

## Aids in Britain

## Spread a 'moral Chernobyl'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The spread of Aids is like a "moral Chernobyl" and the promotion of condoms is "a counsel of despair", Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of Britain's Roman Catholics, has said.

He criticized aspects of the Government's public education campaign on Aids which encourages the use of condoms. It was dangerous to suggest to young people that the condom was 100 per cent safe, he said.

In a interview to be broadcast today on the Channel 4 programme, *Seven Days*, Cardinal Hume said that any campaign which does not take into account that sexuality belongs exclusively to marriage is, in the long term, not serving the best interests of society and of future generations.

The only answer to the Aids epidemic was a "profound change" in social and moral behaviour. A good Catholic's concern, he said, should be to prevent the immediate spread

of Aids, and prevent contraception at the same time.

"It can only be by self-denial. It is going to be hard but that's the only way to get things right," he said.

Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, said: "If we try to over-emphasize the short-term solutions, then we are really going to sell people short. We have to change people's attitudes."

There was no question of the Catholic church giving "tacit acceptance" to the use of contraception in the prevention of spreading the disease, he said.

He added: "It is a strange irony of fate that fear is going to be a more demanding teacher than we have been from our pulpits."

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, has said that he would be willing to discuss the issues with Cardinal Hume.

Mr Fowler will discuss the Government's record on Aids prevention tomorrow in the

BBC1 programme, *This Week Next Week*, along with Mr Roy Hattersley and Mr Roy Jenkins.

● An Aids sufferer has been banned from using a swimming pool. The Sports Council for Wales says a ban on those with Aids will remain until it receives medical advice from the Welsh Office.

The ban has been imposed at pools at Plas Menai, Caernarvon, and at the National Sports Centre at Cardiff.

Yesterday the Aids patient, who is aged 39, and lives near Criccieth in Gwynedd, and who asked not to be named, said he would fight the ban, and added: "I'm told it is clinically impossible to pick up the virus from the water."

● GRO-A aged 23, from GRO-A Dublin, who was given compassionate release from Mountjoy prison, Dublin, after it was discovered that he had Aids, died yesterday. He had been serving a five-year sentence imposed this year for armed robbery.

## Ministers dismiss Anderton's tirade

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The moral crusade against Aids advocated by Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, was repudiated by government ministers yesterday.

They insisted that public policy had to be directed towards warning people of the practical steps they should take to protect themselves against the killer disease.

And they suggested that whatever the merits of Mr Anderton's tirade against "degenerate conduct" such exhortations amounted to "pie in the sky".

One senior member of the Government went so far as to dismiss Mr Anderton's comments as amounting to a call for "bashing homosexuals".

But at the same time he conceded that the chief constable was speaking for a body of opinion within society and that if his call for sexual purity was followed it would, of

course, greatly check the spread of the virus.

Mr Anderton had said that Aids was a self-inflicted wound. People at risk, such as homosexuals, drug abusers and prostitutes, were "swirling around in a human cesspit of their own making".

Instead of urging people to wear condoms, the authorities should be challenging such behaviour.

Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Health, underlined the Government's pragmatic approach to the disease.

Asked on BBC Radio 4 if he shared Mr Anderton's diagnosis, he said: "It is for people to make their own moral judgements. We have to make clear what the risks are."

Official figures released yesterday show that at the end of November the number of Aids cases stood at 599, of whom 296 had died.

# Job risk to police chief in Aids row

The outspoken condemnation of Aids by Mr James Anderton, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, won public plaudits yesterday but immediately brought the threat of disciplinary action from his own police authority.

Even while the police headquarters switchboard was jammed with hundreds of calls of nationwide support, outraged members of the Greater Manchester Police Authority were seeking legal advice on the possibility of

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officially admonishing or even forcing the resignation of their most volatile employee.

Next Friday each member of the authority will be given a transcript of the speech delivered by Mr Anderton at a one-day Aids seminar in Manchester on Thursday, when he spoke about the self-inflicted scourge of society and the cesspool of immorality.

Last night Mr Anderton refused to comment on suggestions that he may be disciplined. He was one of the chief guests at the central Manchester police divisional carol concert at St Mary's Roman Catholic church - known as the "hidden gem".

He was the final speaker of the evening and read from the gospel according to St Luke, on the birth of Christ.

After the service Mr Anderton left the church with his wife and other officers, and refused to discuss his speech on Aids.

A senior officer said earlier in the day that the chief constable had been heartened by the hundreds of telephone calls which poured into police headquarters supporting his stand.

Feelings about his description of the disease were so hostile, particularly among left-wing supporters of the socialist-dominated authority, that a fresh collision seemed inevitable.

Mr David Moffat, the deputy chairman of the authority, said a copy of Mr Anderton's speech was rushed to members at a meeting of the

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## Anderton Aids call job risk

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Finance and Policy Committee, hours after its delivery to 160 delegates from 43 police forces. It was placed on the agenda for immediate discussion.

"To say members were surprised and disappointed is putting it mildly," Mr Moffat added. "Some of them were seething with indignation and are determined the matter will not rest until our chief constable has at the very least been forced to apologize."

Since the former Greater Manchester Police Committee had been disbanded and replaced by the more politically liberal police authority, he said, every effort had been made to end the enmity which had previously existed.

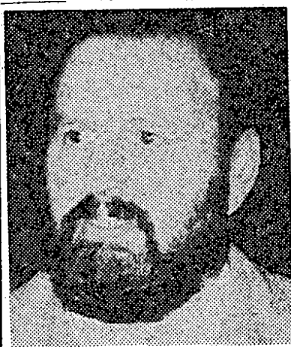
"Yet in a matter of minutes Mr Anderton seems to have demolished all the bridges which have so painstakingly been built between the police and the authority during the past few months.

"If it is agreed that what he said at the seminar went beyond the pale then some sort of censure is certain to follow, but what form it will take will depend entirely upon what legal options are open to us."

Mr Anderton, a former Methodist lay-preacher now undergoing conversion to Roman Catholicism, had told his stunned seminar audience that he was speaking as a husband, father and lover of the human race who cared about future generations of children yet unborn.

Three fellow chief constables also expressed support for Mr Anderton's moral theme, in a nationwide survey conducted by *The Times*.

Mr Eldred Boothby, chief constable of Durham police, said higher moral standards were needed in society. Mr John Duke, chief constable of Hampshire, also agreed there was a need to examine sexual conduct in society.



Mr James Anderton after last night's service.

## Fight against Aids

From the Reverend Nicholas Aiken  
Sir, Mr GRO-A's letter (December 4) is an embarrassing comment on the Church, essentially because he is right.

The Church of England all too frequently, in its effort to understand and care for people of different views and practices, loses sight of its distinctive Christian ethic.

Sex is for marriage; indeed an unpopular message in our hedonistic society, but we have failed to possess the courage to convey that message. Sadly now many are reaping the consequences of permissive sexual activity. They are, however, the ones we have really failed.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS AIKEN (Diocesan Youth Officer),  
Diocese of Guildford,  
Education Department,  
Diocesan House, Quarry Street,  
Guildford, Surrey.