

Agency reports AIDS spreading rapidly Campaign kicks off

GENEVA — More than 1 million people contracted the virus that causes AIDS in recent months, 90 percent of them through heterosexual intercourse, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

In a chilling assessment of the spread of the AIDS epidemic, the U.N. health agency predicted the disease will soon become the main cause of premature death in many Western cities and will leave up to 10 million African children orphaned by the end of the decade.

A WHO report on the "Current and Future Dimensions of the HIV-AIDS Pandemic" said by early January, 10-12 million people had caught the human immunodeficiency virus. This was 1 million higher than the previous assessment in April. The new figure included 1 million children.

It can take 10 years or longer for a person infected with HIV to develop AIDS symptoms. Most people diagnosed with AIDS die within a few years.

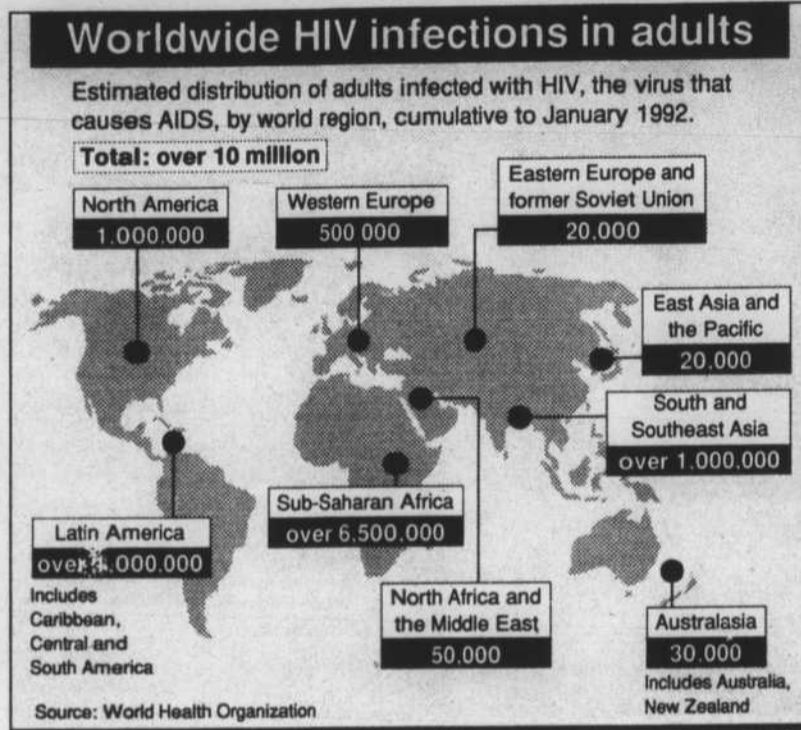
It said an estimated 2 million cases of AIDS had occurred since the disease became known in the early 1980s — 500,000 more than reported by the U.N. agency in April.

The agency predicted that by the end of the year, an estimated 1 million new HIV infections will have occurred in the United States alone.

The report reiterated projections that by the year 2000, 30 to 40 million people will have contracted HIV. "In other words, WHO estimates that infections will at best triple and at worst quadruple in just eight years time," it said.

Michael Merson, head of WHO's AIDS division, said an aggressive prevention campaign would save millions of lives. In particular WHO wants to drive home the message that condoms must be used in all casual sexual relationships.

Underlining its fears that heterosexual adults are at growing risk of AIDS, WHO said 90 percent of all new adult HIV infections since April were the result of heterosexual intercourse.



CONCORD, N.H. — President Bush formally announced his bid for re-election on Wednesday while telling voters he wants to declare on March 20 that "the liberation of America's economy has begun."

Campaigning in New Hampshire for a second term, Bush also said that Democrats who control Congress should pass his economic program intact by the deadline he set and not to tamper with it.

"Today is a special day for me. I know there is no higher honor than serving this great nation," he told legislators in the state that launched his 1988 presidential drive but where he now faces a spirited Republican challenge from Patrick Buchanan in next week's leadoff primary.

Many members leaving Congress

WASHINGTON — The largest turnover since World War II is expected in Congress next year, a change brought on by factors ranging from an aging crop of lawmakers to revised ethics rules.

With the current session of Congress barely two weeks old, 29 incumbent lawmakers have announced they will not be back in 1993.

"It should be a refreshing breeze for the institution," said Rep. Dennis Eckart, a 41-year-old Ohio Democrat elected in 1980 and departing after the November election.

Reasons why lawmakers are leaving include redistricting, public opinion, new

ethics rules and retirement.

Over the past four decades, average turnover in the House every two years has been about 62, ranging from a low of 36 in 1969 to a peak of 86 in 1975. Retirements alone have accounted for anywhere from 21 seats in 1956 to 49 in 1978.

The big turnover comes at a time when critics say Congress has become a lifetime sinecure and that limiting the number of terms lawmakers may serve is the only way to oust incumbents.

"It's very clear there is a loss of stature at home, to say you're a member of Congress," Eckart said.

Jurors in Gotti trial have identities hidden to guard against tampering

NEW YORK — John Gotti blasted his way to the top of the nation's most powerful Mafia family and used violence to maintain control, a prosecutor said in opening statements Wednesday.

"The boss is all-powerful, who has the power of life and death over his membership," U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Maloney told jurors hearing Gotti's murder and racketeering trial.

Maloney said Gotti orchestrated the 1985 murder of his predecessor, former Gambino boss Paul Castellano, to seize control of the organization. Prompted by a Gambino family dispute over drug dealing, Gotti and several other mobsters got together and "decided to take out the boss," he said.

It is the first case Maloney has tried personally in six years as U.S. attorney, underscoring the importance of the case to the government. Defense arguments were postponed until

Thursday after the father of an alternate juror was hospitalized with a suspected heart attack.

Jury selection for the trial of the nation's premier Mafia suspect was completed earlier in the day. Prosecutors estimate the trial will last up to three months.

During that time, jurors will be locked away from family, friends and jobs and living in an undisclosed hotel. Courtroom artists will be forbidden to sketch their faces. Their names and addresses will be hidden in a safe in the federal court clerk's office and each juror will be referred to only by number.

U.S. District Judge I. Leo Glasser said the extraordinary secrecy about the jurors was imposed in response to government allegations of jury tampering in previous Gotti trials.

Gotti is on trial for the fourth time since 1986.

If convicted, Gotti and his co-defendant, reputed underboss Frank "Frankie Locs" Lo-cascio, could be sentenced to life in prison.



NCAA

Continued from Page 1

bel, UNL vice chancellor of business and finance.

In the letter, Spanier said the implementation of LB69 would place UNL in violation of current NCAA rules unless the athletic program were modified.

Spanier said the university was faced with three options. It could:

- implement LB69 under the full scholarship program and suffer the sanctions of the NCAA.
- implement LB69 but alter scholarship and/or walk-on programs to avoid violation of NCAA rules.
- delay implementation for at least one year so the university could put the issue before the NCAA.

In the letter, Spanier said delaying the implementation of the bill, the third option, was the best compromise and would give the university a chance to work on an alternative plan.

However, Chambers said the threat of sanction was not as great as the university claimed. "UNL is the golden goose that lays the

golden egg for the NCAA," Chambers said. "They're not going to mess with Nebraska in these kinds of situations."

He also said the university had not offered proof that implementing LB69 would be in violation of NCAA laws.

Chambers said the university only talked to Big Eight schools about the bill when there were 105 Division 1A schools they could have contacted.

"I don't believe (the university officials') intentions are sincere," he said.

Three university officials, who spoke in support of LB963, told the committee that challenging the NCAA would be a mistake.

James O'Hanlon, the NCAA representative at UNL, said representatives of the university had discussed LB69 and the response had been lukewarm.

Beutler said that if LB963 wasn't passed this year, and the new law was implemented, the university and other institutions in Nebraska would suffer sanctions.

"The NCAA isn't responsible solely to the University of Nebraska," he said. "I believe it's going to take more than one state to change their rules."

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