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Guess who the KGB blames for AIDS

Much has been written about the AIDS "epidemic." And too much of this has been inaccurate and irresponsible — perhaps unwittingly sensationalized to spread fear. But none of this compares with an essay on the subject that appeared recently in *Literaturnaya Gazetta*, a major Soviet publication.

It is a mad, mad piece, deserving of comment only because it demonstrates the methodology of the KGB's disinformation apparatus.

It is hardly a secret that the KGB maintains a large staff to prepare articles that then are planted — sometimes for cash — in Third World publications. Then some Soviet journal picks up the article, with a "we're just repeating what independent sources say," and republishes it with its own embellish-

ments. And this is what the *Gazetta* has done with an article on AIDS planted by the KGB in an Indian newspaper, *Patriot*.

What we have here is the KGB account of how the AIDS "epidemic" began. So hold onto your hats.

The Pentagon, it is charged, has been conducting research in immunology (as well it should, given the Soviet emphasis on bacteriological warfare) at "Fort Detrick . . . grievously known to the whole world as the place where biological weapons are created." (I didn't know; did you?)

When President Nixon prohibited the testing and manufacture of such weapons, the KGB tells us, the Pentagon secretly transferred its research "to the territory of other countries under cover of opening medical labs of various types." From these laboratories, experiments were conducted on native populations and these already have caused deadly epidemics in places like Spain and Pakistan. (I didn't know that, either, but if the KGB says so, it must be true.)

The *Patriot* piece says that "the experts from Fort Detrick have cre-

ated yet another kind of biological warfare." After analysis of the experiments at a supersecret "CDC" laboratory, these experts were able to create an "absolutely new type of virus — AIDS." Tests of this new virus were conducted in Haiti and then it was introduced into blood banks by the CIA and injected into "the outcasts of society: drug addicts, gays, the homeless" — and the disease spread rapidly.

"This," says *Literaturnaya Gazetta*, "is the conclusion *Patriot* arrives at" — no doubt after it had sent its investigative reporter from India to the United States to determine the facts.

So now we know. AIDS is the creation of diabolical Pentagon scientists — and visited on the American people by an even more diabolical CIA that has been crawling into blood banks in the dead of night — and compelling gays to do whatever it is that gays do.

It is simple, of course, to point out that AIDS is not an "absolutely new virus." For decades, if not longer, it has been virtually epidemic in certain areas of West Africa. But facts never interfere with the work of the vast KGB disinformation apparatus.

And it may be impolite to note that biological warfare — the Soviet Union's "yellow rain" for example — is designed to incapacitate enemy troops within hours or days. It takes years for AIDS to incubate, which makes it of no military value.

I am sure that the Pentagon's medical scientists have been doing research in immunology to counter Soviet biological warfare — even as they have been studying the effects of radiation. I know, too, from talking to Army doctors who served in Korea, that cholera struck the Communist armies — they claimed we were responsible — and that effective sanitary measures immunized our own troops.

During the 1930s, the Western democracies could always tell what Hitler was up to by studying his accusations against us. Soviet charges against the United States

have served as a similar tipoff. Every use of bacteriological warfare by the Soviets has been accompanied by accusations against the United States.

So the *Literaturnaya Gazetta* screeed, with its catalog of alleged American bacteriological depravity, gives away more than it "exposes." The experiments they attack us for are precisely those they have been carrying out for many years — on their own people as well as on the people of the countries they "befriend."

The AIDS article may be read as low comedy, but it is also a blueprint of Soviet strategy.

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