopathy Associated Virus (LAV) and sent it to pro-

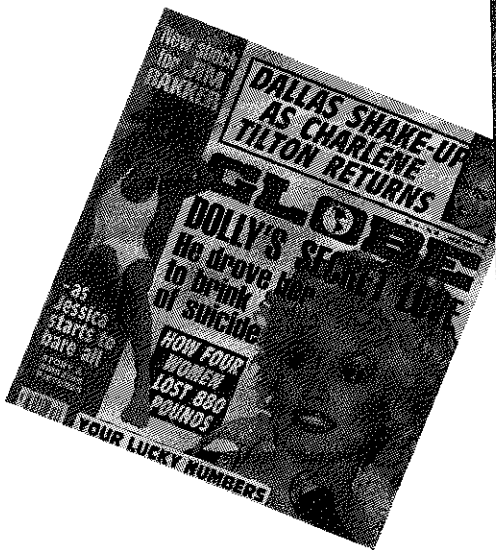
fessor Gallo in Bethesda, Maryland. Gallo compared the LAV virus with the HTLV I and II viruses he had discovered.

Three months later, Gallo described the LAV virus again and called it HTLV-III. Subsequently, the Montagnier group in Paris analyzed the genomes of HTLV viruses and discovered that the differences between HTLV-I and HTLV-3 (AIDS) were so great that a coincidental, natural transformation from one to the other was entirely improbable. Gallo had published his results too soon, they said. The AIDS virus could not unambiguously be assigned to the HTLV virus group.

As there was now no scientifically plausible explanation for the origins of the AIDS virus, scientists began to analyze various viruses that showed some resemblance to it. In the process they found the Visna virus, whose incubation period takes as long as that of the AIDS virus. The Visna virus is frequently seen in Iceland, where it engenders a brain illness in sheep.

Segal went on to describe how Gallo compared the genome of the Visna virus with that of the HTLV virus in a series of experiments. The result was that the Visna virus and HTLV-I genomes are identical in two places. This meant that they are only distantly related. However, the comparison between the Visna virus and the HTLV-III (AIDS) virus showed there were 23 identical places.

Segal's conclusion was that the genetically engineered Visna virus originates from a P-4 high security laboratory, where scientists are allowed to manipulate pathogenic agents like viruses. The first P-4 laboratory in the world was opened in the fall of 1977 at Fort Detrick, Maryland. As



comes on Excellence, and on the other, the Jane Fondas whose acolytes work out to the tunes of the Culture of Narcissism. Their potential graveyard is Betty Ford's home for the decaying rich and famous, the great gossip factory, the ultimate Purgatorial resting-place for those who would reach the positivistic Nirvana. But - in case we had not noticed - Excellence and Narcissism, being cured of drug addictions, and having or not having a mistress, have nothing to do with ethics. A recent copy of *The New York Times* ("all the gossip that really matters") reports that most businessmen would be delighted to have Ollie North on board, while they identify personally with 'Admiral' Poindexter. And the *National Enquirer* devotes six pages of its July 28 issue to North, "a man of action who's made mincemeat of pompous, prying politicians with his honest, forthright answers."

Now there's an interesting problem. The new hero is a product of training in espionage, that modern phenomenon which is essentially concerned with spies taking hidden commands from hidden bosses. The spy lives his whole life predicated on the knowledge that everything he does is of such stuff as gossip is made. His heroism therefore consists of how well he can tell us convincing lies in order to heroically resist the charge that his activities can be gossiped about.

So if the power of positive thinking leads to an Ollie North as Hero of the Boardrooms, the gossip industry has reached its nadir. All gossip is basically political. It is only fun if it allows us to peek into the process of power, to show that the Emperor has no clothes. Contragate is instead the ultimate in the depoliticization of gossip. The tabloids and the evangelicals, even the Ford clinic and the Gary Harts, may continue to be the sources of scandal and rumour, but the real politics is above all that. Where Mendacity is King - especially with a Marine face - what is the point of gossip? Rabelais would have let out a great belly-laugh over that one.

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Segal explained, one can be certain that genetically manipulated viruses had already been produced by the end of 1977. Moreover, other genetic combinations with viruses had also been attempted. Professor Segal believes that the US military is interested in new viruses, since human beings have developed a defense against old illnesses. It should be remembered, Segal explained, that entire Indian tribes were wiped out by measles imported from Europe because they were unable to develop immunity.

Segal went on to explain that recently published U.S. Congress reports had stated that experiments with radioactive material, viruses and infectious germs had been performed on human beings. These experiments were made with so-called volunteers - prisoners with life-long sentences. If they survived the experiment, they were given their freedom. Segal referred to Fort Detrick statistics which detailed the number of test persons, lethal cases and prisoners released.

As to how the genetically manipulated Visna viruses could escape from the laboratory, Segal stated: An AIDS infection begins with a phase comparable to a slight infection (raised temperature, diarrhoea, skin rashes). This phase lasts only a few weeks and then usually nothing happens for years. It takes at least one and a half to two, often even 3 or 5 years for immunity to collapse. In experiments with prisoners one had apparently observed that the test persons became slightly ill and then got well again. For months nothing happened to them. It seemed obvious to conclude that the new virus lived only for a short time in humans and then died, and was thus practically harmless. As promised, the prisoners were then released.

Fort Detrick is located close to New York. It seems plausible that the released test persons went there as a large city is an easier place to vanish - into a homosexual milieu where drugs are readily available. Anyone who has spent a few

years in prison sooner or later assumes homosexual habits, said Segal. One can easily understand that they returned to homosexual circles, whether homosexual before imprisonment or not. This would explain why the first cases of AIDS were discovered in New York in the first half of 1979. This also coincides fairly precisely with the AIDS incubation period.

AIDS was then spread by drug addicts using unsterilised needles and especially through blood preserves and thus gradually reached women.

Segal said there is not a single known case to prove that AIDS originated in Africa. He himself has worked in immunology and is acquainted with the latest literature. AIDS was observed for the first time in New York in 1979 and described by Dr. Gottlieb. In 1981 it was proved to exist in California and then appeared in Chicago and Miami. AIDS first emerged in Europe in 1982, and in many cases the origin of infection could be traced. All existing epidemiological investigations suggest the virus is of North American origin, said Segal.

Segal said it was wrong to claim that Kinshasa (the capital of Zaire) was the source of AIDS. At the end of 1985 there were 27 to 30 AIDS cases for every 100,000 people in Kinshasa. The figure for San Francisco at the same time was 275 cases per 100,000. In 1985 the World Health Organization published a report which dated the first

known occurrences of AIDS in Africa to early 1983. Segal also explained that he himself had studied further literature and had found only one mention of an earlier case of AIDS in Africa.

Segal concluded the interview by saying that it was not absolutely necessary to question the manufacturers of the AIDS virus in a U.S. court or a Congress hearing. He said: "I have given you sound and airtight circumstantial evidence. Every court recognizes circumstantial evidence."

### Tass says virus leaked

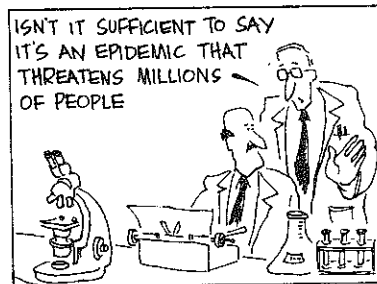
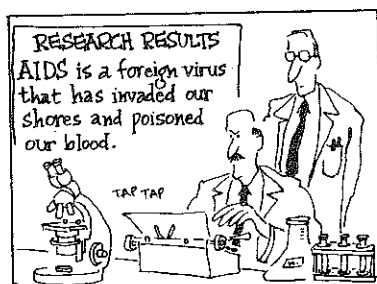
MOSCOW (Associated Press) 30 March 1987

A Soviet military bulletin has reported the virus that causes AIDS leaked from a US army laboratory conducting biological warfare experiments, the official news agency Tass reported.

An article in the current issue of the *Novosti Military Bulletin* said the deadly virus is of "artificial origin," Tass reported.

The article was written by Peter Nikolayev, who said he was reporting the conclusions of US, British and East German scientists.

The article said an army laboratory at Fort Detrick, Maryland, was once the US centre for the development of biological weapons. It said in 1977 a "safe" system was developed for working with



from : London's Daily Te

Thief's "Blow for Czech

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dangerous pathogens. Even so, Tass quoted the *Novosti* bulletin saying, the virus that causes AIDS leaked from the laboratory.

The Tass report did not directly charge the United States with creating AIDS but appeared to renew previously published Soviet allegations that the virus might have been the result of a US military experiment.

In a separate report, Tass said a 1981 US Army manual provides transportation rules for 30 different toxins or pathogens.

In October, the Soviet newspaper *Literaturnaya Gazeta* carried a long article on AIDS and suggested it might be the result of Pentagon or CIA experiments. The Pentagon, which no longer responds to the Soviet reports, says the Fort Detrick lab never experimented with AIDS.

Earlier this month, Soviet scientist Viktor Zhdanov said 32 AIDS cases have been registered in the Soviet Union. He said all but two of the cases involved foreigners.

## Charlatans Say AIDS Brought From Space: False Claims Condemned

CHICAGO (Globe and Mail)  
22 April 1987

"The [AIDS] virus was brought to earth on a spaceship," a man on a tape confides in a low, conspiratorial voice.

"For their people, it's like a common cold, but for us, it's really dire."

"A person [from the other planet] had [sexual] relations with someone, was not careful and passed it on to a young lady.

"And that's how AIDS got started."

Once the laughter at a seminar on AIDS drugs and vaccines had subsided, John Renner, a U.S. physician, said: "This gives you a single but effective example of all the nonsense that's going on.

Dr. Renner told a two-day conference in Chicago on AIDS and public policy yesterday that charlatans who have personal wealth instead of public health on their minds are selling false and sometimes dangerous cures to people with AIDS.

"There's an entire industry of hucksters who are using people's fears to develop a multi-billion dollar industry," said Dr. Renner, director of medical development at St. Mary's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.

Books are being produced that promote pond scum, hydrogen peroxide and gold fillings for

teeth as cures or preventative treatments, he said.

An example is in a book called *Conquering AIDS Now*. The authors recommend that people with AIDS expose their genitalia to the sun at 4 p.m. at a 45-degree angle.

"And I heard a rumour that I could buy T-cells on the streets of San Francisco and Los Angeles," Dr. Renner said. He travelled to both cities and "Lo and behold - I have been able to get T-cells in capsule form," he said, as a bottle of T-cells was passed around the room.

Then there is the conspiracy theory. "They would like us to believe the AMA [American Medical Association] and the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] are conspiring to keep a secret remedy from the world."

One author tells readers that AIDS can be transmitted from a toilet seat or from malicious gay flight attendants who cry in the food served on the plane.

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GOSSIP

from: London's *Daily Telegraph* 19 June, 1986

### Thief's 'Blow for Czech Freedom'

A Czechoslovakian patriot planned to strike "a blow for freedom" for his country's next generation of youth by building the biggest Western record collection in the East, it was claimed in court yesterday.

Over five years the magpie thief with a "Messianic" obsession stole more than £21,000 (pounds sterling) worth of records and tapes from the HMV store where he worked as a general assistant.

He hoped to take them back home with him to help change Czechoslovakian society.

**Suspended sentence**  
Bottoslav Slab, 41, of Clifton Hill, St. John's Wood, pleaded guilty at Marlborough Street court to two theft charges, and was given a six month sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to pay £100 costs.

Slab came to Britain 16 years ago, and lives in St. John's Wood. The court was told that he had been reached after 12 years in the HMV job. He was of excellent previous character.

"As far as he is concerned, he was making something of a blow for freedom for the next generation of Czechoslovakian youth by making these records and tapes available to them," said Mr. Christopher Green, defending.

"His behaviour goes beyond the obsessed, to almost a Messianic belief in the desirability of establishing this very large record collection for transmission to Czechoslovakia."

Mr. Christopher Baker, prosecuting, said Slab was caught on a security video camera stealing 14 LPs worth £75 before the shop opened.

Slab took police to his flat, where he described himself as a "magpie" and showed them his haul, including 1,423 LPs and 489 video films, worth £21,024.

Mr. Baker said the majority of the goods could be resold and no compensation was being sought by HMV, who had withheld some of the defendant's holiday pay.

### Cartoons for children

Mr. Green said the records were an assortment of pop, jazz, folk, classical, country, and re-issues of old 78 discs, and the tapes mainly cartoons for children

Slab started stealing seven years ago in the HMV job because his rent has been increasing rapidly and he found he could no longer afford to buy records.

He still had his own collection of some 2,000 records and numerous tapes, which he still hoped to take to Czechoslovakia eventually.

### 'Do it by culture'

After the hearing Slab said: "You can't change system by force in any country in the East. You have got to do it by means of Western culture and history. You have to explain to people and show them it is true."

"I can do it for the next generation. I hope we can do it without a nuclear holocaust."

Displaying a letter from Christian Solidarity International, telling him that his sister's family back home was being hounded and "controlled" by the police, he said: "I came to the West mainly to find out about your way of life, and the way things are done in a democratic society."

"By learning these things, one can slowly spread the truth and say what is really happening."