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Note On A.i.d.s.

Deborah Tyroler

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Note On A.i.d.s.

by Deborah Tyroler

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Nov. 9: The Honduran Health Ministry released a communique indicating that 1,502 confirmed cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) have been diagnosed since 1985. In October 1991, 82 new cases were confirmed. Of the AIDS victims, 67% are male and 33% female. Official sources estimate the number of Human Immuno- deficiency Virus (HIV) carriers at 50,000. Nov. 20: Vicente Bayar, head of the Panamanian Health Ministry's epidemiology department, reported that 186 of 299 confirmed AIDS victims have died in the past six years. Nov. 26: Guatemalan Health Minister Miguel Angel Montepeque told reporters that since the disease was first reported in 1984, 86 Guatemalans have died of AIDS. He said 211 cases of AIDS were confirmed between 1984 and September 1991, including 54 homosexuals, 94 heterosexuals, 19 bisexuals, 22 prostitutes, two drug addicts, eight hemophiliacs, eight blood transfusion recipients, and three homosexual drug addicts. Montepeque said the risk of contagion in Guatemala is calculated at 4.32% per 100,000 inhabitants. According to ACAN-EFE, non-governmental organizations calculate that 50,000 Guatemalans are infected with HIV, while the actual AIDS death toll is close to 300. Dec. 4: In Tegucigalpa, Pan-American Health Organization consultant Wilfredo Alvarado told reporters that on average 30 children out of 100 born to Honduran women infected with AIDS are likely to contract the virus. Alvarado noted that with the rapid spread of AIDS among the heterosexual population, many children were likely to be born infected. Forty-three Honduran children have thus far been diagnosed with AIDS. According to the Honduran Health Ministry, a total of 2,782 AIDS cases have been reported in Central America. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 11/09/91, 11/20/91, 11/26/91; ACAN-EFE, 11/09/91, 11/26/91, 12/04/91)

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