

# Mexico's AIDS mafia gets a challenge

by Mark Sonnenblick

A campaign by the Mexican Schiller Institute—a policy think tank co-founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche—for decisive action against the spread of the AIDS virus in Mexico, has provoked sharp responses along both sides of the California border from the local representatives of the “AIDS mafia”—the same grouping which ran hysterical campaigns against two similar initiatives in California sponsored by associates of Lyndon LaRouche.

But unlike in California, the two biggest political parties in Baja California Norte are now competing over which will ride the Schiller Institute's initiative to victory. When sessions resume in September, several state legislatures may be pressed into mandating that the deadly virus be subject to the same public health standards as smallpox and other contagious diseases.

The mayor of Tecate joined with 100 other political and business leaders from Baja California Norte in signing a Schiller Institute open letter to the governor and the legislature published in the state's major dailies on Aug. 11. The letter stated that “our concern is heightened by the admission by the Health Services Coordination officials themselves that the propagation of this mortal disease is out of control and that Baja California could have between 2,460 and 5,000 infected persons.” It noted that even the World Health Organization is beginning to admit that the Schiller Institute was right five years ago when it said “contagion is not restricted to sexual means and blood transfusions, but the virus has been found in all human body secretions. . . . Thus ‘casual contact’ has begun to cause an increasing proportion of new cases. . . . This reality makes evident that prevention campaigns based on the use of condoms are more than useless, and to continue them would be criminal.”

## No rights for the HIV virus

The signers demanded AIDS be treated like other transmittible diseases, with prompt reporting and standard quarantine procedures. They demanded “building an adequate hospital center for those suffering from the disease or who are asymptomatic carriers of it, in order to provide them the human care they deserve and prevent them from being infected by opportunistic diseases or infecting others.” They also called for universal testing of local residents and of people who might be bringing the disease from California. “Human

life is priceless,” it concluded.

Just across the border on the U.S. side, the San Diego *Union* published a lengthy diatribe Aug. 11, datelined Tijuana and reflecting slanders from “AIDS activists here and in San Diego.” It complained that “a group with ties to American political extremist Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. has initiated an AIDS campaign in Baja California that would, in part, quarantine people suspected of being infected with the disease”—a standard falsehood used against the California AIDS initiatives.

The Schiller Institute letter had been signed by the president of the Northwest Medical Association and many other physicians. After the fur began flying, the chief epidemiologist of one Baja city met with Schiller Institute president Marivilia Carrasco. He told her, “We have checked into the situation. We completely agree with you. The problem is not the prostitutes nor the homosexuals; the problem is that the AIDS carriers are politicians, journalists, etc. . . . If we were to test, we would find there are 25,000 carriers.” He concluded, “We want to work with you.”

Carrasco then fired off a letter to the *Union's* editor, stating that its article was “dirty, and it attempts to intimidate and even to terrorize those who signed the advertisement in question. It employs the tactics used by the FBI against undesirable political groupings, such as the pro-life movement, Hispanic and Black leaders and people associated with Lyndon LaRouche.” She accused the *Union's* reporter of a gratuitous attack against “political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche, who is known in Mexico for his economic proposals on behalf of the underdeveloped countries, and for whom we have the greatest esteem, but who had nothing to do with the ad we published in Baja California.” The mayor of Tecate also stood up to the *Union* and the AIDS rights mafia and defended his continued support for the Schiller Institute's anti-AIDS policies.

## IMF policies help AIDS to spread

Since April, Dr. Berta Farfán, a physician who also represents the Schiller Institute, has been educating scores of health associations, civic groups, business executives, and labor unions throughout northern Mexico on the AIDS crisis and its implications. Marivilia Carrasco joined her there in July for non-stop radio interviews, press conferences, and forums. They have been explaining how President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's execution of economic policies dictated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has caused what Dr. Catalina Eibenschutz calls an “epidemiological emergency.” During the past seven years, Mexico has serviced its foreign debt at the expense of halving the health budget and halving the protein intake of the poor, Eibenschutz reports. Taken together, those conditions have led to an epidemic resurgence of deaths from previously vanquished diseases such as malaria, chicken pox, and meningitis, along with the uncontrolled spread of AIDS.