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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: 'The AIDS-ET Connection'

From: Peter Brookesmith Mendoza <[DarkSecretPB@compuserve.com](mailto:DarkSecretPB@compuserve.com)>  
Date: Wed, 23 Jun 1999 09:05:14 -0400  
Fwd Date: Wed, 23 Jun 1999 23:01:26 -0400  
Subject: Re: 'The AIDS-ET Connection'

With the compliments of the Duke of mendoza:

>Date: Tue, 22 Jun 1999 11:39:46 -0700  
>From: Judith Dale <[judithdale@earthlink.net](mailto:judithdale@earthlink.net)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>  
>Subject: Re: 'The AIDS-ET Connection'

>Yes, well, the CDC and WHO would like us to believe that the  
>origin of HIV lies in the Green Monkey. However, there is also  
>the theory that HIV was grown in the biological warfare labs,  
>which interestingly are often in the same companies that  
>produce vaccines.

Here are the antidotes to this kind of factoid:

In the USA and Europe in the 1980s and '90s there were suspicions that HIV had reached the human population through vaccines, in particular a batch of live polio vaccine that was created using African green monkey cells. This was used in Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi between 1957 and 1960. An American scientific panel examined the evidence in 1992-3, and concluded the vaccines were free of HIV. A major problem with the 'contaminated vaccine' theory was that the HIV-1 and SIV viruses are genetically so far apart that it was virtually impossible for the SIV to have mutated into HIV-1 in such a short timespan. It was suggested too that viruses in smallpox vaccine grown on cow cells had reacted with bovine leukemia viruses to produce HIV, but this theory too collapsed when it was shown that the DNA of the two microorganisms were incapable of combining. Astronomers Sir Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe declared their conviction that the AIDS virus came from outer space. The two British scientists have long maintained that many epidemic-inducing microbes arrive on meteorites, asteroids and minor comets entering the Earth's atmosphere. The distinguished astronomers have consistently ignored biologists' objections that the microbes would be wiped out by a combination of ultra-violet light in outer space and the heat generated when the space debris enters the atmosphere.

Then came the conspiracy theorists. One of the first was British doctor John Seale, who published an article in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1985 that claimed the US Army had concocted HIV out of genetic material from viruses causing bovine leukemia, visna in sheep, lentiviruses from horses and goats, and human T-cell leukemia/lymphocyte virus. The recipe, Seale said, had been cooked up at Fort Detrick, Maryland, in 1977. Lying behind Seale's thesis were two articles that had appeared the same year in Literaturnaya Gazeta, the journal of the Soviet Writer's Union, and told much the same story. According to Professor S. Drozdov of the Research Institute of Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis in Moscow, the CIA had let the

virus loose by testing it on federal prisoners in the USA and in the field in Africa.

None of these claims bore much relation to scientific or to historical facts. The earliest identified AIDS cases date back to 1959, when the concept of genetic coding was unknown. Reverse transcriptase was discovered in 1970, and retroviruses were discovered in people in 1978. But it was not until 1983 that the technique of polymerase chain reaction, which revolutionized research into and manipulation of DNA, was invented. Essentially the cloning technology that the 'invention' of HIV requires did not exist in 1977. In 1986, the Soviets admitted they had their own cases of AIDS, and after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 the Soviet Academy of Sciences apologized for disseminating the notion that AIDS was an American invention, an idea that, it admitted, had been inspired by the KGB. The US State Department had already concluded as much, and believed the accusations were designed to discredit the USA in developing countries.

Facts have never stood in the way of a good conspiracy theory, however. In 1996 Dr Leonard G. Horowitz, a dental health expert and former faculty member of Tufts and Harvard Universities, published (at his own expense) a 592-page hardcover 'expose' - Emerging Viruses: AIDS & Ebola: Nature, Accident or Intentional? - of the links between AIDS, the National Institutes of Health, US biological warfare research establishments and an almost inevitable list of several favorite targets of conspiracy addicts, such as the Rockefeller family, the CIA, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Nixon administrations of 1968-74. According to Dr Horowitz's book, AIDS researcher Dr Robert Gallo did not discover HIV in 1984, but had already invented it by 1971. (One is amazed that Dr Gallo has refrained from legal action.) The virus was deployed in Africa as a means of population control, and the whole plot was originally put together by Dr Henry Kissinger as early as 1969.

Dr Horowitz also claims that 'the world's most feared and deadly viruses' - Marburg and Ebola - were likewise man-made, and 'share the dubious distinction of breaking out in or around areas of CIA/NATO operations' in Africa, and were put to good use in diplomatic blackmail. NATO does not operate in Africa. Circumstantial evidence and a powerful belief system can prove almost anything. Horowitz's 'critical examination' of 'the New York Times bestselling "nonfiction" book The Hot Zone by Richard Preston ... reveals Preston's book is undoubtedly counterintelligence propaganda seemingly intended to prepare the world for future epidemics and additional virus outbreaks.' (Horowitz says rather breathlessly that a 'a final serendipitous discovery identified ... Preston as the recipient of a \$20,000 literary grant from the Sloan Foundation', a fact that could be gleaned by looking at the first few pages of the book.)

But the point of conspiracy theories is less to satisfy logic than to articulate and dramatize emotions. In the case of AIDS, the blaming ritual that conspiracy theory requires has amalgamated moral disgust and social and racial stereotyping. The Reagan administration's unwillingness to commit funds to HIV and AIDS research stemmed from a disbelief that AIDS would ever affect heterosexuals, despite growing evidence to the contrary. The disease had already quarantined itself, in this view, and had conveniently done so among a group of people whose way of life was morally and physically repugnant to the decision makers. Behind them stood a phalanx of right-wing religious bigots only too ready to proclaim that gays had brought their plague upon themselves: 'AIDS is a judgement of God,' thundered the Rev. Billy Graham, and was echoed by television evangelist and Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell: 'AIDS is God's punishment. The scripture is clear: We do reap it in our flesh when we violate the laws of God.' Alabama senator Jeremiah Denton was reported to have said unequivocally, 'Let the faggots die.'

By the late 1980s, the claim that AIDS was a product of biological warfare experiments in Africa had metamorphosed itself to haunt the imagination as home-grown folklore. On the political fringe, groups such as the United Front Against Racism and Capitalist Oppression could maintain that that AIDS was 'bio-warfare directed mainly against gays' by the CIA. But by this time the threat to heterosexuals was widely recognized, and so among many African Americans the legend grew - along with the

disproportionate spread of AIDS in the black community - that the biological 'war' was a genocidal attack on them. This was not a belief limited to separatist groups or black nationalists, although it was certainly endorsed by them. Stephen Thomas and Sandra Quinn, from the University of Maryland, polled black Americans in seven states between 1988 and 1990 on attitudes to the disease. Nearly 40 per cent of the black college students surveyed in Washington, DC, agreed with the statement: 'I believe there is some truth in reports that the AIDS virus was produced in a germ-warfare laboratory.' Still more disturbing was the finding that of 999 black churchgoers, one third agreed strongly with the statement: 'I believe AIDS is a form of genocide against the black race.'

Against this backcloth it becomes all the more urgent to promote some rational, fact-based approach to the causes of AIDS and emerging diseases.

Incidentally, it's also not true that the numbers of AIDS infections, nationally or globally, is not tracked. But national pride in some Third World countries and simple lack of medical infrastructure in others make the figures not entirely reliable.

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