

中国艾滋病大事年表(1985-2003)
AIDS in China: An Annotated Chronology
1985 – 2003

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中国艾滋病综览
China AIDS Survey

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Foreword

Over a year in the making, “AIDS in China: An Annotated Chronology 1985-2003” compiles Chinese and international open-source material since China’s first reported AIDS case in 1985, and provides concise overviews and analysis on the extent of AIDS in China and its major policy issues. The objective of this report and the website, China AIDS Survey, is to increase the overall awareness and provide a historical foundation of China’s AIDS crisis among policy makers, international aid workers, professional stakeholders and the general population. I believe this report will not only provide a historical context, but also have a positive impact on raising the world’s awareness of China’s AIDS crisis.

--Edmund Settle

Current Overview of HIV/AIDS in China

The Chinese government currently estimates up to one million Chinese citizens may be infected with the AIDS virus. However, experts agree that these figures do not accurately reflect the actual number because China lacks the resources to carry out extensive surveillance in the countryside. Additionally, current surveillance protocols primarily cover only specific high risk groups. Because of these limitations, it is estimated that only five percent of HIV cases in China are reported. International health experts believe the real figure lies between 1.5 and two million, and the United Nations Program on AIDS (UNAIDS) projects China could have between 10 and 15 million HIV cases by the year 2010. Although this number represents only a small percentage of China's vast 1.2 billion population, the sheer numbers of people at risk is staggering.

Statistics

Reported Chinese Government Statistics	Revised 2003 Estimates	2002 Statistics
Estimated HIV/AIDS cases	One Million	850,000
HIV cases	840,000	40,560
AIDS cases	80,000	2,639
AIDS related deaths	150,000	1,410
Annual increase (%)	30	30
National prevalence rate (%) 15-49 yrs	--	0.1 - 0.13

While addressing the HIV/AIDS High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on 22 September 2003, Gao Qiang, Executive Vice Minister of Health, reported China has 840,000 people now living with HIV, and some 80,000 people with AIDS symptoms. In 2002 alone, the number of HIV cases rose 140 percent. Since China's first reported AIDS case in 1985, 150,000 people have died of AIDS. This dramatic increase from previous government reports is the result of a new surveillance system carried out jointly by Ministry of Health (MOH), UNAIDS and the World Health Organization (WHO). Prior to this announcement, the Ministry of Health officials had officially documented 40,560 HIV cases, of which 2,639 developed AIDS cases and 1,410 have died.

The 15 - 29 age group makes up 60 percent of the total HIV population, while the 30 - 39 age group is the second largest group. HIV victims under 19 years old account for 9.5 percent. The ratio of infected men to women has fallen from nine to one in the early 1990s to three to one in 2001. HIV/AIDS cases are located in all 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities with over 70 percent in the countryside. Some 36 percent of all HIV cases are among China's ethnic minorities, which make up only eight percent of the population and are primarily concentrated in the border provinces of Yunnan province (southwest), Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (southwest) and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (west).

Modes of Transmission

Reported Modes of Transmission	2002	2001
Intravenous drugs users (IDU) (%)	68.0	68.7
Commercial blood donors (%)	9.7	7.0
Heterosexual transmission (%)	7.2	6.7
Homosexual transmission (%)	--	0.2
Mother-to-infant (%)	--	0.1

Intravenous drugs users

China's AIDS epidemic is still fairly localized among three major sub-groups. Intravenous drugs users (IDU) who share needles account for 68 percent of HIV cases, and are primarily located in Yunnan province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. In these three regions, up to 80 percent of IDUs are HIV positive. At the end of 2002, the National Narcotic Control Commission (NNCC) reported China has one million registered drug users, up 11 percent from 2001; nearly half use intravenous drugs and 25 percent share needles. Some 2,148 of China's 2,863 counties have reported drug abuse problems.

Blood donors

Commercial blood donors infected through unsafe blood donation practices during the 1990s account for 9.7 percent of HIV infections. Originally thought to be contained to rural residents of China's east-central provinces, the problem is now known to be more widespread. On 26 December 2002, former Health Minister Zhang Wenkang acknowledged 23 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities were affected with unhygienic blood collection. The actual number of people infected with HIV through tainted blood transfusions is unknown, but experts estimated there could be over one million victims in Henan province alone. A recent survey showed the prevalence rate among commercial blood donors in rural eastern China was 12.5 percent and 2.1 percent among their non-donor spouses. And, in January 2002, the Henan Health Department reported that 80 percent of Houyang village residents were HIV positive. Of its 4,000 residents between the ages of 16 and 55, some 90 percent have participated in illegal blood donations. More than 400 villagers have developed AIDS, and 150 have died between November 2000 and November 2001. In Wenlou village of Shangcai county, Henan province over 60 percent of the population is HIV positive.

Heterosexual unprotected sex

Heterosexual unsafe sex accounts for 7.3 percent of China's HIV infections. The majority of heterosexual transmission is between sex workers and their clients. During the mid to late 1980s, China's commercial sex industry reappeared in coastal cities and quickly extended inland. It is estimated China currently has more than 3 million sex workers. Mirroring the increase in prostitution, sexually transmitted disease (STD) rates in China have increased "100 fold" since 1986 when China publicly confirmed its first cases of STDs in 22 years. In 1988 alone, China reported 56,090 STD cases, and by December 1989 the total number of reported annual STD cases reached 204,077. In 2002 alone, more than 740,000 cases of STDs were reported. Dai Zhicheng, Deputy Director of the Chinese Association of STD and AIDS Prevention and Control, acknowledged curing STD is vital to controlling AIDS in China. "STD patients are most likely to acquire or transmit HIV, with the risk increased

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three to five times as high as those of other people," said Dai. In 2000, the HIV prevalence rate among sex workers in Yunnan, Guangxi and Guangdong was as high as 11 percent. In Shanghai, 65 percent of HIV infections are through heterosexual transmission.

Male-to-male unprotected sex

While not considered as having reached epidemic rates of infection, HIV transmission through male-to-male unprotected sex is on the rise. Unprotected homosexual sex is estimated to account for 0.2 percent of HIV infections in China. Although there is no comprehensive surveillance data on HIV transmission through male-to-male sex, both of Beijing's AIDS designated hospitals report about one third of their patients contracted HIV through male-to-male sex. Furthermore, a recent survey of gay groups conducted by the Chinese Association of STD/AIDS Prevention and Control in China's northern cities of Harbin, Shenyang and Dalian showed one to three percent of respondents tested positive for HIV. In November 1989, China reported its first indigenous HIV infection. It was reported the man contracted HIV through homosexual sex.

Mother-to-infant

The HIV infection rate through mother-to-infant transmission is 0.1 percent. However, health officials believe this rate will increase as the number of women becoming infected increases. In 1995, the first confirmed case of mother-to-infant transmission was reported in Yunnan province, and by 2002, 102 HIV-1 positive women gave birth to 112 newborns (53 male, 52 female and 7 unknown) of which 34 infants were HIV positive and 54 were negative, two were suspected of having HIV and 22 were untested. Yunnan, Xinjiang, Henan and Guangdong have the highest numbers of mother-to-infant transmissions. The true extent of HIV cases caused by mother-to-infant transmission may be far worse. To date only a few mother-to-infant prevalence surveys have been conducted in high-infection rate areas, and local health agencies have limited diagnostic equipment to test newborns. Therefore, the actual number of children being infected through mother-to-infant transmission is unknown.

Notes:

—Fu Jing, "Authorities Step Up War Against Drug Abuse," *China Daily*, 6 March 2003; "China Reports Increased Help to 'AIDS-Stricken Areas,'" Xinhua, 26 December 2003; Zhang Feng, "Nation Vows to Contain AIDS," *China Daily*, 16 October 2002; UNAIDS, *HIV/AIDS: China's Titanic Peril*, June 2002; "Chinese Attitude Towards Sex Maturing," Xinhua, 8 August 2003; Joan Kaufman, "China and AIDS," *Science* Vol. 296, 28 June 2002, pp. 2339-2340; "Chinese Ministry of Health: HIV Carriers Total 850, 000," Xinhua, 11 April 2002; Zhang Feng, "Clinics to Aid Anti-Drugs, AIDS Campaign," *China Daily*, 24 February 2003; "HIV Infections Rise Sharply in China, Pass 1 Million," Deutsche Presse Agentur, 4 October 2003. "Workers Daily Says 80 Percent of Henan Village Ravaged by HIV," *South China Morning Post*, 04 January 2002; "China Reports its First VD Cases in 22 Years," UPI, 21 December 1986; "VD Cases Multiply in China," Xinhua, 2 December 1989; "UN Agency Warns India, China on Brink of AIDS Epidemic," Agence France Presse, 26 November 2002; "China Discovers First AIDS Virus Carriers," Associated Press, 1 November 1989; Yan Xizao, "Opening Up Health info to the Public," *China Daily*, 27 August 2003; Cao Yunzhen, et al, "AIDS in China: Mother-to-Infant HIV Transmission: Its Status, Crisis and Countermeasures," *Shanghai Zhonghua Chuanranbing Zazhi* 20 (3), 15 June 2002, pp. 185-188; UNAIDS, *HIV/AIDS: China's Titanic Peril*, June 2002; "Chinese Attitude Towards Sex Maturing," Xinhua, 8 August 2003; Joan Kaufman, "China and AIDS," *Science* Vol. 296, 28 June 2002, pp. 2339-2340; "Chinese Ministry of Health: HIV Carriers Total 850, 000," Xinhua, 11 April 2002; Zhang Feng, "Clinics to aid Anti-Drugs, AIDS Campaign," *China Daily*, 24 February 2003; "HIV Infections Rise Sharply in China, Pass 1 Million," Deutsche Presse Agentur, 4 October 2003.

HIV/AIDS Policy Issues

The two main AIDS policy issues facing the Chinese government are preventing transmission of HIV/AIDS into the general population and the treatment of infected people. Other policy debates, which include targeting China's marginalized sex workers and men who have sex with men (MSM) communities, needle exchange and condom distribution have prompted passionate debates between public and government officials and HIV/AIDS advocacy groups. This failure to agree on a consensus could limit any coordinated government effort to effectively control the transmission of AIDS.

HIV/AIDS Transmission to the General Population

The primary AIDS policy issue in China is the increasing risk of the AIDS virus spreading from localized high-risk groups into the general population through "bridge populations." On 20 October 2003, the Director of the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Li Liming, admitted, "The biggest challenge we're facing is how to prevent the disease from transmitting to the general public from high-risk people such as prostitutes." China's "bridge populations" include the following groups:

"Floating population"

Unique to China because of the huge numbers involved, the term "floating population" (liudong renkou) refers to the estimated 130 million migrant laborers who travel between China's rural and urban areas. Some 65 percent of China's migrant workers are male, with 20 percent in the 15 - 19 age group and 45 percent in the 20 - 29 age group. Chinese rural-urban labor migrants face many obstacles such as poverty, class differentiation, low skills and lack of access to education and health care. These factors isolate China's rural migrant workers in Chinese cities, placing them at the bottom of the social ladder. An increase in the HIV infection rate among China's floating population group could spread the AIDS virus along migration routes into China's major urban centers and throughout the countryside. Pan Xiaozhang, an AIDS expert at Shanghai's Hua Shan Hospital, warns that the influx of migrant workers in Shanghai is contributing to its higher HIV infection rate. He said many of Shanghai's HIV cases are "migrant workers that stream in and out of Shanghai from rural hometowns throughout the country, an ideal conduit for further infection."

In the area of health services, peasant migrants have no entitlement to the urban welfare system and have only limited access to healthcare in the countryside. Because of the high cost of health care, migrants only seek medical care as a last resort; leading to an increase of preventable diseases such as sexually transmitted diseases (STD). Preventative programs are virtually non-existent, and the abundance of STD clinic advertisements (both legal and illegal clinics) around migrant enclaves demonstrates the high prevalence of STDs among China's migrant population. The link between HIV and STDs and population mobility has been well established. Because migrants are isolated from their social networks, they are at increased risk to engage in high risk behavior that leads to the spread of HIV. Provinces with the largest emigration rates are Sichuan, Anhui, Henan and Hunan. An *AIDS Weekly Plus* article stated that 96 percent of global migrant workers are sexually active, but only 10 percent know how to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS.

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Sex-workers and clients

China public security officials estimate there are up to three million prostitutes in China. Domestic migrants make up a large percentage of Chinese sex workers, who tend to be young and undereducated with little knowledge about sexual health. The national rate of HIV infection among prostitutes has risen from zero percent in 1995 to 1.32 percent in 2002. [Given that prostitution is illegal in China and there is no system of anonymous testing, only prostitutes in detention centers are routinely tested for the AIDS virus.] However, regional rates of infection tend to be much higher. In 2000, Yunnan province reported sex worker infection rates of 10.7 percent and Guangxi province 4.6 percent. In the first half of 2002, Shanghai experienced a 45.16 percent increase in HIV cases, with unprotected sex viewed as the main cause. Shanghai health officials showed that 80 percent of females and 20 percent of males were infected by their spouses, and some 67 percent of married and 45 percent of single males were infected by prostitutes or sex partners.

While local political leaders are quick to blame their unregistered migrant worker population for the rapid increases of HIV and STDs, a recent nationwide survey showed that the majority of clients of sex-workers are middle-class men under 35 years old. The survey also showed that urban officials and businessmen are 10 times more likely, and rural officials and businessmen 22 times more likely, to frequent prostitutes than migrant laborers. This trend is likely to increase as China redirects its economic development priorities to its mid-level cities and towns.

Condom use among prostitutes remains low. A December 2002 survey of 800 sex workers in Yunnan and Sichuan showed only 60 percent used condoms with all their clients. About 17 percent said they insisted on using a condom when they had sex with their boyfriend or non-commercial sex partner. Of these women, fewer than 10 percent said they used condoms with their clients. The survey also polled 800 men between the ages of 25 and 45 who frequented prostitutes. About 40 percent said they had sex without using a condom.

Experience has shown that the AIDS virus rapidly spreads from high-risk groups into the general population as the rate of sexual transmission increases. Chris Beyer of the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health concluded, "The African experience shows that once HIV is widely transmitted among reproductive-age adults, prevention becomes much more difficult."

Male-to-male sex (MSM)

A recent study by the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California - San Francisco (UCSF) published in the 21 June 2003 issue of *The Lancet* showed that men who have sex with men (MSM) could act as a "sexual bridge" for HIV transmission between high-risk men and low-risk women. Out of 481 Chinese male participants, fifteen tested positive for HIV, 238 admitted to having unprotected sex with a man in the past six months and 107 reported having unprotected anal or vaginal sex with a woman during the same period. Also, the study showed the incidence of HIV infection was 4-5 times higher for men over 39 years old, than 39 and younger, "irrespective of the number of male sexual partners in their lifetime." Of the older men, 294, (64 percent) were married, compared to 53 (11 percent) of the younger respondents. The researchers note this pattern is similar to other Asian countries, especially India. While there were several attempts by low-ranking health

officials to target MSMs in the early 1990s, today only under funded grassroots organizations are actively promoting AIDS awareness among China's MSM population.

Long-distance truck drivers

Another group which has the potential to bridge HIV from high-risk groups to the general population is long-distance truck drivers. Many smaller cities and towns have established truck stops, restaurants and small hotels, which provide truck drivers convenient access to commercial sex providers. In a recent survey, conducted among 550 commercial truck drivers in Yunnan province, nearly 17 percent had at least one STD. In this study, no driver was HIV positive. Long-distance truck drivers are a small, but highly mobile group which could potentially spread the AIDS virus through China's rural regions and across its national borders.

Treatment of HIV/AIDS Infected Populations

Providing Free anti-AIDS-Drugs

In April 2003, the Chinese government began a politically sensitive pilot program called China Comprehensive AIDS Response (China CARES). This broad community-based treatment and care program aims to supply free domestically manufactured anti-retroviral (ARV) AIDS medication to HIV patients who contracted the AIDS virus through tainted blood transfusions. The initial phase of the plan calls for the establishment of 124 treatment centers and ARVs to be distributed to more than 3,000 people in 56 counties in 11 provinces, including the seven most affected: Anhui, Henan, Hubei, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Sichuan provinces. By the end of 2003, the number of counties to be covered by China CARES is to increase to one hundred. As of July 2003, the program has distributed anti-AIDS medication to an estimated 61 people in Sichuan, 200 in Anhui and 420 in Hubei. In Henan's Shangcai county, 2,550 people are receiving medication, 200 in Xincui county and 120 in Queshan county. The preliminary 56 counties were chosen based on the following reasons:

- History of unsafe blood collection practices with a high number of commercial blood donors.
- High levels of poverty.
- Highly mobile population.
- Local government at all levels willing to participate in and support the program.

Although the majority of China's HIV cases are intravenous drug users, the decision was made to target HIV carriers who are former commercial blood donors. The Ministry of Health gave the following reasons why former commercial blood donors were chosen:

- After being infected up to 10 years ago, former commercial blood donors represent an underserved population and are beginning to develop AIDS.
- Former commercial blood donors are primarily concentrated in 56 out of China's 2,800 counties, which will allow health officials to better implement its community-based treatment and care program.
- Once the China CARES pilot program is tested in these 56 counties, it can be expanded to target other high-risk groups, such as intravenous drug users and commercial sex workers and other areas.

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In October 2003, China was granted a \$98 million USD *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria* grant to expand China CARES. Combined with the \$200 million USD provided by the Chinese government, the Ministry of Health intends to use this grant to increase the quality of care and significantly expand the number of HIV patients under treatment from 3,000 to 40,000 within these 56 counties. In five years, China CARES anticipates having 300,000 people who request voluntary testing and counseling, with more than 90 percent of HIV patients having access to care, monitoring and basic health services. These health services include treatment for opportunistic infections and access to supervised ARV treatment. According to the Ministry of Health, intravenous drug users and prostitutes in the targeted counties are also eligible for treatment and care.

Lack of Health Infrastructure

China lacks the healthcare capacity to effectively support the initial China CARES pilot program and its planned expansion. Currently, China possesses only 100 to 150 physicians are qualified to diagnose and treat HIV/AIDS and its resulting opportunistic infections. As a result, participants in the program have begun to drop out. As of 14 July 2003, 327 of the 2,550 people in Henan's Shangcai county have dropped out because of the side effects caused by the anti-viral medication. Some side effects include vomiting and diarrhea, while others can be life threatening. "We have enough drugs, but we don't have enough doctors who can administer the drugs. Even in big cities in China, there are only a few hospitals with doctors who can administer the drugs," said China's Center for Disease Control's Zhang Fujie. Furthermore, there are limited numbers of case workers and laboratory technicians, who are needed to provide constant supervision and monitoring of program participants. The result of inadequate support can be devastating.

Providing free ARVs without proper patient supervision and counseling, and laboratory follow-up procedures to monitor viral loads, may have serious consequences. Viral load and CD4 tests must be performed on a regular basis to measure the effectiveness of the ARV regime and to evaluate whether any drug-resistant strains are developing. Unless a ARV "cocktail" regime is adhered to closely by the patient, the risk of a drug-resistant HIV strain developing increases significantly. As of August 2003, there was no additional viral load testing equipment to provide local level support, and no additional training programs have been established.

AIDS and Social Unrest

Beijing is aware that failing to provide substantial and comprehensive AIDS relief in these 51 target areas could lead to increased social instability. HIV carriers from these areas have become more vocal and aggressive in demanding appropriate and substantial government provided health care.

- In early 2002, a locally made video featuring more than 20 HIV positive villagers from Henan province was delivered to the United Nations, the Chinese Ministry of Health and the media. The video reportedly showed that the villagers, with official blood donation passbooks, donated blood at official government blood collecting stations.

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- In March 2002, eight HIV positive villagers from Henan's Wenlou province protested at the Shangcai county's administration office demanding effective medicine and access to better health care.
- On 18 May 2003, up to 100 HIV positive villagers attempted to meet with visiting a World Health Organization (WHO) delegation.
- In June 2003, Shangcai county officials reported several villagers damaged government offices during another protest.

Faced with increasing social unrest, local authorities have increased their response to the increasing disturbances.

- On 18 May 2003, Shangcai county officials denied access to over 100 HIV positive villagers who wanted to visit the World Health Organization's (WHO) delegation in Henan.
- In June 2003, Shangcai county public security officials raided and arrested up to 16 people from Xiongqiao village in Shangcai county for their reported involvement in the June 2003 demonstrations.

Both Chinese and international AIDS organizations have called upon Beijing and Henan's local authorities to soften its treatment of the AIDS villagers.

Recognizing the conflict between China's official AIDS policy and implementation by local authorities, the Ministry of Health will soon submit a draft of new regulations regarding the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients to the State Council for approval. These new rules will help clarify the "legal responsibility of local authorities to treat (AIDS) patients and prevent officials from covering up the spread of the disease," wrote the *Financial Times*. Mao Qunan, Deputy Director of the Chinese Health Ministry's Department of General Administration put forward the recent incident in Henan province, Xiongqiao village as an example of the difficulties of making sure that local authorities react appropriately to the AIDS situation in their areas. "We need to make clear the responsibility of each level of government for preventing and treating AIDS. We are stressing that it might be a better choice to handle things through law...just making spoken appeals [to local government officials] may not resolve the problems," Mao stated.

Notes:

Solinger, Dorothy, "Human Rights Issues in China's Internal Migration: Insights from Comparisons with Germany and Japan," in *The East Asian Challenge for Human Rights*, edited by Joanne R. Bauer and Daniel A. Bell (New York: Cambridge University Press) 1999. 80; Davin, Delia, *Internal Migration in Contemporary China*, (London: Macmillan Press Ltd.) 1999. 52; Benjamin Morgan, "China Hospitals Turn Away AIDS Patients in Need of Care," Agence France Presse, 15 January 2003; "HIV/AIDS Increasing in Shanghai Due to Prostitution, Drug Abuse," *China Daily*, 28 August 2002; Zhang Feng, "AIDS Peril Spread as Safe Sex is Shunned," *China Daily*, 17 December 2002; "STI/HIV Prevalence Survey of STD infections among Female Sex workers and Truck Drivers in China 1999-2000," World Health Organization, September 2001; Kyung-Hee Choi, "Emerging HIV-1 Epidemic in China in Men Who Have Sex with Men," *The Lancet* Vol. 361, 21 June 2003; "China Fights AIDS," *China Daily*, 30 July 2003; "China Starts Offering Free AIDS Drugs but Lacks Doctors to Administer Them," Agence France Presse, 16 July 2003; Andrew Thompson, "The Perils of the Mainland's Free AIDS-Drug Policy," *South China Morning Post*, 7 August 2003; "HIV Scandal Villagers Produce Video Plea to Health Ministry, UN," *South China Morning Post*, 1 February 2003; "AIDS Patients Protest Outside Henan Government Office Demanding Medicine," Agence France Presse, 26 March 2003; "AIDS Patients Denied Access to Visiting WHO Team, Beaten by Police," *South China Morning Post*, 3 June 2003; "Hundreds of Police Storm 'AIDS Village' in China," Agence France Presse, 3 July 2003; Mure Dickie, "Stringent New Rules on AIDS Policy Proposed by China," *Financial Times* (London), 15 August 2003; "China Starts Offering Free AIDS Drugs But Lacks Doctors to Administer Them," Agence France Presse, 16 July 2003.

Historical Chronology

1985

6 June 1985

China announced its first AIDS-related death. The Public Health Ministry (MOH) stated that an Argentine tourist from the United States "died of severe lung infection and respiratory failure" on 6 June 1985 at the Peking Union College Hospital. "According to his family, the patient was diagnosed in the United States as having contracted AIDS," the ministry office said.

—"China Says Argentine Died of AIDS," *New York Times*, 30 July 1985, p. 5; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 June 1985, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

3 September 1985

China's Ministry of Health announced that China has banned all blood products from entering China, except for a small quantity of human serum albumin. This action was done to prevent AIDS from entering China.

—"China Bans Import of Blood Products," *Xinhua*, 3 September 1985; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 September 1985, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 October 1985

China's Disease Prevention Center in Beijing reported that out of 310 AIDS exams conducted in eight provinces, no cases of HIV were reported.

—"China on guard Against AIDS," *United Press International*, 9 October 1985; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 October 1985, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 November 1985

The *Guangming Daily* reported that the central government should ban homosexuality, require blood tests for all foreigners and ban the importation of all blood products in China except for limited amounts of plasma globulin. The recommendations were made to stop AIDS from entering China.

—"China Calls for Sexual Restraint to Prevent AIDS," *Associated Press*, 2 December 1985; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 December 1985, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1986

25 August 1986

Citing that the old laws are no longer adequate under the "Opening Up Policy," the Chinese government is expected to pass a law requiring all foreigners who plan to stay within China for six months or more, to undergo medical exams for HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. "It is intended to prevent infectious diseases from spreading both inside and outside China from seaports, airports, and exit and entry stations along borders," reported *China Daily*.

—"China Preparing Quarantine Law Aimed at AIDS," *United Press International*, 25 August 1986; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 August 1986, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 September 1986

The International Pathology Society hosted a week-long conference in Vienna, Austria. One of the main topics of the conference was HIV/AIDS and pathogenic bacterium. Along with eastern European countries, this was China's first time taking part in the conference. Other issues discussed were pulmonary tuberculosis.

—"International Conference Discussed AIDS," *Xinhua*, 1 September 1986; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 September 1986, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 October 1986

China's Health Ministry announced it is creating China's first AIDS prevention team. Xinhua reported that the ministry will establish a "team of 13 medical experts on virology, epidemiology and the combination of Western and traditional Chinese medicine to monitor worldwide AIDS developments and prevent the disease in China."

—"China sets up AIDS Prevention Team," United Press International, 20 October 1986; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 October 1986, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 October 1986

China Daily has reported that four Chinese have been confirmed to be HIV positive. They were reportedly infected after "being injected with imported medication." "The official press has called for a crackdown on 'sexual liberalization' and homosexuality to prevent the spread of the disease." Western observers note that this is the first time the Chinese government has reported its own citizens being HIV positive.

—"Four Chinese Found to Carry AIDS," Associated Press, 22 October 1986; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 October 1986, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 October 1986

No one on the Chinese mainland has been found to be suffering from AIDS, said Cao Qing, leader of a AIDS investigating team. Cao noted that four Chinese hemophiliacs were found to be HIV positive after receiving blood products imported from the United States. The four patients are said not to be suffering any symptoms.

—"China has not yet Discovered AIDS Patients," Xinhua, 24 October 1986; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 October 1986, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

21 December 1986

During a recent venereal disease conference in Nanjing, the Ministry of Health (MOH) reported it has recorded its first cases of venereal diseases (VD) in 22 years. Although the report cited two specific cases, the MOH did not give any statistics on the number of cases which have been found thus far. In order to combat the problem, the MOH has established the National Venereal Disease Prevention Consultative Committee and set up VD testing centers in Beijing, Shanghai and other major cities, the *Xinmin Evening News* reported.

—"China Reports first VD Cases in 22 Years," United Press International, 21 December 1986; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 21 December 1986, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1987

7 February 1987

China reported its first AIDS-related death of a Chinese person contracting AIDS in China. The victim was a 13-year-old hemophiliac boy who contracted AIDS from imported blood products.

—"AIDS Virus-Infected Patients Taken Good Care of," Xinhua, 7 December 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 December 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 February 1987

In a commentary on the "decadent" American society, the *Beijing Review* stated that "rampant disastrous drug taking, alcoholism, robbery, homicide, suicide, divorce, prostitution, homosexuality, syphilis, AIDS, and other social ills...come from their ideology."

—Donna Anderson, "Peking Daily Cautions Against Western Threats of AIDS, Drugs," Associated Press, 4 February 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 February 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

March 1987

China reported its third AIDS-related death, a resident of Fujian province who had lived in

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Hong Kong and New York for 15 years.

—Daniel Southerland, "China Starts AIDS Tests for Foreign Residents," *Washington Post*, 2 May 1987, p. A3; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 May 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

19 March 1987

The city of Shenzhen has established a monitoring station for the prevention and control of venereal diseases, one of ten set up around China. Tourism is seen as a potential method of entry for venereal diseases and AIDS. According to *China News*, "with the development of tourism in our country, the sources of contagion by venereal diseases brought into China by foreign visitors are increasing."

—"Unit to Monitor Venereal Disease Set up in Shenzhen; Fear of AIDS via Tourism," BBC, 19 March 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 March 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 May 1987

China's Ministry of Health (MOH) announced that all foreigners who intend on living in China for a year or more are required to obtain a physician's certificate showing that they are HIV negative. China began testing some students and foreign businessmen last year.

—Daniel Southerland, "China Starts AIDS Tests for Foreign Residents," *Washington Post*, 2 May 1987, p. A3; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 May 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 May 1987

Under China's new Frontier Health and Quarantine Law, Shanghai has set up monitoring stations in "hotels, restaurants and tourist and medical facilities to offer physical check-ups, blood tests and 'other tests necessary to isolate AIDS,'" Xinhua reported. Out of 900,000 people that passed through Shanghai last year, health officials found about 100 cases of infectious diseases. The official added, "to date we have found no AIDS carriers entering the city."

—"Shanghai sets up Stations to Check Visitors for AIDS," United Press International, 4 May 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 May 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

18 June 1987

During an interview with China's Health News, Cao Qing, China's anti-AIDS leader, urged stricter regulations on the importing of foreign blood products. Even though the central government placed a ban on all imports of foreign blood in September 1984, port officials at Dalian found that 60,000 units of gamma globulin imported in 1985 tested positive for HIV.

—"Stricter Control Urged Over Imported Blood Products," Xinhua, 18 June 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 18 June 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 July 1987

According to Minister of Health Chen Minzhang, HIV/AIDS in China can be checked because homosexuality and promiscuity, "which is how the disease is spread," are limited in China, the *China Youth News* reported. Chen believes the AIDS virus can be kept out of China because of the ban on foreign blood imports, and any foreigner who wants to stay in China for a year or more must prove to be HIV-negative. He did acknowledge that illegal importing of blood and the lack of disposable syringes, and Chinese women having illegal sex with foreigners could spread the disease in China. Chen urged moral and sex education for young people, the establishment of a reporting system to track AIDS, and better sampling of blood serum (HIV tests) should be implemented to help keep the AIDS rate at a minimum.

—"AIDS can be Checked in China - Experts," Xinhua, 22 July 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 May 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

10 August 1987

The *Beijing Review* reported that AIDS is unlikely to occur because "homosexuality and casual sex are illegal and contrary to Chinese morality." According to China's Health Minister Chen Minzhang, about 7,000 people have been tested for AIDS in China. These are relatives and people who came in contact with China's four confirmed HIV cases, four hemophiliacs from Zhejiang. Also reported was that seven Chinese traditional medicine specialists will study HIV/AIDS at Harvard University.

—"AIDS Unlikely to Spread In China Magazine Says," *Toronto Star*, 10 August 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 August 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 August 1987

The Chinese government has pledged to work with the international community and the World Health Organization to fight against AIDS. Vice-Minister He Jiasheng of Public Health stated, "AIDS challenges all countries, and its prevention and treatment is a task for all governments." He said the government will soon publish its AIDS prevention plans and regulations. These will include: the medical inspection of those entering China from abroad, "medical" supervision of those at the high-risk of contracting AIDS, and the establishment of AIDS laboratories in coastal cities.

—"China to Participate in Global Fight Against AIDS," *Xinhua*, 30 August 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 August 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

27 September 1987

Although China has implemented measures to control the spread of HIV/AIDS in China, medical experts said it is necessary for China to "strengthen popular education about AIDS, seriously carry out prevention measures and establish a system for checking the spread of AIDS," reported the *Beijing Review*. The article said to date China has adopted several regulations and measures to fight AIDS:

- publicize knowledge about AIDS, including methods of transmission and symptoms;
- forbid any AIDS carrier from entering China;
- require all foreigners who plan to stay in China to prove by medical exam they are HIV-negative;
- ban the import of blood or blood products, and second-hand clothing;
- forbid sexual contact with foreigners;
- require all medical departments to dispose of any medical equipment and medical devices used on foreign patients.

Chinese medical experts believe the spread of AIDS will be limited in China because homosexuality, promiscuity, and drug abuse are illegal and not tolerated in Chinese society.

—"China Makes Efforts to Prevent AIDS," *Xinhua*, 27 September 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 September 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 September 1987

Ministry of Health (MOH) officials announced they plan to enforce Article 30 of the Regulations on Public Order to prevent the spread of AIDS in China. Article 30 states, "Prostitution, whoring following an introduction, abetting prostitution, and whoring are strictly forbidden and offenders face a maximum 15 days detention, a warning, re-education and a maximum fine of 5,000 yuan (1,350 USD)."

—Jane McCartney, "Chinese Authorities Ban Sex with Foreigners to Stop AIDS," *United Press International*, 29 September 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 September 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 October 1987

The mayors of Chongqing, Guangzhou, Wuhan and Shenyang have declared their cities AIDS free. To date China has recorded six HIV cases: an Argentine tourist, a Chinese man who contracted HIV while living in the West and four hemophiliacs from Zhejiang province, of which one has died.

—"Four major Chinese Cities say They are AIDS Free," Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 28 October 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 October 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 December 1987

The Canadian Embassy reported that a Canadian woman who died from AIDS may have been infected from a acupuncture treatment she received about 20 months before. According to the Health and Welfare Canada, she did not belong to any high risk group. To date, China as reported three AIDS-related deaths: Argentine tourist, Chinese man infected while living in the Untied States, and a 13-year-old hemophiliac. According to Chinese health officials there have been no cases of AIDS being transmitted in China. Chinese officials dismiss the report as "medically unsound."

—"Embassy Says Canadian Died From AIDS after Acupuncture Treatment," Associated Press, 9 December 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 December 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Doctor Refutes Report of Acupuncture-Transmitted AIDS," Xinhua, 10 December 1987; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 December 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 December 1987

Since 1985, Qi Xiaoqiu, a senior official in the Department of Epidemic Prevention under the Ministry of Public Health states that since 1985 there have been 11 reported cases of HIV/AIDS in China, of which three have died. All but four of the 11 cases involved foreigners.

—Edward A. Gargan, "China Taking Stringent Steps to Prevent the Entry of AIDS," *New York Times*, 22 December 1987, p. A1; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 December 1987, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1988

14 January 1988

While announcing the release of "Several Regulations on the Detection and Control of AIDS," He Jiasheng, Vice-Minister of Health, remarked that following the Opening Up Policy and expanding contacts with foreigners, China is open to the possibility of an AIDS epidemic. China began testing for HIV in 1984, and to date only three HIV/AIDS cases have been discovered in China, two were tourists and one was an overseas Chinese. In testing foreigners who planned to live in China for over a year, seven were found to have HIV/AIDS and were sent home. In testing of imported blood products, four Chinese nationals were found to be HIV-positive. The "Several Regulations on the Detection and Control of AIDS" is China's first national set of regulations on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. "It defines in detail those to be tested; implementation plans for AIDS detection, control and prevention; and how to report on AIDS epidemic and its control," Xinhua reported. The new regulations state:

- All people entering China must fill out a health questionnaire;
- People intending to live one year or more must provide an approved AIDS test;
- Chinese nationals who have lived abroad for more than one year must be tested upon return to China; and
- No one is permitted to import blood, blood products, organisms and animals possibly contaminated with the AIDS virus.

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He Jiasheng, Vice Minister of China's Health Ministry said, "These regulations are China's first designed to prevent an AIDS epidemic."

—"Prevention of AIDS is Important Because of Open Policy," Xinhua, 14 January 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 January 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; —"China Issues Regulations on AIDS," Xinhua, 14 January 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 January 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 January 1988

Zeng Yi, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medical Sciences said that the three AIDS cases found in China were either foreigners or returning overseas Chinese. "Investigations have shown that China has no sources for the dread disease Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome."

—"Scientist Says China has No AIDS 'Sources,'" Xinhua, 22 January 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 January 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 January 1988

Zeng Yi, Deputy Director of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine reported that all blood products manufactured by the Changchun Institute of Biological Products in Jilin province were free from the AIDS virus. The tests examined 51 batches of albumin, 63 batches of immune globulin, 40 batches of hepatitis B vaccine and two batches of factor VII vaccine. Furthermore, 3,700 potential blood donors in Changchun were also shown to be free from the AIDS virus.

—"Changchun's Blood Products Free from AIDS Virus," Xinhua, 28 January 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 January 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 January 1988

Zeng Yi, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medical Sciences called for the suppression of prostitution and introducing regular blood testing to protect China from the AIDS epidemic. Zeng said AIDS entered China through two channels: one channel was through contaminated bloods products, and the second is through casual sex with the increasing numbers of foreigners entering China. Since China has banned imported blood products, the "most likely way of contracting the acquired immune deficiency syndrome is through casual behavior, according to Zeng Yi," reported Xinhua. The high cost associated with wide-spread blood testing has been dramatically reduced when China produced its own HIV antigen used in testing for HIV exposure. China has also set up a nationwide network to supervise the spread of the disease, and to establish contacts with HIV/AIDS experts in France, Germany, Japan and the United States.

—"China Steps Up Anti-AIDS Measures," Xinhua, 29 January 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 January 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 March 1988

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced it will cooperate with the Chinese government in the areas AIDS education and prevention. These will include the following areas:

- Cooperation in testing epidemic diseases;
- Evaluating Chinese Traditional medicine for AIDS treatment;
- Educating lab and healthcare workers;
- Providing awareness for the Chinese people;
- Instituting a plan to provide for the high quality of AIDS testing in China; and
- Inviting foreign AIDS experts to exchange knowledge about AIDS.

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Dr. J. Mann, WHO's Chairman on AIDS programs stated, "up to now we have not seen AIDS spread in China, so it is not too late for China to prevent it."

—"WHO and China Join Hands in Fight against AIDS," Xinhua, 2 March 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 March 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

5 March 1988

Zeng Yi, chief of the only Chinese AIDS research program stated, "It's a foreign threat. The only way for AIDS to come into China is from foreigners."

—David R. Schweisbeg, "China and AIDS: China begins to grapple with AIDS," United Press International, 5 March 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 March 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

15 March 1988

Couples in Shanghai will need to pass physical exams to receive a marriage license from the local government. Sources say the exam will include an HIV/AIDS test, as well as for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

—"Shanghai to require Marriage-Minded to Pass Physical Exams," Ashai News Service (Japan), 15 March 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 15 March 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 May 1988

China has established the first non-governmental AIDS foundation to "raise funds for research and prevention." The AIDS Research Foundation of China (ARFC) will be directed by Chen Chunming, President of the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine. Only three confirmed AIDS related deaths have been reported in China: an Argentine tourist, a Chinese man who spent time in the United States, and a 13 year-old hemophiliac boy who was "infected by a blood product imported from the United States." The ARFC will be based in Beijing and will also hold academic meetings, train medical technicians and promote exchanges of information with researchers from around the world. A branch office will also be set up in Hong Kong to coordinate overseas relations and fund-raising activities.

—"China Established AIDS Foundation," Associated Press, 28 May 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 May 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "AIDS Research Foundation Set up in China," Xinhua, 28 May 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 May 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

31 May 1988

China has established the National Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, with a total of 16 surveillance stations set up around China under its control, reported *China Daily*. Also, China has established HIV/AIDS surveillance stations in eight major Chinese cities. To date 26,000 HIV tests have been carried out since 1984.

—"China Acts Up to Crackdown on Sexually Transmitted Diseases," Xinhua, 31 May 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 31 May 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

31 March 1988

US drug manufacturer G.D. Searle & Company signed an agreement with the State Pharmaceutical Administration of China to promote US drug sales in China. "This is a good beginning between the United States and China," said Liu Yonggang, a Vice-President of the Chinese Administration. Under the agreement Searle will have the right to "exclusively any products that result from research and development," reported the Associated Press (AP). Dr. Shen Jiaying, Deputy Director of the Chinese Pharmaceutical Agency said although AIDS was not specifically mentioned in the agreement, it might be an area of collaboration. "We have not had a chance to talk that out, but it's possible our approaches could be synergistic," Shen added.

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—David Briscoe, "US Company Signs Drug Pact with China," Associated Press, 31 March 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 31 March 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 August 1988

Zeng Yi Vice-President of the China Institute of Preventive Medicine said to date no AIDS sufferers has been found in China. Out of 30,000 blood samples tested, only 14 cases were positive. Of these samples, 10 were from foreigners, and four were from Chinese hemophiliacs who received tainted blood products from overseas.

—"AIDS Prevention," Zhongguo Xinwen She (Beijing), 24 August 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 September 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 November 1988

Shanghai health officials reported that a foreigner was found to be carrying the AIDS virus. He was tested as part of a program to test all foreigners who plan to live in China for a year, returned Chinese from abroad, and Chinese patients who might have used imported blood products.

—"Shanghai Finds Foreign AIDS Virus Carrier," Xinhua, 25 November 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 November 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 November 1988

Chinese health officials acknowledged that seven Chinese citizens are infected with the AIDS virus and 14 foreigners also were carrying the virus. These results were given after health authorities tested 67,200 people for HIV/AIDS. Ye Guanyun, a venereal disease expert at the Ministry of Public Health (MOH) reported that venereal disease cases are increasing at an annual rate of 300 percent, specifically in the coastal cities.

—"China Acknowledges 21 Cases of AIDS," United Press International, 28 November 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 November 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1988

During an event marking the first World AIDS Day, Zeng Yi, Deputy Director of the AIDS Prevention Department of the Ministry of Public Health (MOH) reports there have only been seven recorded cases of Chinese citizens being infected with HIV/AIDS. However, since 1985, three foreign AIDS sufferers and 11 foreign HIV carriers have been found in China. *Health News* reported the most threatening channels for AIDS to enter China are from prostitution and promiscuous sex with foreigners. *Guangming Daily* said, "AIDS can be controlled and even stamped out if we insist on monogamy and put an end to extra-marital sexual behavior."

—"China Playing its Part in World Anti-AIDS Battle," Xinhua, 1 December 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 December 1988

An AIDS monitoring center has been set up in Wuhan, Hubei province and has begun testing throughout the province. Last October, Wuhan discovered its first HIV/AIDS case, a foreign student.

—"AIDS Monitoring Network Set Up in Hubei Province," Xinhua, 6 December 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 December 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

27 December 1988

Members of the National People's Congress (NPC) called for an early enactment of China's draft law on prevention of infectious diseases. According to the law, infectious diseases are placed into three categories calling for varying degrees of restrictions. Diseases such as the plague and cholera are listed in the first category and are the most restrictive. HIV/AIDS is

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placed in the second group along with hepatitis and syphilis. This decision was based on the fact that "no full-fledged AIDS cases have been discovered among Chinese mainlanders and that AIDS is not easily transmitted and spreads relatively slowly," said health Minister Chen Minzhang. NPC member Yang Lieyu suggested that more emphasis should be placed on health education in preventing AIDS.

—"Stricter Monitoring of AIDS Urged," Xinhua, 27 December 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 December 1988, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1989

22 February 1989

Sun Xinhua of the Ministry of Public Health (MOH) announced a new law that authorizes health officials to test any Chinese citizen deemed at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. MOH officials have already begun testing Chinese citizens in Beijing, Shanghai, Canton and other major cities whose job brings them in close contact with foreigners. Sun said that under the new law, "if local authorities want someone tested, he must be tested. He has no right to refuse." He added, "If any Chinese is found to be an AIDS sufferer, he will be quarantined and will not be allowed to continue working or going to school." To date China has emphasized creating barriers to the AIDS virus, rather than testing its own people. The new law also covers 34 other infectious diseases including the plague and cholera.

—Kathy Wilhem, "Law Gives China Broad AIDS-Testing Authority," Associated Press, 22 February 1989; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 February 1989, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 February 1989

Cao Qing, head of China's AIDS Prevention team announced that China will soon set up an AIDS Research Center which will study the use of traditional Chinese Medicine in the treatment of AIDS. Official statistics show only 22 people have been found to have the AIDS virus, of which only four were Chinese nationals and one has died.

—"China to Establish 'Traditional Medicine' AIDS Research Center," Xinhua, 25 February 1989; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 February 1989, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

31 March 1989

China's first films dealing with AIDS have been playing to full houses in Shenyang city. Many schools, factories and government offices have rented the movies to show to their students and employees. The two films, one a popular science film named "AIDS," has been advertised under the Chinese characters for "Super Cancer." The other a feature film named the "AIDS Patients," has been advertised as "Pornographic Pestilence." The feature film shows the destinies of three young Chinese AIDS victims after they have sexual relations with a foreign teacher.

—"Controversial' AIDS Film Fills Cinemas," Xinhua, 31 March 1989; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 31 March 1989, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

10 April 1989

Dai Zhicheng, an official from the Ministry of Health (MOH) reported the number of sexually transmitted diseases has risen to 140,000 cases over the last nine years, and 56,090 in 1988 alone. To date there have only been 22 HIV cases reported in China.

—"Incidence of Infectious Diseases Down in China," Xinhua, 10 April 1989; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 April 1989, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

26 April 1989

The Guangzhou based *Nanfang Daily* reported that a blood product made in Spain tested positive for the AIDS virus. The r-globulin, labeled as *gamma biomar* was originally purchased

in Macau, and brought into China. Chinese health officials are asking anyone who might have taken this product to be tested for HIV/AIDS as soon as possible.

—"Product Test Reveals AIDS," Xinhua, 26 April 1989; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 26 April 1989, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

5 August 1989

While addressing a national seminar on AIDS Policy held in Beijing, Minister of Health Chen Minzhang reported China has 25 cases of HIV infections, three of which have developed AIDS. However, the total number of sexually transmitted disease (STDs) cases reached 160,000.

—"China Emphasizes Prevention and Monitoring of AIDS," Xinhua, 5 August 1989; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 August 1989, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 November 1989

China has identified its first confirmed indigenous HIV case. Cao Qing, Vice Director of the Department of Epidemic Prevention in the public Health Ministry said the man, a former shop assistant in Beijing, "was detained for committing homosexual acts, a crime in China." China has said that none of the 25 confirmed HIV cases originated on the mainland. To date, one Chinese citizen has died from HIV/AIDS, which he received while he was in the United States. Four Chinese died of AIDS in Hangzhou. These were related to "transfusions with imported blood."

—"China Discovers First AIDS Virus Carrier," *Associated Press*, 1 November 1989; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 November 1989, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 November 1989

While attending an international conference on "The Spread of the AIDS Virus from Mother to Baby," Chinese Health Minister Chen Minzhang said the prevention of AIDS should focus on increasing education and awareness. Referring to AIDS in China, Chen believes the threat of AIDS is greater in large urban areas where there is an increase of prostitution, venereal diseases and drug problems.

—"Chinese Health Minister on AIDS Prevention," Xinhua, 28 November 1989; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 November 1989, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1989

During a symposium on AIDS prevention, Chinese health experts called on the central government to "widen supervision and set up consulting centers; to use disposable hypodermic syringes; and to publicly disseminate information on AIDS," reported Xinhua. Ministry of Health (MOH) officials reported that China has a total of 32 HIV/AIDS cases, of which six were Chinese. Among the Chinese, four had been infected through tainted blood products, one from engaging in homosexual activities and one who has recently returned from Africa. Chinese officials also note that the number of sexually transmitted diseases has risen 105.16 percent in the first half of this year compared to the same period last year. There have been a total of 204,077 STD cases in China since the early 1980s, of which 134,691 were male and 69,386 were female. So far, 140,000 people in China have been tested for HIV/AIDS.

—"Public Warned to be on Guard Against AIDS," Xinhua, 1 December 1989; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1989, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "VD Cases Multiply in China," Xinhua, 2 December 1989; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 December 1989, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1990

3 January 1990

Chinese officials have reported that they will increase their surveillance of China's high-risk

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groups, including drug addicts, reported *Health News*. Over the past few years, Chinese health authorities have monitored over 148,000 people, including Chinese who have returned from abroad, venereal disease patients, blood donors, foreigners, homosexuals, prostitutes and their clients.

—"Risk Groups to be Eyes for AIDS," Xinhua, 3 January 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 January 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

7 February 1990

The Ministry of Public Health (MOH) reported that by the end of 1989, the number of HIV cases in China has risen to 194, of which three foreigners had developed AIDS. Minister of Public Health Dai Zhicheng said of those infected, 153 were from mainland China and 41 were foreigners. The sharp increase is due to HIV testing among drug users in Yunnan province. These tests revealed 146 cases of HIV infection in Yunnan. This is the first time China has traced HIV/AIDS cases among drug users in remote areas. HIV/AIDS has now been reported in 10 provinces and regions. "The situation shows that AIDS has not only arrived in China, but is also spreading fast," said Dai.

—"China Reports 194 Infected by AIDS Virus," Xinhua, 7 February 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 February 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

10 February 1990

Speaking at a round-table on AIDS prevention, Zhen Xiwen, Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medical Science said an AIDS epidemic falls into three stages: 1) the infection of the virus; 2) the spreading of the virus; and 3) the disaster caused by the disease to the economy, culture and the society as a whole by the virus. Experts at the meeting gave several recommendations:

- Since HIV/AIDS is primarily transmitted through blood, the central government should establish a nation-wide monitoring agency as soon as possible, and each blood donor should be carefully examined.
- The central government should pass laws and regulations on the prevention of AIDS.
- Since it is not possible to have all medical facilities convert to disposable syringes, medical personnel should be trained on proper sterilization techniques.
- Education and awareness should be provided to eliminate drug addiction and abnormal sex behavior, such as homosexuality.

—"Specialists Call for Control of AIDS at Early Stage," Xinhua, 10 February 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 February 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 March 1990

Dai Zhicheng, Director of Epidemic Prevention at the Ministry of Public Health announced the formation of the National AIDS Committee (NAC). Headed by Vice-Minister of Public Health He Jiesheng, the NAC will be responsible for drafting China's policies and plans for AIDS prevention and control and to control various activities in this effort. China listed AIDS as one of its infectious diseases in 1986, and in 1987 it formulated its National Program on AIDS Prevention. According to health officials, 50 HIV test facilities have been set up throughout China, and two confirmatory test labs have been established in Beijing and China. Together, this forms China's national AIDS monitoring and reporting network.

Chinese health officials and the World Health Organization (WHO) have drafted China's first National Plan to Prevent and Control AIDS over the next three years. The medium and

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long term objectives and strategies include "professional training and surveillance on and research into the disease. Efforts will be made to five priorities to prevention of AIDS transmission through sex, blood and prenatal care, as well as to increase surveillance of high-risk groups and promote education and awareness."

—"China Sets Up National AIDS Committee," Xinhua, 1 March 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 March 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Drafting three-year Plan to Combat AIDS," Xinhua, 1 March 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 March 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 March 1990

Yunnan health officials placed 146 AIDS patients in local quarantine for medical care according to the Ministry of Health (MOH). Dai Zhicheng, Director of the Epidemic Prevention Department for the Ministry of Health said that when 1,000 registered heroin users were tested for HIV, 146 were discovered to be HIV positive. "Dai said the discovery took China's health authorities by surprise and created a new challenge for the country's AIDS prevention and control strategy," reported Xinhua.

—"Yunnan AIDS Carriers Quarantined," Xinhua, 2 March 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 March 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

12 April 1990

A HIV/AIDS Medical facility that specializes in using traditional Chinese medicine has been set up in Harbin, Heilongjiang. Head physician Huang Binshan and some US doctors have claimed some success in treating 181 AIDS patients.

—"Center for AIDS Patients," Xinhua, 12 April 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 April 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 June 1990

China attended the 6th International Conference on HIV/AIDS held in San Francisco, California and hosted by the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Several countries and organizations threatened to boycott the conference because of the US policy of barring any person infected with HIV/AIDS to enter the country. The United States later relented and said it would issue 10-day visas to people who wanted to enter the United States for professional or scientific purposes. According to Xinhua, nearly 500 demonstrators "many of them homosexuals, walked down San Francisco to protest the US immigration policies and what they called 'complete lack of government response' to the epidemic." Xinhua also wrote that "nearly 90 percent of adult US victims are male homosexuals or intravenous drug users or a combination of both."

—"International AIDS Meeting to Open in San Francisco," Xinhua, 20 June 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 June 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

17 July 1990

Chinese officials reported they have discovered another 91 HIV cases along China's border with the "Golden Triangle," reported *China Daily*. He Jiasheng, Vice-Minister of Public Health said the 91 victims were infected through "communal use of contaminated syringes for intravenous injections." To date China has 305 cases of HIV, including Chinese nationals and foreigners.

—"Ninety-One More Drug Addicts Found Infected with AIDS," Associated Press, 17 July 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 17 July 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

18 October 1990

The Ministry of Public Health stated, "The spread of AIDS has become relatively serious in our country." From 1985 to the present, a total of 446 cases have been confirmed HIV positive and five (two Chinese citizens and three from outside China) have progressed to AIDS. Of the 446 cases, 378 are Chinese citizens and 68 are from outside China. Of the 378

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Chinese citizens, 368 are from Yunnan and all are related to the sharing of needles. The Ministry of Public Health has established three HIV/AIDS testing laboratories, thus beginning a monitoring network.

—"AIDS Problem 'relatively serious,'" Xinhua, 18 October 2001 in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 18 October 2001, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 October 1990

Dr. Qi Xiaoqiu of the Epidemic Prevention Department of the Health Ministry reported that 378 Chinese nationals have tested positive for HIV. "All but 10 of the 378 were from the southwest Chinese province of Yunnan, which borders the drug-producing Golden Triangle." All of these AIDS victims "said they were drug addicts who injected heroin." Before last year, the only Chinese that tested positive for the AIDS virus were four hemophiliacs infected by tainted blood products from abroad. To date four Chinese have died of AIDS.

—Charlene L. Fu, "134 New AIDS Cases Reported in China," Associated Press, 20 October 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 October 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

3 November 1990

China announced the death of two Chinese men from AIDS. One of these men was a drug addict from Yunnan, and the other was a Beijing resident who contracted HIV through sexual intercourse while traveling abroad. Since 1985, China has confirmed that 446 people have contracted the AIDS virus, of which 378 are Chinese. Some 368 of the Chinese carriers are from Yunnan.

—"China Announces Two Deaths," *Toronto Star*, 3 November 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 November 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

8 November 1990

Some 250 Chinese and 140 US experts from medical, legal, educational, social and religious circles attended a two-day Sino-US conference on the management of HIV/AIDS in Beijing. During the opening speech, Chen Minzhang, Chinese Minister of Public Health stated, "To effectively restrain the spread and finally put under control this deadly infectious disease, we must take unified and trans-regional and transnational measures and set up a global network for prevention and treatment." Zhu Qi, a professor at the National Health Education Institute of China presented a paper that said the cause of the rampant AIDS threat is sexual promiscuity. "Only through healthy lifestyle can humanity survive the AIDS epidemic," he said. Zhu pointed to homosexuality, drug addiction and pre-marital sex as the root causes of the rapid spread of the AIDS epidemic. Professor Wang Xiaodao of Beijing Medical University and a committee member of the Chinese Sexual Science Committee told the symposium that "promiscuous sexual relations destroy the ecological balance in the process of human sexual activity as well as the psychological and social balance of sexual relations will be destroyed," reported Xinhua.

Dr. Fredric Colley of the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine reported that chronic pain was successfully relieved in some 50 AIDS patients treated with traditional Chinese medicine. Colley said, "It is not a fact that traditional Chinese medicine helps alleviate the pain of some AIDS patients and to improve their quality of life," reported Xinhua. Dr Wu Pingbo of the Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine said the lives of over 3,000 AIDS patients in Africa were "prolonged and their symptoms alleviated" according to Xinhua. "Most Western medicines, although proved effective in treating AIDS, has side effects or is poisonous. Chinese traditional herbs, even when they are used over a long period of time,

will not lead to negative results," Wu reported.

—"Sino-American AIDS Symposium Opens in Beijing," Xinhua, 8 November 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 8 November 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Traditional Chinese Medicine Effective in Alleviating AIDS Pain," Xinhua, 9 November 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 November 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Healthy Behavior Key to AIDS Eradication," Xinhua, 9 November 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 November 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 November 1990

During a Sino-American HIV Symposium in Beijing, two Chinese academic professionals stated that "healthy behavior" is the key to stopping the spread of AIDS. Zhu Qi, from the National Health Education Institute "pointed out that the root cause of the swift spread of AIDS is unhealthy life styles, such as homosexuality, drug addiction, and non-marital sexual relations." He stated, "Only through a healthy lifestyle can humanity survive the AIDS epidemic." Wang Xiaodao, a professor at the Beijing Medical University and a committed member of the Chinese Sexual Science Committee told the symposium that "promiscuous sexual relations destroy the ecological balance of normal microbes, and pathogenic microorganisms grow and spread, then the ecological balance in the process of human sexual activity as well as the psychological and social balance of sexual relations will be destroyed." He described venereal diseases and AIDS as double punishment inflicted by nature on human society.

"The Chinese specialists agreed that establishing healthy lifestyles is the only way to control AIDS. They asserted that it is impossible to try to control AIDS with special medicines and condoms, not only because there is little chance of discovering a cure for aids within this century, but also because HIV becomes part of the genes of the affected cell as soon as it enters the body. Thus it is difficult to treat patients with anti-AIDS drugs."

—"Healthy Behavior Key to AIDS Eradication," Xinhua, 9 November 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 November 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

16 November 1990

Earlier this year, over 200,000 visitors attended an exhibition in Beijing on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) hosted by the Beijing Municipal Health Education Institute (BMHEI). Shan Guangnai, Deputy Research Fellow with the sociological institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said, "The best defense against AIDS is information. Only after people fully understand the seriousness of the disease can they do their utmost to protect themselves and others."

—"Prevention, Still Only Cure for AIDS," Xinhua, 16 November 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 16 November 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 November 1990

Xinhua has reported that two sexually transmitted cases of HIV/AIDS have been confirmed in Yunnan. "Both cases are women and they became infected by their husbands who had been exposed to the virus by communal use of contaminated syringes."

—"Two HIV Cases Detected in Yunnan," Xinhua, 29 November 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 November 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 November 1990

The following interview was broadcasted on *China Central Television (CCTV)*: A narrator started by saying "AIDS was introduced into our country in the early 1980s. In recent years, the disease has become widespread to a relatively serious extent, and has become a severe epidemic in certain localities." Then followed an interview with the Public Health Minister Chen Minzhang. [[Full Text](#)]

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—"Health Officials on Measure to Control the Spread of AIDS," *China Central Television*, 29 November 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 November 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1990

To mark the third annual World AIDS Day, health officials passed out a 90-page pamphlet entitled "AIDS." Also, some 600 grassroots doctors gathered in Beijing to participate in China's first in-service training class concerning the prevention and treatment of AIDS. Since 1985, 446 HIV cases have been reported, of which five have developed full-blown AIDS. Although the incidence of HIV/AIDS is still quite low, "the Chinese government has confronted the hovering shadow of AIDS and along with the world health organization (WHO) has prepared a medium term program for its control, which has been reviewed in draft form and will be finalized shortly," said Roy Morey, resident representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in China.

—"China Commemorates World AIDS Day," *Xinhua*, 1 December 1990; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1990, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1991

1 March 1991

Speaking at a national meeting on AIDS monitoring and testing, a senior Ministry of Health (MOH) official reported in the past five years, China has tested some 400,000 blood samples to monitor AIDS in China. As of last September China has confirmed 446 HIV cases, of which five have developed AIDS (two were Chinese nationals). The number of HIV/AIDS cases is distributed over 11 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. Dai Zhicheng announced that China would step up its AIDS monitoring efforts in the special economic zones, coastal cities and tourism areas. The coastal province of Guangdong has reported nine HIV cases of which eight were overseas visitors, and the one Chinese case was infected with the AIDS virus during a trip overseas.

—"China Steps up AIDS Monitoring," *Xinhua*, 1 March 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 March 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 March 1991

While addressing an international conference co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDO) on AIDS prevention and control, Deputy Minister of Public Health He Jiesheng said that "the prevention of control of the AIDS epidemic have become one of the priorities in China's health sector in recent years, due to the increased international contacts," wrote *Xinhua*. In her speech, she also noted that "education and publicity and maintain strict control" were the key elements of HIV/AIDS prevention.

Dai Zhicheng, Head of the Ministry of Health's (MOH) Department of epidemic Prevention, reported that China plans to test up to three million citizens and increase its surveillance of high-risk groups. To date, the MOH tested only 500,000 people for the AIDS virus. "The numbers are far from enough to get a clear picture of AIDS distribution in China." He added, "We will try to get a clearer picture in two to three years by doing a lot more testing, particularly of high-risk groups." The three year program will cost about three million USD, of which China will provide one million USD.

—"China Hastens AIDS Prevention and Control," *Xinhua*, 14 March 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 March 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China to expand Anti-AIDS Measures," *United Press International*, 15 March 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 15 March 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

21 March 1991

The number of border quarantine stations have increased to 151, which employ over 3,000 personnel. China's original border quarantine control system was established in 1973. However, due to China's "opening up," the "Border Quarantine Law" was published in 1986. The National Office for Border Control was opened in 1988, and the Ministry of Health (MOH) published details of the law in 1989. In the past few years, these stations have reported 45,000 cases of infectious diseases, of which 128 were HIV cases and two were AIDS cases. The stations also discovered 1,208 cases of venereal diseases, along with several cases of hepatitis, cholera, malaria, and pulmonary tuberculosis.

—"China Has Set up 151 Border Quarantine Stations," Xinhua, 21 March 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 21 March 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

21 May 1991

Yin Dakui, Director of the Sichuan Provincial Public Health Department announced Sichuan's first registered HIV case, a middle-aged male laborer who returned from overseas in early April.

—"First HIV-Positive Case Found in Sichuan," China Press, 12 May 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 21 March 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 June 1991

Several farmers in two of Beijing's agricultural districts tore up and burned prints of oil paintings because they believed the pictures contained the AIDS virus, reported *Beijing Daily*. After a rumor that an unnamed publishing company was spreading AIDS, "some farmers who did not understand the true situation were scared of being infected and many tore from wall or burned the oil paintings," the paper reported.

—"Chinese Farmers Thought AIDS Spread by Paintings," Agence France Presse, 14 June 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 June 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 June 1991

In an article of the global impact of HIV/AIDS, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that China's HIV infection total is estimated at 20,000.

—Robert Steinbrook, "Speaking of AIDS," *Los Angeles's Times*, 25 June 1991, p. 8.

22 July 1991

At a national seminar on AIDS prevention and control in Kunming, Yunnan, the Ministry of Health (MOH) said along with increasing international contacts and the development of tourism, China is faced with a growing threat of AIDS. Since 1985, China has confirmed 493 HIV cases, of which five had developed AIDS. Statistics show that blood transfusion and sexual activities are the main methods of HIV transmission, however, no case of mother-to-infant transmission has been recorded. Since China reported its first HIV/AIDS case, it has taken the following steps to prevent AIDS in China:

- 1986 - The Ministry of Public Health established the AIDS Prevention and Control Group. Shortly thereafter, the Group set up a series of programs related to awareness, education and testing, as well as professional training and development.
- 1989 - China passed the "Law to Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases," which AIDS, syphilis and gonorrhea were labeled as second grade infections.
- 1990 - China established the National AIDS Prevention and Control Commission along with a expert committee to guide and supervise the nation wide campaign against AIDS.

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A official from the World Health Organization (WHO) stated, "China has an excellent county-town-village epidemic prevention system in rural areas, and that this factor will be of great importance in curbing the spread of the AIDS virus," reported Xinhua.

—"China Sets Up to Fight AIDS," Xinhua, 22 July 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 July 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 September 1991

The Ministry of Public Health (MOH) reported the number of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) decreased by 30 percent during the first half of 1991. An official from the MOH said the STD rate is now under control in China. He credits the crackdown on prostitution for this decline. MOH statistics show that over 40 percent of prostitutes arrested by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) carried some type of STD. During 1990, 44,117 cases of STD were reported to the MOH. The Ministry of Health called on "public health departments across the country to coordinate with public security departments to help prevent and treat STD," wrote Xinhua.

—"China Curbs Sexually Transmitted Diseases," Xinhua, 6 September 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 September 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 September 1991

Health News published an article describing the discrimination that HIV/AIDS patients face in China. It cited a case of a man from Hebei province. When he went to a local Hebei hospital, over half the patients moved out of the ward, and some called for his family to leave the area. In Guangzhou, nurses refused to take blood from HIV/AIDS patients. In Zhejiang province, a recent university graduate has been turned away by possible employers, and his parents have been ostracized. Some shop assistants have refused to accept money from HIV carriers fearing they could contract the virus from the money, reported the paper.

—"AIDS Carriers Suffer Doubly in China," Agence France Presse, 30 September 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 September 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 November 1991

Over 50 doctors, counselors, scholars and social workers from over 30 provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities, universities and other units attended a training program on AIDS counseling hosted by the Beijing-based National Health Education Institute (NHEI) and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Public Health (MOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The first of its kind in China, the program trained the participants to become experts in AIDS counseling and treatment in their local facilities and institutions. "Counseling is a good and useful way to provide people with correct information and knowledge about AIDS and to make them aware of the ways of HIV transmission," said Wan Yanhai, an assistant researcher from the NHEI.

—"Educate China to Fight AIDS," Xinhua, 20 November 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 November 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

23 November 1991

Shanghai announced the discovery of its first HIV case. *The Liberation Daily* reported that a 28-year-old Chinese woman tested positive after her fiancé from Hong Kong also tested positive during a pre-marital health exam. "Shanghai authorities expelled the businessman from China, immediately hospitalized his girlfriend and banned their marriage," the paper said. In 1990, Shanghai health authorities expelled an American homosexual who tested positive for the AIDS virus and disinfected the entire hotel where he was staying.

—"Shanghai Reports First Case of AIDS Virus," Agence France Presse, 23 November 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 23 November 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 1991

While addressing a AIDS forum to mark World AIDS Day, Minister of Public Health Chen Minzhang reported the number of HIV cases has risen to 615, of which eight had developed full-blown AIDS. Of the AIDS patients, three were Chinese nationals, of which one died in 1989 and one in July of this year. (122 cases were discovered in the first 11 months of 1991.) HIV cases have been reported in 15 Chinese provinces, autonomous regions, and cities. Chen noted most of the new infections were contracted through needle sharing in southwest China and Chinese who have returned from abroad in the coastal areas. Patients also include prostitutes and venereal disease patients from the larger cities. To date no mother-to-child transmission has been recorded.

Health experts list the areas in which China should strengthen prevention and control:

- Prevent HIV/AIDS from entering China from neighboring countries.
- Increase AIDS education and awareness among labor and service personnel who travel to counties with a high rate of HIV infections.
- Crack down on illegal behavior, such as prostitution and drug abuse.
- Standardize medical sterilization procedures.
- Closely monitor expectant mothers to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

—“122 More AIDS Cases reported in China,” Xinhua, 30 November 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; “China Highly Concerned About AIDS,” Xinhua, 30 November 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Fan You, “AIDS in China Spread Unabated,” *Guangming Ribao*, 1 December 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 18 December 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>

30 November 1991

Guangdong health officials reported a total of 22 HIV cases, of which two have developed AIDS, and one had died since 1986. In the first 11 months of 1991, health officials discovered 13 of the 22 cases. Statistics show that of the 22 HIV/AIDS cases, all of them originated outside mainland China; 15 were foreigners and seven were local Chinese who were infected abroad. Of the two AIDS patients, one was Indonesian and died in a Guangdong hospital and one was from Hong Kong who was sent back last March. Of the 22 confirmed HIV cases, one was found in 1987, two in 1989, five in 1990 and 13 this year. Guangdong health officials have set up 36 AIDS monitoring stations across the province.

—“Guangdong Steps up Fight Against AIDS,” Xinhua, 30 November 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 1991

China Daily reported the opening of Beijing first AIDS counseling center located in You'an Hospital. Yang Guanglu, a member for the Counseling Committee on Venereal Diseases with the Ministry of Public Health (MOH) and the Center's administrator, said the clinic aims to help provide accurate information about AIDS through literature and counseling on its transmission, symptoms and prevention. "Our first task is to provide information about AIDS," Yang said. The Clinic will also offer testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. He added the names, address and medical records will remain strictly confidential. "If an AIDS-infected person comes in, I will treat him myself," Yang acknowledged. "But if I couldn't do enough alone, I would have to study the case with doctors in the big hospitals in Beijing." The clinic currently has two beds designated for

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AIDS patients. Yang added, "Its impossible that we would have a large number of AIDS patients in a year or two." In Beijing, with 11 million residents, "the risk of infection is miniscule compared with large Western cities," he said.

—"Beijing Sets up AIDS Clinic," Xinhua, 30 November 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Pascale Trouillaud, "First AIDS Clinic Opens in Beijing," United Press International, 3 December 1991; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 December 1991, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1992

17 March 1992

China's Ministry of Public Health reported there were 212 confirmed cases of HIV infection in 1991, of which 177 are Chinese residents. Three have developed AIDS, of which one is a Chinese national.

—"Infectious Disease Drops in China," Xinhua, 17 March 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 March 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 April 1992

China's Health Education Institute announced the opening of an AIDS hotline in Beijing. They confirmed that all callers will be able to remain anonymous.

—"Beijing Opens 'AIDS Hotline,'" Xinhua, 9 April 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 April 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

15 April 1992

The Hainan Provincial AIDS Control Association was established in Haikou today. Hainan province has one of China's 13 monitory centers, with five monitoring spots on the island. To date no cases of HIV have been reported, but two people were confirmed to have HIV after returning from aboard.

—"AIDS Control Association Established in Hainan," Xinhua, 15 April 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 15 April 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 May 1992

An editorial entitled "Drive Away the AIDS Phantom that has Entered China - Situation of Prevention and Cure of AIDS on Chinese Mainland," which was published in the *Guangming Ribao*, warns of the potential of an increased AIDS rate in China. The report noted that most AIDS cases in China now involve local residents rather than overseas infections. It said that although there has been no reported case of mother-infant transmission, four-fifths of China AIDS cases originated in Yunnan, most of which are related to needle sharing.

According to the article, the first step to be taken should be to increase AIDS surveillance. It said 12 types of people should be closely monitored: venereal disease patients, prostitutes, drug addicts, homosexuals, users of imported blood products, returned seaman, Chinese who work abroad, hotel staff and tour guides, residents of border areas and home towns of overseas Chinese, those who have close contact with AIDS patients or work in AIDS laboratories, foreign students, and blood, tissue and organ donors.

Recent propaganda efforts during the last five years have not been satisfactory because "even population groups with higher educational standards have limited knowledge about AIDS," and "one can only guess what limited knowledge the relatively poorly-educated rural population may have about AIDS," the article said.

The disadvantages China faces are China's vast potential number of AIDS patients; limited funds for AIDS prevention, control and research; a medical system which cannot afford to quarantine a large number of people; a large illiterate population, a wide variety of

nationalities and languages, and traditional taboos about sex.

—Zeng Liming, "Drive Away the AIDS Phantom that has Entered China - Situation of Prevention and Cure of AIDS on Chinese Mainland," *Guangming Ribao*, 9 May 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 May 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 July 1992

According to the *People's Daily*, Lu Weibo of the Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine has succeeded in treating AIDS patients in Tanzania with traditional Chinese herbal medicine. The report states of the 158 AIDS patients treated, 39.87 percent became HIV negative after 10 to 15 months. The mortality rate of patients being treated with a combination of Chinese and western medication was 12.04 percent, but patients treated with only western medication reached 60 percent.

—"China Succeeds in Treating AIDS with Chinese Herbal Medicine," Xinhua, 6 July 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 July 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 July 1992

China's Jilin province and Denmark have signed a trade deal that will allow Denmark to import 260 million USD worth of a newly developed anti-AIDS drug called *milingwang*. The medicine was developed by Lin Haifeng, Director of the Tonghua Institute of Medicines for AIDS Prevention and Cure. Xinhua reported that *milingwang* has been tested on AIDS patients in Yunnan, Argentina, Brazil and Tanzania, and results showed the medicine has "curative effects over some AIDS patients."

—"China to Export Anti-AIDS Medicine," Xinhua, 6 July 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 July 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 July 1992

China sent its first delegation to the International Conference on AIDS. At the conference China outlined its medium-range AIDS prevention plan and confirmed it has 11 AIDS patients. Chinese officials also presented their findings on using Chinese traditional medicine to treat AIDS.

—"Chinese Official Briefs International Meeting on AIDS Policy," Xinhua, 24 July 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 July 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 September 1992

During a regional AIDS conference on the effects AIDS has on development held in Kunming, Yunnan, He Jiesheng, Vice Minister of Public Health announced that China has 932 confirmed cases of HIV infection, of which 11 have full-blown AIDS (nine have died). The three day conference was attended by China, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macao, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and focused on how to increase regional cooperation on the fight against AIDS.

—"Seminar on AIDS Effects on Development Held in Kunming," Xinhua, 22 September 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 September 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "932 people Infected with AIDS in China," Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 23 September 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 23 September 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>

29 October 1992

The Ministry of Health (MOH) reported China has 148,000 registered drug users, twice the number in 1990. "Most of the verified HIV carriers were drug abusers in the southern province of Yunnan and contracted the virus by sharing needles," the report said. It also noted a recent survey of 5,000 drug addicts in Xi'an revealed that 90 percent of drug abusers were males under the age of 25.

—"China Battles Rising Tide of Drug Abuse," Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 29 October 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 July 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

8 November 1992

The World Health Organization (WHO) warned that the spread of AIDS may be spreading throughout Asia at a rate equal to that of Africa during the early 1980s. Michael H. Merson, director of the WHO's Global Program on AIDS, stated that the "AIDS epidemic was threatening Asian governments and healthcare systems and could, in some nations, wipe out the most productive elements of the labor force." Some health experts believe that the number of Chinese infected with HIV/AIDS is much higher than the official estimate of approximately 1,000 cases because of the increase in intravenous drug use in China's south west provinces.

—Phillip Shenon, "Edge of the Chasm: AIDS Comes to Asia," *New York Times*, 8 November 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 8 November 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 November 1992

Medical experts attending a recent AIDS conference advise that "publicity should be further expanded to spread scientific knowledge and help the public adopt healthy lifestyles, especially among some high-risk sectors of the population, such as drug addicts," reported *China Daily*. China has reported 148,000 registered drug users, and 890 HIV cases.

—"Medical Workers Call for Greater AIDS Awareness," Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 14 November 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 November 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

23 November 1992

The National Health Education Institute's "AIDS Hotline" sponsored China's first AIDS awareness conference for gay men in an attempt to educate Beijing's gay population about HIV/AIDS. The conference was advertised throughout Beijing's gay meeting areas, but only 30 people showed up. China reports around 900 HIV carriers.

—Geoffrey Crothall, "Beijing Hosts China's First AIDS Summit for Gays," *South China Morning Post*, 23 November 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 23 November 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1992

During a conference coinciding with World AIDS Day, Chen Minzhang, Minister of Public Health, announced that out of only two million Chinese tested, 969 have confirmed cases of HIV infection, 12 of which have developed into full-blown AIDS and nine of whom have died. Official statistics show that 74 percent of AIDS victims contracted the disease through drug abuse/ sharing of needles, and the rest through sexual intercourse. To date China has 148,000 registered drug users, and 360,000 people have tested positive for a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Chen said China has begun to establish a national surveillance system for AIDS control.

According to a report in the *Worker's Daily*, China has yet to launch a national AIDS prevention campaign and "must adopt suitable measures including education and law enforcement to control the spread of prostitution, casual sex, drug use and other hideous trends in society." The Guangdong-based *Yangcheng Evening News* stated that the "human face of AIDS" must be addressed. It reported about a boy who was not allowed to attend primary school because he was the son of an HIV carrier. "After the government intervened, the school grudgingly relented but made the boy sit all alone in class," the paper reported.

Bernard Kern, Beijing representative of the United Nations (UN), stated, "For the last three years, WHO has urged that there is still time to act. That time is rapidly running out." He continued, "There is a rapidly expanding portion of the population that is mobile and affluent. Among this sector is a growing number of people who patronize prostitutes or use

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drugs. Unfortunately, the very people who are personally benefiting from economic progress may include those most at risk for HIV transmission." Arthur Holcombe, of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) said, "Public policy should be based on realities, not ideals...and concentrate on making drug using and sexual behaviors safe." He urged the use of condoms by prostitutes and clean needles by drug users, but admitted that there is little chance that the present Chinese system will stop criminalizing homosexuals, prostitutes, and drug users.

—"China has 969 Reported Cases of AIDS Infection," Xinhua, 1 December 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Marks World AIDS Day with Warning," Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 1 December 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Time is Running Out for China to Fight AIDS," Agence France Presse, 1 December 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 December 1992

Experts from the Economic Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences have concluded that "AIDS is not merely a medical question but it influences socio-economic life as well," reported Xinhua. They note that research must be done on the relationship between AIDS and the rural labor migration, infection and high-labor-flow occupations, and the impact of AIDS on labor markets and investment practices.

—"Chinese Economists Join AIDS Research," Xinhua, 28 December 1992; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 December 1992, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1993

10 February 1993

The China National Health Education Institute, under the Ministry of Public Health, "has mapped out a national plan to motivate gay men to play an active role in the prevention of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)," reports the English language *China Daily*. AIDS coordinator Wan Yanhai said "homosexuals' role in spreading the disease should not be underestimated, although the main vector in China was drug addicts sharing contaminated needles." The two year plan will begin in Beijing (north), Shanghai (east), and Guangdong (south), and will create counseling centers, special telephone hotlines, research on gays in Chinese society, and provide 10,000 free packets of condoms a year in the three cities. Government statistics show some 1,000 people in China carry the AIDS virus. A recent health institute survey in Shanghai, China's most populated city, showed that of 96 homosexuals tested, 24 have a form of venereal disease (VD).

—"China's Homosexuals Urged to Come out of Closet, Help with AIDS Education," Agence France Presse, 10 February 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 February 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

12 February 1993

The Chinese government imposed random AIDS testing on travelers entering China from Hong Kong. The AIDS test is mainly being applied to overseas Chinese. These tests are being performed at the border "and (travelers are) being told, without counseling, that they have been infected." Zhou Zhongfu of the Guangzhou Health Bureau said, "We select those who might have a higher risk of spreading the virus...in order to prevent the disease from spreading." Mike Sinclair, education officer of the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, criticized the random screening for being "ineffective in preventing the spread of AIDS." HIV/AIDS is often characterized in the China media as being a foreign disease.

—Stephen Vines, "China Imposes AIDS Testing at Border," *The Guardian* (London), 12 February 1993, p. 11; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 February 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

19 February 1993

An epidemiologist at the Guangdong sanitation authorities, warns China has not yet

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established a nation-wide system for testing blood donors for the AIDS virus, thus creating a high risk of spreading AIDS through China's blood supply. "Moreover, disposable syringes are not yet in common use in urban China and traditional reusable syringes are still used in rural areas most of the time." China has discovered about 1,000 HIV carriers to date.

—"Expert' Says 'High Risk' of Contracting AIDS in China," *Zhongguo Tongxun She* (Hong Kong), 19 February 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 March 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 March 1993

Shanghai opened up an AIDS consultation hotline to provide information on AIDS for local residents, and will be manned by health educators, students from medical universities, and psychological experts. The hotline is sponsored by Shanghai Squibb Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., and supervised by the Shanghai Health Education Station. As of the end of 1992, 923 people tested positive for the AIDS virus in China.

—"Shanghai Sets up AIDS Hotline," *Xinhua*, 1 March 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 February 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 March 1993

Last month, Beijing's first sex counseling center opened. Named the Adam and Eve Hygiene Center, it will sell contraceptives and offer limited out-patient services. Wen Jingfeng, who opened the center, said the center's aim is to increase the knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and help Beijing residents to overcome the "cultural fallacies" about sexual behavior. A recent survey among 1,000 Beijing taxi drivers and hotel workers revealed very few knew how AIDS was spread. "Many did not know people could get infected through blood transfusions and intravenous injections, or that the use of condoms could help prevent AIDS." Another study among Beijing residents showed many people still believe AIDS was "something foreign and they were safe as long as they did not have contacts with foreigners." Chinese research agencies are currently gathering data on Chinese sexual practices -- including knowledge about AIDS and other STDs -- to be used in future AIDS awareness campaigns.

—Rajiv Chandra, "Talking about Sex to Fight AIDS," Inter Press Service (New Delhi), 9 March 1993, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 March 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

13 April 1993

Zhang Shibo, Chief of Liaoning Province Epidemic Control and Prevention Stations reported that a 24 hour AIDS and venereal disease hotline has opened in the capital of Liaoning Province. Shibo said the province has recorded up 10,000 cases of VD, and three have tested positive for HIV (one Chinese and two foreigners).

—"Venereal Diseases Hotline Opened in Liaoning," *Xinhua*, 13 April 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 13 April 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

18 July 1993

The *Tibet Daily* reported Tibet's first registered HIV case is a foreign worker in Lhasa. Officially, there are 1,106 confirmed cases of HIV carriers in China, and 14 have developed full-blown AIDS.

—"First AIDS Carrier Found in Tibet," Agence France Presse, 28 July 1993, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 July 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 July 1993

The Hong Kong AIDS Foundation and the government AIDS hotline have reported receiving calls from mainland China. "We actually get a lot of calls from across the Chinese border, mainly from Shenzhen and Guangzhou," said Mike Sinclair, Hong Kong AIDS Foundation Education Officer. Sinclair believes mainland Chinese have been calling the

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hotline because they "worry about confidentiality of hotlines" on the mainland, and fear "that any discovery that they were infected with HIV would effect their employment."

—Susie Weldon, "Cautious Mainlanders Dial Local AIDS Hotlines," *South China Morning Post*, 24 June 1993, p. 4; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 13 April 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 July 1993

French AIDS expert Christian Policard, President of Sanofi-Diagnostics-Pasteur (SDP) believes China should perform HIV tests on foreigners and high risk groups such as prostitutes, addicts and homosexuals. Also, according to Policard, the risk of contamination by blood transfusion remains minimal.

—"Between 5,000 and 10,000 HIV Carriers in China," Agence France Presse, 24 July 1993, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 July 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>;

3 August 1993

A World Health Organization (WHO) official said that China is currently "in the first phase of the disease and of the possibility of controlling" the spread of HIV/AIDS among its population. He said, "According to our estimates, between 5,000 and 10,000 Chinese are seropositive in China." He based this estimate on approximately two million tested Chinese of which 1,106 have tested positive for the AIDS virus.

—"Between 5,000 and 10,000 HIV Carriers in China," Agence France Presse, 24 July 1993, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 July 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

3 August 1993

China Daily reported the city of Beijing will begin testing blood products used in transfusions for the AIDS virus. For many outside observers, this move is an indication of China moving away from its position that the way to control AIDS is to control foreigners entering China. Beijing currently has 45 registered cases of HIV carriers. To date Beijing has reported no HIV infections through blood transfusions. Shanghai began testing blood products in 1992.

—"Beijing to Test Blood Products Used in Transfusions," Agence France Presse, 3 August 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 August 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

15 August 1993

The Director of the National Health Education Institute, Chen Bingzhong, is fired because of "allegedly using the AIDS issue to promote gay rights." Chin and Wan Yanhai established Beijing's first AIDS hotline and established a gay men support group called Men's World Club. According to Chin and Wan, "the most effective way to combat AIDS is by changing people's behavior and encouraging safer sex," partially among China's high risk groups. However, both groups were seen by their colleagues and Beijing's gay community as "unnecessarily confrontational and combative." The Chinese government believes the majority of Chinese infected with the AIDS virus are social deviants, therefore, "the threat of the disease being sexually transmitted is much reduced." Beijing views AIDS as a medical issue and not a political or civil rights issue as it has become in the West. In China's view, "making AIDS a political and civil rights issue, as gay rights groups have done in the West, has prevented the authorities from taking effective action to curb the epidemic." Official statistics show that only two of China's confirmed HIV cases are homosexuals.

—Geoffrey Crothall, "Health Official's Sacking Signals Beijing's Attitude to Homosexual Rights," *South China Morning Post*, p. 8; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 15 August 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Rajiv Chandra, "China: No Sex Please, We're Chinese," Inter Press Service (New Delhi), 17 September 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 17 September 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 September 1993

In a report released by the United National Development Program (UNDP) and the Asian

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Development Bank (ADB), drug abuse, prostitution, internal migration and ignorance are seen as the major factors in the spread of HIV/AIDS in China. Yuan Jianhua of the Beijing Institute of Information and Chen Yanlin of the Control and the Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology said health officials have so far tested 1,106 people for AIDS, of which 780 are drug users. The majority of cases are from Yunnan province, which borders Burma and Indochina. They also report while the growth of HIV infection through intravenous drug use is stable, the "number infected with HIV through sexual contacts increased...year by year." In 1991, the rate of those infected with HIV through sexual contact was 10 percent. Last year, the infection rate rose to over 14 percent. China's Ministry of Public Health estimated there are 5,000 people infected with the AIDS virus, but the World Health Organization estimated the number to be as high as 15,000. In response to rising cases of AIDS in China, the central government has banned all imported blood and blood products. Beijing estimated the cost of treating AIDS cases between 1993 and 2000 to reach 21 million USD, while the indirect cost to the economy could reach 300 million USD.

—"Drug Abuse, Prostitutes, Migration Cause AIDS Peril in China," *Agence France Presse*, 9 September 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 September 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Rajiv Chandra, "China: No Sex Please, We're Chinese," *Inter Press Service* (New Delhi), 17 September 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 17 September 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

23 September 1993

China will open its first AIDS hospital in Ruili City, Yunnan Province by the end of the year. The Chinese government has decided to place the hospital in Yunnan province because Yunnan has the largest number of HIV cases in China, and Ruili City the largest number of HIV cases in Yunnan. To date, China has 1,106 confirmed HIV cases, 850 of whom are located in Yunnan, and Ruili City has 425 confirmed HIV carriers. Yunnan province has four confirmed AIDS patients, three of which have already died. Zhao Shangde, a member of China AIDS Experts Commission, stated the hospital will hold a total of 50 beds, but might find it difficult to staff. Zhao added that "mainland medical personnel are generally afraid of AIDS; the hospital will probably find it difficult to find sufficient medical personnel at the outset."

—"China's First AIDS Hospital to be Built in Yunnan," *Ming Pao* (Hong Kong), 23 September 1993, p. 14; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 23 November 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

26 October 1993

China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and the United Nations International Drug Control (UNDCP) agreed to cooperate in illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse. The major objective is to eliminate poppy cultivation and drug trafficking through economic and social development programs. Concurrently, the programs will also address the problem of HIV/AIDS infections associated with drug abuse.

—"UN: Four Asian States Sign Drug Control Memo," *Xinhua*, 26 October 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 26 October 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

11 November 1993

China's National Drug Prevention Committee (NDPC) General Secretary Yuan Yongyuan reported China has 250,000 registered drug users, of which 775 contracted HIV/AIDS while injecting drugs. According to the Ministry of Public Health, 80 percent of China HIV/AIDS cases are drug related. The majority of China's drug cases are located in Yunnan and Guangxi provinces along China's southern border.

—"China Registers 250,000 Drug Users, Leading Cause of HIV," *Kyodo News Service* (Tokyo), 11 November 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 11 September 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

16 November 1993

Dai Zhicheng, Director in Charge of Anti-Epidemic Department of the Ministry of Public Health announced the Chinese government is allocating an additional 3.5 million yuan (603,000 USD) to expand AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) surveillance across China. "The money will be used to subsidize construction of two national AIDS control centers in Guangdong and Yunnan provinces, and to improve the National STD Control Center, which is located at the skin diseases research institute of the Nanjing Academy of Medical Sciences in Jiangsu province." Officially there are 1,106 confirmed cases of HIV in 19 provinces and concentrated in major cities. Also, "more than 100,000 new STD cases have been reported annually for the past few years."

—"China to Strengthen Surveillance of AIDS," Xinhua, 16 November 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 16 September 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China to Boost Testing for AIDS," Agence France Presse, 16 November 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 16 November 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

26 November 1993

During a recent seminar on AIDS in Shanghai, an unnamed official from the Research Office of the State Council called for more effort to be spent on the prevention of AIDS, reported the Shanghai-based *Wen Hui Daily*. The official said that failing to pay attention to the prevention of HIV/AIDS could "result in disaster for the Chinese nation and a threat to the current reform and opening drive." He continued, "Prevention and Control of AIDS should always be treated as a strategic issue in China's modernization."

—"Failure to Curb AIDS can Sabotage Socialist Construction - Official," Xinhua, 26 November 1993, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 26 November 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

26 November 1993

The *Beijing Daily* reported that since 1985, there have been 55 confirmed HIV cases in Beijing (32 are foreigners, 11 are from other provinces, and 12 are residents of Beijing). In addition, there have been about 800 cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) each year, including infants born with an STD. To prevent the spread of AIDS and STDs, the Beijing government has established the Beijing Association for the Prevention and Cure of Venereal Disease and AIDS.

—Zhong Weining, "The Beijing Association for Prevention and Cure of Venereal Disease and AIDS is Established," *Beijing Ribao*, 26 November 1993, pg. 3; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 26 November 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 1993

Shanghai's *Wenhu Daily* reported two more HIV cases have been registered in Shanghai. This brings the total number of HIV positive cases in Shanghai to nine, out of 170,000 people tested this year. No cases of full-blown AIDS have yet been reported. According to China's Ministry of Public Health, China has 1,106 confirmed cases of HIV. To date, 14 people have developed full-blown AIDS, of which 12 have died.

—"Shanghai Reports Two More AIDS Carriers," Agence France Presse, 30 November 1993, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 1993

On the eve of World AIDS Day, Minister of Public Health, Chen Minzhang announced the creation of the National Association of Sexually Transmitted Diseases at the Great Hall of the People. Addressing the inaugural meeting, Chen said AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) are still growing in China. He stated, "We lack publication and comprehensive management measures on STDs and AIDS prevention." Administered jointly by the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry for Public Security, the mandate of the National Association of Sexually Transmitted Diseases is to focus on health education,

information exchange and international cooperation on STD and AIDS control, and "will help the government organize figures from various circles to take part in STD and AIDS prevention activities."

—"China has 1,159 reported Cases of AIDS carriers," Xinhua, 30 November 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Reports 53 New HIV Carriers, Total Hits 1,159," Agence France Presse, 30 November 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "When Chang died...," *South China Morning Post*, 12 December 1993, pg. 8; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 December 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>;

1 December 1993

Hao Ruifeng, an official with the Guangdong province epidemic prevention station reported 82 people have tested positive for the AIDS virus. Among them, 79 are Guangdong residents, aged from 21 to 61. Hao explained that the majority of HIV cases in Guangdong are related to sexual contact, and more than 50,000 people have tested positive for sexually transmitted diseases (STD) within the last year. To combat the AIDS epidemic, Guangdong has carried out campaigns to crack down on prostitution and drug users, established STD prevention centers and province-wide monitoring networks, and an AIDS hotline will soon be set up. Zhongshan Medical University and Jinan University have opened classes on sex education and books on sex education will be published soon.

—"Guangzhou Sound Alarm," *Xinhua*, 1 December 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1993

Chinese health officials have reported that more than 100,000 Chinese could become infected with HIV, with up to 20,000 developing full-blown AIDS by the year 2000. "Unless quick steps are taken now, AIDS will become rampant on China's mainland in the coming six years," a public health official was quoted as saying in the *China Daily*. Ying Dakui, Deputy Minister for Public Health, reported that 1,159 people have tested positive for the AIDS virus, and at least 19 now have full-blown AIDS (14 AIDS patients have died). Ying noted that these figures were extracted from a "small survey of 2.3 million people and the actual number carrying the HIV virus could range between 5,000 and 10,000."

—"Experts: China HIV Cases Could Hit 100,000 by 2000," United Press International, 2 December 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 December 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Expects 100,000 HIV Positive Cases by 2000," Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 2 December 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 December 1993, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1994

13 January 1994

In an attempt to curb the rise of HIV infections, the Chinese government set up quarantine stations at the country's international airports. Officials will conduct on-the-spot blood tests to Chinese nationals who have lived outside China for more than six months. Foreigners who are planning to reside in China are required to have an HIV test after arriving. *China Daily* reported that quarantine stations detected 71 HIV carriers, and 300 people carrying sexually transmitted diseases were also detected in 1993. A total of 60,000 people were carrying infectious diseases, including malaria, tuberculosis and cholera.

—"China Detects 71 HIV Carriers in Tests at Arrival Ports," Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 13 January 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 13 January 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 February 1994

China's *Science and Technology Daily* reported the AIDS hotline in Kunming, Yunnan has shut down because of financial problems. Originally established by volunteer medical students and concerned personnel a year ago, the hotline was located in China's highest HIV region. The hotline director Wang Jing, said, "We have offered to sell the hotline to enterprises who have a public consciousness and who are keen on public affairs. It is possible, after it

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becomes an enterprise-run hotline; it can continue to offer services to those people needing help.” In the first half of last year, 219 people called the hotline before financial problems beset the hotline. Currently, China has 10,000 Chinese infected with the AIDS virus, while ten have developed full-blown AIDS; 10 people have died.

—“China AIDS Hotline Goes Broke,” United Press International, 2 February 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 February 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 February 1994

China Daily has reported that China is suffering from an “appalling” rise in sexually transmitted diseases. The majority of the increase comes from southern China, “where every year 200 people out of 100,000 suffer from a venereal disease.” The national average is 77 cases per 100,000 people. The statistics were gathered at monitoring stations in 16 provinces and cities, and showed an annual growth rate of 46.1 percent. The cases included syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes, and AIDS. It is estimated that up to 10,000 Chinese now carry the AIDS virus. The article also stated, “Because China’s efforts to wipe out venereal disease were so successful following the Chinese revolution in 1949, an entire generation of doctors now finds itself unprepared and unable to handle the outbreak.”

—“Venereal Disease in China More Than Doubling Every Two Years,” United Press International, 22 February 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 January 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 March 1994

While in Beijing, Executive Director of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global AIDS Program, Michael Merson, warns Chinese officials that China is facing a serious AIDS epidemic. He called for China to implement a nation wide sex education program and to encourage the use of condoms if it wanted to avoid Thailand’s AIDS disaster. A WHO official in Beijing explained, “When you do try to educate youth and you target education programs and promote the use of condoms, it is effective. And China has a very large population of 15 to 24 year olds, which make up the most vulnerable high-risk group.” Currently, limited surveying has detected 1,243 HIV cases in China, of which 36 are full-blown AIDS and 25 have died. Chinese health officials acknowledge the actual number of HIV carriers is close to 10,000 people and could reach 100,000 by the year 2000.

—“WHO Warns China it Faces AIDS Epidemic,” United Press International, 9 March 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 March 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

31 May 1994

Chen Minzhang, Minister of Public Health, announced that China has a total of 1,361 registered HIV cases in 22 Chinese mainland provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. Of the 40 cases of full-blown AIDS, 22 have died. Of the total number of HIV cases, 1,106 involved mainland residents and 255 were either foreigners or foreign citizens of Chinese origin. Official sources said “China is set to draft medium and long-term plans on the prevention of AIDS, as well as to step up the legislation of necessary laws so as to standardize the work and ensure the full implementation of measures designed to curb AIDS.”

—“China had Over 1,300 AIDS-virus Infection Cases” Xinhua, 31 May 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 31 May 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 June 1994

The National Narcotics Control Commission reports that China has 250,000 registered drug users; and “that up to May this year, 1,361 persons were exposed to the AIDS virus, among them over 80 percent were drug addicts.”

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—“Narcotics Commission says China has 250,000 Registered Drug Addicts,” Xinhua, 29 June 1994, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 July 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 July 1994

A report released by the Ministry for Public Health said China must change its “prudish” attitude towards sex education and start to promote AIDS awareness and prevention in order to “keep HIV infection at a reasonable low level.” The reports acknowledges, “The general public knows very little about the acquired immune deficiency syndrome or its prevention, and it's becoming difficult to stop the spread of the virus from abroad.” Furthermore, only 16 percent of healthcare workers in eastern China know how to prevent AIDS, and 94 percent of drug users surveyed in China’s narcotic areas were unaware that sharing needles can spread AIDS. A spokesperson from the Public Health Ministry said the Chinese government has already established a nationwide network to publicize the dangers of AIDS, but there are no public advertisements on television or in the media.

—“China’s AIDS Experts Call for Education,” United Press International, 4 July 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 July 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 July 1994

With assistance from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the State Council Research Office and Ministry of Public Health released a report that notes “the problems and difficulties encountered in the prevention and control of AIDS in China.” For example, the report notes difficulties, such as the transmission of AIDS from the countries which lay on China’s southern borders, and China’s large floating population. It also “analyses AIDS/HIV infection in the country and the social and economic implications of AIDS in China and suggests appropriate measures.” Furthermore, it acknowledges the general public knows very little about AIDS or its prevention.

The report also calls on the Chinese government to promote AIDS awareness among the Chinese population. “Only thus can the incidence of HIV infection in China continue to be kept at a relatively low level, and its disturbances and challenges to the policy of openness and modernization construction drive in the country be avoided,” the report said. The objectives of the report are to “establish as soon as possible a prevention and control system involving the whole community by giving full authority to all departments concerned and to form, during the 8th 5-year plan (1991-1995), a preliminary national macroscopic control mechanism.” Such objectives will involve education, health insurance, and an organized HIV/AIDS surveillance system. Chen Minzhang, Minister of Public Health, said China will increase its overall AIDS Prevention and Control funding, formulate national mid-term and long-term programs, and establish more laws and regulations regarding the control of HIV/AIDS.

—“China Makes Efforts for AIDS Prevention and Control,” Xinhua, 4 July 1988; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 July 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 July 1994

The Ministry of Public Health (MOH) reported that 1,361 AIDS cases have been documented as of late May (1,106 involved mainland residents). The estimated number of HIV cases is between 4,810 and 11,415. However, the MOH noted these figures are based on a test population of only three million people. Chinese health officials are becoming more concerned because news reports have prostitution arrests at 920,000 and nearly one million registered drug addicts between 1983 and 1993. Furthermore, China’s growing mobile population is seen as a catalyst for the rapid spread of the HIV virus. Health experts,

such as Professor Chen Chunming of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences for Precaution, see China as entering the stage in which the AIDS virus is beginning to spread outside the high risk groups. “Not only high risk groups exposed to the virus but persons living a regular life are also subject to such infection.” Furthermore, they have made an urgent appeal to establish a national “examination system for blood banks in a bid to prevent the blood reserve from AIDS contamination.”

—“AIDS: Basic Medical Units urged to Prevent ‘Catastrophic’ Spread of Infection,” Xinhua, 22 July 1993; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 July 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

5 August 1994

China Daily reported the European Union (EU) will provide approximately two million USD to help fund a project to train laboratory technicians and doctors “with the latest techniques for testing and treating various STDs” in China. According to the Ministry of Health, “China registered 54,000 fresh cases of STDs in the first quarter of this year, a sharp rise of 39 percent on the same 1993 period.” At the end of July, China has 40 cases of full-blown AIDS, of whom 22 have died; as well as 1,435 HIV carriers. The World Health Organization puts the estimated number of HIV infections at 10,000.

—“China, EU to join force against Spread of STDs,” Agence France Presse, 5 August 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 August 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

5 August 1994

The Chinese newspaper *Health News* reported China laboratory technicians recently completed a week-long professional training course given by United States laboratory experts. In the future, these trainees will train the laboratory technicians throughout China on primary screening for HIV/AIDS. Currently, China has 12 labs for confirming AIDS cases and 276 primary screening centers.

—“Trains More Skilled Workers for AIDS Labs,” Xinhua, 5 August 1994, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 August 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

31 August 1994

The Ministry of Public Health announced an AIDS educational program “aimed at enhancing the awareness of the general public of the importance of preventing AIDS.” Funded by the Wellcome Pharmaceutical Corporation of Britain, this program will provide education for medical workers and AIDS patients, as well as the general public.”

—“AIDS Education Program Drawn Up,” Xinhua, 31 August 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 31 August 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

15 September 1994

The European Union (EU) and the Chinese Ministry of Public Health established a 2.4 million Euro (about 24.3 million yuan) AIDS and Venereal Disease Treatment Training Program. The specific objectives of the program are as follows:

- to improve the management of AIDS and venereal disease control projects;
- to improve the communal care for AIDS and venereal disease patients;
- to improve the laboratory diagnosis of AIDS and venereal diseases;
- to improve studies in AIDS and venereal disease epidemiology and related public health services; and
- to improve the education techniques of practicing physicians working at AIDS and venereal disease clinics.

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To meet these goals, the program will set up two national training centers, one in Beijing and the other in Shanghai. These centers will hold “training classes in medical care for AIDS and venereal disease patients and clinical, laboratory, and epidemiological control of AIDS and venereal diseases.” These training classes will also offer training to future teachers, who will teach similar classes at 25 regional centers. The administrative office for the program will be located in Beijing.

—Ching Chi, “China Allocates 20m Yuan to cooperate with the EC to Cure and Prevent AIDS,” *Ming Pao* (Hong Kong), 15 September 1994, pg. A12; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 October 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

19 September 1994

The Chinese magazine *Outlook Weekly* reports the central government will begin to increase the general public’s awareness about HIV/AIDS. They will achieve this goal by “strengthening the organizational leadership,” “launch publicity programs, increasing funds for study and prevention of AIDS, expanding international co-operation and issue policies and laws to control AIDS.” Lack of education about AIDS is seen as the biggest obstacle to containing the spread of AIDS in China. Public health workers in several cities have reported “that while most people have heard of AIDS, few knew how to avoid becoming infected with the virus that causes it.” A common belief says, “Many people think that if you don’t visit prostitutes, you can’t get the disease. And some prostitutes believe that if you don’t have contact with foreigners, you can’t get AIDS.”

According to the magazine, China now has 1,361 documented HIV cases, of which 255 are foreigners or overseas Chinese. HIV/AIDS has now been reported in 22 provinces and municipalities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Yunnan, Guangdong, Fujian, and Zhejiang. Yunnan has 80 percent of China's HIV/AIDS cases. The report warns AIDS cases in China “could exceed 253,000 by year 2000 without more preventive measures.”

Chinese health officials predict a rise in China AIDS cases because of the overall increase of the disease internationally, especially in neighboring countries; China's growing “floating population” from rural to urban and from interior to coastal areas and among cities; the lack of knowledge about AIDS prevention in the general population; and the increase of drug addiction and prostitution. Estimated treatment cost is between 3,300 yuan and 7,400 yuan, “about one half of the average annual family income.”

—“China Strives to Control AIDS,” *Xinhua*, 19 September 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 19 September 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Elaine Kurtenback, “China to Do More to Warn Public about AIDS,” *Associated Press*, 21 September 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 21 September 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>

25 October 1994

From 1985 to last July, China has documented 1,435 HIV positive cases, among which 40 have developed AIDS (22 have died). The HIV population is comprised of 230 foreigners, 31 overseas Chinese, and 1,174 mainland Chinese. Experts at a recent AIDS conference estimate the total number of Chinese infected with the AIDS virus could hit 40,000 by the end of 1994. Officials from China’s top medical college, the Beijing Union Medical University, told *China Youth Daily* some 51 percent of China’s AIDS victims are in their 20s. They continued, “Young adults who are sexually active will be the first victims. If they meet with special situations they must learn the methods to protect themselves.”

Chinese officials now believe there are over 1 million prostitutes and 2.5 million drug users from China’s western provinces to major cities like Beijing and Shanghai. Furthermore, “the

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incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) has increased from 48 cases in 1980 to 360,000 in 1992. There is no nationwide screening for AIDS and the public awareness of how HIV is spread is low. Most Chinese believe only foreigners get AIDS. “A recent government survey found only 16 percent of health workers in eastern China knew how to prevent AIDS, and just six percent of intravenous drug users were aware that sharing needles could spread the fatal disease.” The Ministry of Public Health said it has established a nationwide network to publicize the “dangers of AIDS,” but to date there is no sex education in schools and no public service announcements on television.

—“Nearly 1,500 HIV Carriers Discovered in China,” *Hsin Wan Pao* (Hong Kong), 25 October 1994, pg. 3; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 November 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Lorien Holland, “China: 1,435 Cases of AIDS,” United Press International, 25 October 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 October 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 November 1994

Tian Yongbo of the Shanghai Health Education Institute disclosed that China’s State Education Commission “is planning to introduce an AIDS prevention and treatment course in colleges to educate college students on the AIDS disease” next year. Nation-wide there are more than 1,400 people infected with HIV, of whom 40 have developed into AIDS. Some 51 percent of HIV carriers are between 20 and 29 years old. In Shanghai, 18 people have been identified carrying the AIDS virus. 80 percent of them are between 18 and 45 years old, and more than 50 percent are between 20 and 29 years old.

—“Colleges to Introduce AIDS Education Courses,” Zhongguo Tongxun News Agency (Hong Kong), 14 November 1994, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

26 November 1994

The *China Youth Daily* reported that several Chinese newspapers will publish an AIDS quiz on December 1 to correspond with World AIDS Day. The multiple choice quiz will focus on basic prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. The quiz is sponsored by the China Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS Prevention Association and the Ministry of Health. The quiz is planned to be placed in the *China Youth Daily*, *Guangming Daily*, *Legal Daily*, *China’s Women’s News*, and *Health News*.

—“China to Hold AIDS Awareness Quiz,” Agence France Presse, 26 November 1995, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 26 November 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 November 1994

A Guangdong newspaper named the *Yangcheng Evening News* reported 21 new HIV cases in Guangdong this year. Bordering Hong Kong, Guangdong now has 97 registered HIV cases, with 3 AIDS related deaths. The paper wrote, “Experts are very worried because the great majority of people have no feeling of crisis and hold that the disease is a foreigner’s illness.”

Officials are warning that Guangdong has all the early signs of an AIDS outbreak: a large youthful population, uncontrolled prostitution, and huge increase in reported sexually transmitted diseases. “The twin brother of the AIDS virus is venereal disease,” wrote the paper.

Up to July 1995, China has detected 1,435 cases of HIV, but experts at a recent AIDS conference in Beijing estimate that 40,000 Chinese will be infected by the end of 1994. Of China’s infected population, 51 percent are in their twenties and were infected through heterosexual sex. Furthermore, a recent government survey found only 16 percent of healthcare workers in eastern China know how AIDS can be prevented. Surveys among university students show they were equally uninformed.

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—Lorien Holland, “China Warns AIDS is Spreading,” *United Press International*, 29 November 1984; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 November 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 1994

Guangdong Province ranks second behind Yunnan Province in the number of AIDS cases. Since the first AIDS case was discovered in 1986, a total of 97 (48 cases Guangdong native, 19 related to patients from other provinces, 30 overseas Chinese and foreigners) cases have been identified in 10 of the province’s cities. “It is said 44 of the infected were found to be infected with AIDS on their return to China after staying abroad for visiting relatives, doing business, studying or working, 24 of them admitted that they had had causal sex while staying abroad.”

—“More Cases of AIDS Infection Found in Guangdong,” *Ta Kung Pao* (Hong Kong), 30 November 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>

1 December 1994

About 15 independent AIDS campaigners marked World AIDS Day by disseminating some 1,500 pamphlets entitled “Know About AIDS” in Beijing’s Wangfujing shopping district and nearby Dongdan Park. In the upscale Wangfujing shopping district many shoppers would not accept the pamphlets or dropped them in the street. An anonymous activist stated, “A lot of people aren’t willing to be seen accepting material on something like AIDS in the street – it’s not the sort of thing an upstanding citizen should show interest in. They don’t think it had anything to do with them.” In contrast, at Dongdan Park, an evening gathering spot for Beijing’s homosexual community, many people showed interest. After examining the material, some also approached the activists with questions.

—“Chinese Campaigners Target Shoppers on World AIDS Day,” *Agence France Presse*, 1 December 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1994

Beijing’s Sanitation and Epidemic Prevention Departments have reported 23 new cases of HIV infections this year, increasing the city’s total documented HIV carriers to more than 80 people. Among the 23 new cases, eight were foreigners, seven are Beijing natives, and the rest are from other Chinese cities and provinces. Since the first registered case of AIDS in Beijing, a total of 81 HIV infected individuals have been found in the city, of which 42 are foreigners and 22 are Beijing. [Note: slight discrepancy with figures above as received] Furthermore, various cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) have increased 95.7 percent from November of last year. Beijing city officials require “all those Chinese infected by (the) AIDS to go back to their original hometown to receive treatment, (and) all foreigners to leave the country.”

—“Beijing Marks World AIDS Day; Statistics Update,” *Xinhua*, 1 December 1994, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1994

Marking World AIDS Day, all Beijing’s major hospitals set up information services to answer questions about AIDS. Also, several municipal departments have been conducting a sexual awareness program in Zhongshan Park, next to Tiananmen Square, which has attracted thousands of visitors. Beijing TV also broadcasted program on “AIDS and the Family.”

—“Beijing Marks World AIDS Day; Statistics Update,” *Xinhua*, 1 December 1994, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1994

The Chinese Ministry of Public Health reported that 1,453 have tested positive for HIV since the first case was detected in 1985. Currently, 22 of China's 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have reported cases of HIV infection. Of all China's registered HIV infections 1,174 are Chinese, of which 70 percent were infected through intravenous drug use. However, only high-risk groups are being tested, wrote Wang Youfa of China's Xiahe Medical College. In Beijing, eight of the 23 new HIV positive people were foreigners. The central government has often characterized AIDS as a disease that only infects foreigners and those on the fringe of society, such as drug users, prostitutes, and homosexuals. It is reported that 79 percent of China's AIDS cases are located in China's southern Yunnan Province, which has China's most serious drug problem. It is estimated as many as 10,000 Chinese may be infected with the AIDS virus, and 22 have died of AIDS since 1985.

—"To Raise Awareness of AIDS," Xinhua, 1 December 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "AIDS Has Claimed 22 Lives; As Many as 10,000 May Be Infected," Associated Press, 2 December 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1994

Experts attending an international AIDS symposium in Beijing recommend China's medical units test all blood products utilized both in clinical and laboratory use. So far, testing is only conducted in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Yunnan. A recent report presented at the symposium estimated "some 196 blood donors across the country have been carriers of the virus." It warned, "If blood testing is not carried out immediately, some 3,000 to 7,000 people will be infected in the next decade." The experts called for Beijing to offer grants and loans to local districts to set up blood testing laboratories. Also, they called for a standardized "nationwide inspection of the management of blood products."

—"To Raise Awareness of AIDS," Xinhua, 1 December 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 December 1994

Guangdong Province healthcare department announced it will establish an AIDS control center. The center will be responsible for the enhanced supervision of drug abusers, underground prostitution and venereal disease carriers. An AIDS hotline will also be set up. Guangdong reported its first AIDS case in 1986. Currently, there are 95 confirmed HIV carriers, including 30 foreigners or overseas Chinese and 48 Guangdong residents.

—"Guangdong to Set up AIDS Control Center," Xinhua, 4 December 1994, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

19 December 1994

The *Beijing Youth Daily* reported that "three recent blood donors in Beijing and Shanghai were carrying the AIDS virus." The report did not give any further details. However, the report cited "government information submitted to the Asian Development Bank said that 83 to 196 of China's blood donors carry the AIDS virus." No information was given on how large China's pool of blood donors is.

—"Three HIV Carriers Discovered Among Beijing, Shanghai Blood Donors," Associated Press, 19 December 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 19 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

27 December 1994

While attending a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) meeting in Hong Kong, Wang Zhao, Deputy Director of the Diseases Control Department of the Ministry of Health, said 70 percent of people testing positive for AIDS in China are intravenous drug users, and

were found in Yunnan Province. The remaining victims contracted AIDS through sexual contact. "According to the latest government statistics, 1,435 people have tested positive for HIV, and 40 of them have full-blown AIDS." Researchers at the Beijing Union Medical University, China's top medical university, reported "51 percent of China's AIDS victims were in their 20s and increasing sexual contact was leading to the spread of the virus."

—Chan Wai-Fong, "70 pc of AIDS Cases 'Are drug addicts,'" *South China Morning Post*, 27 December 1994, p. 6; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1995

2 January 1995

Police in Tianjin have discovered a group that would force kidnapped children and mislead peasants to donate blood and then sell the blood to state-owned blood banks. The *Tianjin Evening News* reported men would go to the railway stations "to lure innocent people by offering good jobs, food and accommodations." Police reported everyday 200 to 400 ml of blood were forcibly taken from the victim. According to United Press International, in China there is no system for voluntary blood donations. Hospitals and blood banks will pay anyone willing to sell their blood, and there is no screening for AIDS or Hepatitis. This is the second report of people being forced to donate blood. Last December, another group was discovered in northern China.

—"Chinese Children Forced to Sell Blood," United Press International, 2 January 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 January 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 January 1995

China will host the 31st International Conference on Military Medicine (ICMM) in October 1996. The conference will host military medical personnel from up to 170 countries and will focus on the prevention and treatment of injuries caused by modern weaponry, HIV/AIDS in the military context, the use of antibiotics and the application of traditional medicine for military injuries.

—"Beijing to Hosts International Military Medicine Conference," Xinhua, 20 January 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 January 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

7 March 1995

The *Legal Daily* estimated that 50 million Chinese have contracted a sexually transmitted disease. It stated, "The public needs regular facilities and information to dispel their difficulties. The emergence of... sexual medicine is a gospel to China's 50 million venereal disease patients." Sex education in Chinese schools is non-existent and a Chinese video on sexual health is only shown to married couples. "At present, the sexual know-how of the Chinese is at an embryonic period," the paper said. [The number of people who contracted STDs could not be verified by another source.]

—"China Says 50 Million Stricken with VD," United Press International, 7 March 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 March 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 March 1995

Yang Qi, Head of Yunnan's AIDS Prevention Office reported that Yunnan has 1,776 cases of HIV and 21 of those have developed AIDS. Yang went on to imply that foreigners and minority groups are to blame for the increase of AIDS in China. He stated, "Over 95 percent of HIV carriers are drug users and 84 percent of those are rural people from minority areas. There are only 40 HIV carriers proved to have been infected by sexual contact. In China, prostitution is illegal. So far, the sexual-transmission cases in China are mainly in the minority areas along the Sino-Burmese and Sino-Laotian borders because

people are less educated." The first HIV/AIDS case was diagnosed in Yunnan in 1987.

—"Prejudice, Police Hamper Efforts to Control AIDS in China," *Vancouver Sun*, 24 March 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 March 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 March 1995

Beijing will open its second AIDS hotline because of the increased number of callers who want information on AIDS. China currently has 1,550 documented cases of HIV.

—"Beijing Opens Second AIDS Hotline," United Press International, 28 March 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 December 1994, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

12 April 1995

Chinese Health Minister Chen Min Zhang reported that at the end of 1994, 1,775 Chinese were HIV positive. Of the 1,775 cases, 65 had developed AIDS and 45 have died. Chen added that 70 percent of cases are intravenous drug users, but the transmission by sexual contact was on the increase. Chen also said "some patients were infected during blood transfusions."

—"Sexual Contact Reported to be Growing Source of AIDS in China," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 12 April 1995, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 April 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 April 1995

Five Beijing newspapers ran a HIV/AIDS prevention contest sponsored by the China Association of STD/AIDS Prevention and Control and the Ministry of Public Health. The contest received more than 60,000 completed questionnaires, of which 1,100 carried correct answers to all the questions. The contest was aimed at promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

—"Beijing Press Run Competition to Promote Knowledge of AIDS Prevention, Control," Xinhua, 14 April 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 April 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 April 1995

The *Guangming Daily* reported China has established the National Blood Products Management in an effort to control and prevent the spread of AIDS through contaminated blood products. China has 1,775 confirmed cases of HIV infections, 65 have full-blown AIDS, of which 45 have died. Health Minister Chen Minzhang confirmed "some patients were infected when they came into contact with contaminated blood," the report stated.

—"China Sets Up Blood Testing to Battle AIDS," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 14 April 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 April 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 April 1995

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Chen Jian said that no person would be denied entry into China for the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women based on their HIV status. He stated, "Nobody will be denied entry just because he or she is a AIDS patient or a HIV carrier."

—"Urgent AIDS Patients to be Allowed into China for UN Conference on Women," Xinhua, 20 April 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 April 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 April 1995

Dr. Wang Aixia of Xiahe Union Hospital in Beijing reported the majority of Chinese AIDS patients at the hospitals were hotel staff members and were infected through sexual activities. To date Xiahe Hospital has accepted 23 AIDS patients, of which eight are Chinese; three have died. The three which have died are all young males, and worked in large hotels. Two female patients were sexual partners of two of the three deceased men. Among the eight Chinese AIDS patients, five worked in large hotels.

—"AIDS Infection Rate Highest Among Hotel Staff," Xinhua, 25 April 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 April 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 April 1995

Wang Tingchen, Mayor of Kunming, believes AIDS is only a foreigner problem. "Its is mainly a problem foreigners have. We take the strictest possible measures at our airports." Wang acknowledges there are cases of HIV/AIDS on the border areas, but to date he maintains there are no cases of AIDS in Kunming. "We have not found this disease among our citizens. It is mainly a problem foreigners have," Wang said any such cases in the city would be noticed "because of symptoms." He also believes that the 300,000 to 400,000 migrant workers, who do not undergo any medical checkups, are not infected.

However, Liu Jing, Deputy Governor of the Province says AIDS is a "very serious problem." He said, "We are very concerned and have taken a series of measure to combat the spread of the disease." In a recent nation-wide survey, 90 percent do not know how AIDS is spread. Also, 94 percent of drug users not know that sharing needles can spread the AIDS virus.

—"Ignorance and Lack of Knowledge in China; Only Foreigners get AIDS," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 25 April 1995; in Lexis-Nexis. Academic Universe, 25 April 1995, <http://www.lexisnexus.com>.

5 May 1995

Chinese officials reported that there were 531 new HIV cases in 1994 compared to 1,241 in the previous nine years. "The spread of the AIDS virus has quietly accelerated, with new cases in 1994 making up one-third of the total 1,774 carriers detected in the last 10 years," reported the *Farmer's Daily*. It's also stated, "Infection through sexual intercourse is on the rise." Western observes estimate there are over 2 million prostitutes in China, and venereal diseases have affected 15 million Chinese.

—"China Detects 531 AIDS cases in 1994," United Press International, 5 May 1994; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 May 1995, <http://www.lexisnexus.com>.

24 July 1995

Australian medical equipment manufacturer Agen Biomedical Ltd. will establish a joint venture in Beijing with Beijing Hua Yi Biotechnology Co. and Diagnotech Co. of Hong Kong to produce and market AIDS test kits. Sources say these AIDS tests can determine if a person is HIV positive or negative in 30 minutes.

—"Agen Biomedical to Make AIDS Test Kits in China," *The Nikkei Weekly* (Japan), 24 July 1995, pg. 20; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 July 1995, <http://www.lexisnexus.com>.

11 August 1995

The State Education Commission (SEC) announced it will require all 2.40 million incoming college and university students to take a HIV/AIDS prevention course. The reported stated, "It is an urgent task to promote knowledge about sex, although college and university students are not the affected group of people by AIDS." The course will cover how HIV is spread and ways to prevent its transmission. Among those infected with HIV/AIDS in China, 0.62 percent are below the age of 15; 8.62 percent are between the ages of 16 to 19; and 51.69 percent are between 20 and 29 years old.

—"China to Conduct Education on AIDS Among College Students," Xinhua, 11 August 1995; in Lexis-Nexis. Academic Universe, 11 August 1995, <http://www.lexisnexus.com>; "Shanghai to Launch AIDS Education Among College Freshmen," Xinhua, 26 August 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 26 August 1995.

27 October 1995

Ministry of Health's General Director, Dr. Cao Ronggui believes "openness" has caused the high HIV rate in Guangdong province. He said that sexual intercourse was the main mode of transmission in Guangdong province, compared to Yunnan and Guangxi provinces,

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where intravenous drug use is the main cause. Guangdong, Yunnan and Guangxi provinces have China's highest HIV infection rates. Officials have warned that the number of HIV carriers in China could rise to 266,000 because of China's unscreened blood supply.

—Rhonda Lam Wan, "Openness' Causes High HIV Rates," *South China Morning Post*, 27 October 1995, p. 10; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 October 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 October 1995

China's Health Ministry and State Council announced a nationwide campaign to "spread knowledge about prevention and control of the deadly disease." Officials report that there are 2,248 HIV patients and 77 have advanced to AIDS.

—"China to Launch Nationwide AIDS Prevention Campaign," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 28 October 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 October 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 October 1995

A recent State Council-approved report by the Ministry of Health (MOH) entitled "AIDS - Prevention and Control" warns the Chinese population must be educated on AIDS prevention. The report suggested the more information people have, the less likely they are to contract HIV/AIDS. Since 1985, the AIDS virus has spread to 22 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the direct control of Beijing. To date, 2,428 people have been discovered to carry HIV, of which 77 have developed full-blown AIDS. The report said, although the actual number of AIDS cases may be low in relation to China's population, the rate of infection is increasing every year. In 1994, 531 people were diagnosed with HIV, this was a 100 percent increase from the previous year. During the first six months of 1995, 654 people have been found to carry the HIV virus, 12 of whom have full-blown AIDS. The number is already greater than 1994's total. China is estimated to have 50,000 to 100,000 HIV cases and the infection rate is increasing.

—"Public Health Ministry Calls for Education on AIDS Prevention and Control," Xinhua, 30 August 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 October 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

5 November 1995

The Ministry of Health (MOH) listed the blood-for-cash system, its own limitation in screening for HIV, and a heavy reliance on migrant blood donors as the primary sources of a probable AIDS epidemic in China. An official with the World Health Organization (WHO) states that offering money for blood donation naturally attracted the groups most at risk for carrying HIV - the down-and-out, drug addicts, prostitutes, and migrants. The State Council is currently reviewing a five year plan to fight the spread of AIDS in China. The first priority focuses on preventing the spread of AIDS through sexual behavior. It will achieve this aim by counseling high risk groups, such as prostitutes, drug addicts, homosexuals, long-distance truck drivers, patients with venereal diseases and migrants, especially women. The secondary priority is to clean up the blood supply. But according to Qi Xiaoqiu, Deputy Director of the Health Ministry's Department of Disease Control, the Ministry of Health has requested that blood screening be done in the big cities since 1993, "but it is expensive." Qi stated, "Local officials say they don't have a (AIDS) problem so they don't do it. And, even if you can afford the reagents, they're hard to find." According to Emile Fox, a WHO expert, "China is the first country to have policies and plans in place before an epidemic."

—Charles Hutzler, "Blood Problems, Poverty Point to AIDS Outbreak in China," Associated Press, 5 November 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 November 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 November 1995

The Chinese Association for Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS Prevention and

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Control organized a national conference of non-governmental organizations (NGO) on AIDS control and prevention. The conference was attended by over 30 NGOs from across China, the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The aim of the conference is to ask China's NGO community to "provide information and suggestions for the government to work out policies on AIDS control and to assist the government with field work," reported *China Daily*. The NGOs were also encouraged to promote exchanges with international AIDS organizations and to introduce the world's latest finding.

—"China NGOs Steps up AIDS Drive," Xinhua, 9 November 1995, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 November 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 November 1995

The Ministry of Public Security reported that over 300,000 prostitutes were arrested in 1994, of which half worked in a fixed location. "The problem is worsening day by day. Cases of prostitution and the number of prostitutes are increasing," said the *Public Security News*.

—"Prostitution on the Rise in China," Agence France Presse, 20 November 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 November 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 November 1995

Zheng Xiwen, Chief of China's Academy of Preventive Medicine reported that the official estimates of China's HIV cases are 100,000.

—"AIDS Cases on the Rise in China," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 22 November 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 November 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 November 1995

Shanghai government sources reported 82 HIV/AIDS cases, of which 24 were Shanghai residents. Out of the 24 cases, 23 contracted HIV through sex with a foreigner.

—"Shanghai AIDS Cases Rising," Xinhua, 22 November 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 November 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 November 1995

China Central Television (CCTV) broadcasted its first "series of documentaries on AIDS." They include interviews with a prostitute and a common Chinese person who are infected with HIV/AIDS.

—"Chinese Get Candid Look at AIDS," *The Gazette* (Montreal), 29 November 1995, p. B1; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 November 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1995

A report released on World AIDS Day stated that there are 2,594 cases of HIV in China, 80 of which have developed full-blown AIDS, and of these 50 have died. However, AIDS researchers estimate the total number of AIDS cases in China to be between 50,000 and 100,000 people. Health Minister Chen Minzhang said 26 of China's 30 regions have reported HIV/AIDS cases. In 1994, 531 HIV cases were reported, and through September of 1995, an additional 820 cases were reported. In China, AIDS is transmitted through sex, blood, and now mother to child transmission. It was reported, 70 percent of AIDS cases in China are related to drug use. To combat the spread of AIDS, China has launched a nation-wide supervisory and report network, and an association and a foundation for the prevention and control of AIDS and AIDS hotlines in all the major cities. Only recently has the State Council approved the Ministry of Health's five year action plan to combat AIDS. The United Nations announced it will establish the United Nations AIDS program (UNAIDS) to coordinate world-wide efforts in the fight against AIDS.

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—"China Has Massive AIDS Education Drive," Xinhua, 1 December 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1995

The city of Beijing launched a city-wide education and anti-AIDS publicity campaign to correspond with World AIDS Day. More than 200 hundred hospitals and medical facilities have offered consultation and distributed tens of thousands of educational materials to people. Instances of HIV infection in Beijing have risen every year. This year 30 cases of AIDS have been discovered, of which seven are foreigners, 18 are non-Beijingers, and five are Beijing residents. In total, the number of HIV cases found in 1993 was 23. Since 1985, 117 cases of HIV infection have been reported in Beijing, including 50 foreigners, 39 non-Beijing residents and 28 Beijing residents. Of the 28, seven have died. According to official statistics, the STD infection rate has increased 28.76 percent over 1994.

—"Beijing City Launches AIDS Campaigns," Xinhua, 1 December 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1995

China's Jiangsu province has established its first AIDS Hotline. Since 1986, when Jiangsu began testing for venereal diseases, 14 cases of HIV have been recorded. Six cases were from overseas, two from other provinces, and six Jiangsu residents. Of the six local cases, four contracted the disease in Africa, one in Thailand and one within his family.

—"Jiangsu Opens Hotline for AIDS Prevention," Xinhua, 1 December 1995; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

26 December 1995

The Guangdong newspaper, *Yangcheng Evening News*, reported that 10 Beijing university students have tested positive for the AIDS virus. The State Education Commission has said it will protect the rights and anonymity of the university students infected with HIV.

—Geoffrey Crothall, "Privacy Vow Over Students with HIV," *South China Morning Post*, 26 December 1995, p. 5; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 26 December 1995, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1996

31 January 1996

China's *Health Daily* cited a story about Xiao Gaopan of Xiangzhong, Hunan province. Xiao contracted AIDS while working in the east African country of Tanzania. Upon learning he was infected with HIV, his family confined him to his own room and would leave his food at the door. "I dared not speak a word to him out of fear the virus would infect my throat," said his wife. Xiao died alone. However, after his death, fear-struck neighbors have demanded Xiao's family leave. Many have enclosed their balconies and sealed their windows. The youngest daughter has lost her job at a factory, the older daughter's husband left her, and the son's marriage is in trouble. Despite government intervention, residents insist they leave. "If the Xiao family isn't forced to leave by authorities, we'll make sure they move," said an angry woman. The Ministry of Health reported there are 2,480 cases of HIV nationwide, however, some experts place the number as high as 100,00 HIV carriers.

—"Chinese Community Ostracizes AIDS Victim," United Press International, 21 January 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 31 January 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 February 1996

The Ministry of Health (MOH) reported China's drug user population is increasing rapidly. Incomplete statistics show the number of registered users to be 148,000 in 1991, 250,000 in 1992, and 380,000 in 1994. The MOH also confirmed that 1,400 drug users are HIV positive,

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60-70 percent of the total number of HIV cases in China.

—"China's Narcotics Control Work Faces Rigorous Challenges," *Hsin Wan Pao* (Hong Kong), 29 February 1996, p 3; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 February 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

18-20 March 1996

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) along with officials from China and Myanmar participated in a drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention conference in Kunming, Yunnan. The conference evaluated the progress made in reducing the number of drug addicts and the HIV infection rate since the program was started in 1993. According to the report in areas where the program was implemented, the number of drug users has significantly decreased and there have been no new cases of HIV infections. "There has been no new drug user nor new HIV/AIDS case in any of the four pilot villages, and the number of drug users has been reduced," said Jiang Pusheng, Secretary-General of China's Yunnan Narcotics Control Committee. The conference will also look to increase cross-border cooperation at the local level to monitor drug abuse and HIV infections.

—"UN to Review Drug Abuse Along China-Myanmar Border," Xinhua, 15 March 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 15 March 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Burma, China Join Fight Drugs, AIDS," *Agence France Presse*, 5 April 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 April 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 March 1996

Beginning in 1994, the European Union (EU) has provided 2.8 million USD to establish two national sexually transmitted disease (STD) control centers in Beijing and Shanghai. In addition, 25 provincial training centers have been set-up at 11 anti-epidemic stations and 14 institutions for STD control in 21 provinces. The program will also train Chinese medical workers in epidemiology, the detection and treatment of HIV and teach them related management skills. China has reported over 300,000 STD cases in 1995, but experts estimate there are over three million cases.

—"EU Funds Sexual Health Projects in China," Xinhua, 29 March 1996, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 March 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

16 April 1996

China has announced the establishment of a "disease prevention belt" along Yunnan's border with Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam. The network will be set up along six frontier ports, eight border prefectures, and 26 border counties. The "belt" is designed to prevent HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases from entering China. "Currently the province has registered some 2,000 HIV-positive patients, more than 70 percent of the national total," said Yang Chaobin, Vice-Director of the Provincial Health Department. Needle sharing, sexual contact and mother-infant methods of transmission are to blame for Yunnan's high HIV population. Yang continued, the goal of the five year program is to stop "infectious disease among children from spreading across the borders and getting the AIDS epidemic under control." To date, this is the first time a Chinese official has described the China HIV epidemic in such terms. China has reported 2,428 HIV cases.

—"Health Officials Fight AIDS Epidemic," *United Press International*, 16 April 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 16 April 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

18 April 1996

The *Beijing Evening News* reported there are 122 HIV cases in Beijing. Among the 122 cases, 51 involved foreigners, 41 "transient" people, and 30 local residents. Of the 30 residents, 12 have developed full-blown AIDS and seven have died. The report noted before 1989 all HIV cases involved foreigners or non-residents. In 1989, the first HIV cases involving a

local resident were reported. Between 1989 and 1992, all local carriers were people who have travel aboard. Since 1992, all HIV patients are venereal disease patients, homosexuals, bisexuals, or prostitute customers. To date China has an estimated 50,000 to 100,000 HIV cases.

—"122 HIV-Infected Persons Found in Beijing," Xinhua, 18 April 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 18 April 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

3 May 1996

Beijing hosted a blood drive to encourage blood donation and increase the quality of China's blood supply. Sun Baiqiu, Vice-Chairman of China's Red Cross Society said donated blood is preferred over sold blood because the quality is better and the donor's overall health tends to be better. However, all donors must have a medical check-up before they donate. Also, the blood can only be used after it is tested for hepatitis-B, hepatitis-C, HIV, syphilis, and other viruses. Most of the 800,000 liters of blood collected annually is used in hospitals and plasma used in the production of 4,000 tons of blood products each year is obtained from people get paid to give blood. Donated blood accounts for less than 10 percent of the total.

—"Red Cross Blood Drive in Beijing," Xinhua, 3 May 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 May 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

7 May 1996

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam met in Beijing to create a reproductive health and AIDS prevention manual. This manual will be the basis in training 10,000 young adults "who, in turn, will cascade key HIV/AIDS prevention messages to young people in China and the other participating countries. In addition to youth peer education, member countries will also focus particularly on strategies to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among women, who much rely on their partners to practice safe sex and are, therefore, increasingly vulnerable to the deadly virus," reported Xinhua. "National boundaries cannot contain or exclude the HIV/VIRUS - which is why a regional approach to the pandemic is vital," said Patric Couteau, Regional Health Delegate for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. HIV cases in Asia reached 4.3 million last year, and in China there are an estimated 100,000 HIV cases. Statistics show half of those infected with HIV in Asia are less than 25 years old. He continued, "The epidemic in China is following the economic development of the country through migrant workers and truck drivers, so border areas will be a problem but so will cities nationwide."

Referring to China's AIDS prevention and awareness campaign launched last year, Werasit Sittitrai, Chairman of the Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent AIDS Task Force (ART) said it was a major turning point in the global fight against AIDS. "China's recent recognition of the AIDS problem is one of the success stories of the world." He continued, "Although there is allot more that needs to be done, we have seen work on AIDS, on prostitution and on drugs in China increase dramatically." An unnamed Chinese health expert added, "It is still difficult to work on AIDS, there are still big political problems in tackling the whole issue as it involves so many areas that the government wishes it didn't have." Officials estimate the number of prostitutes to be at more than one million and drug users at over 520,000. The Ministry of Health has reported 2,428 official cases of HIV infections.

—"Asian Youth Educated to Combat AIDS," Xinhua, 7 May 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 May 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Lorien Holland, "China's New Focus on AIDS Hailed as Turing Point in Global Prevention," Agence France Presse, 7 May 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 May 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

16 May 1996

The World Bank and the Chinese Ministry of (MOH) Health have jointly launched a five year program (1996-2000) to control "non-infectious chronic diseases" and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in China. Funded with a 10 million USD loan from the World Bank, the program will be set-up in Yunnan province, Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Chengdu, Luoyang in Henan province, Liuzhou in Guangxi province, and Weihai in Shandong province.

According to the MOH, non-infectious diseases are increasing in China because of the aging population and changes in lifestyles. Also, sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, are also increasing. Experts believe increased awareness will be the most effective to stop the increase of chronic diseases in China.

—"Project launched to Prevent HIV/AIDS Among Chinese," Xinhua, 16 May 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 16 May 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 June 1996

Chen Chunming with the National Specialists' Committee for Preventing and Controlling AIDS reported the number of Chinese infected with the AIDS virus has reached 3,341 by the end of 1995, 841 more than originally reported. The number of cases that have developed into AIDS is 117, up from 77 in January. "The actual figure could be much larger," Chen warned. As international exchanges increase, AIDS has actually threatened everyone and the whole nation must pay careful attention to it," he said. Experts say the spread of AIDS in China is caused by needle sharing, mother-fetus transmission, and sexual contacts.

—"HIV Cases Reach 3,341," United Press International, 24 June 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 June 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 June 1996

Lu Weibao, a professor with the China Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine, reported that an HIV-positive patient has tested negative after being treated with a Chinese herbal medicine called Sedav, which is developed by the S-Debri Pharmaceutical Development Group in Liaoning province. According to a report released at a recent conference on the diagnosis and treatment of AIDS last December, Beijing's You'an Hospital received four AIDS patients and two HIV patients. After a two month period of being treated with Sedav, all of the patients show marked improvement, and one patient's serum changed from positive to negative. All tests were performed by the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine.

—"HIV Patient Tests Negative After Herb Treatment in China," Xinhua, 25 June 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 June 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

11 July 1996

During a ceremony marking World Population Day, State Councilor Peng Peiyun said women are more vulnerable to HIV than men, and empowering women and educating both sexes about AIDS prevention would help reduce women's risk of contracting AIDS. Also, she urged that illegal blood collection for clinical use be banned, and that a national donation system be established.

—"Beijing Holds Education Event on AIDS and Reproductive Health," Xinhua, 11 July 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 13 July 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

12 July 1996

Chen Chunming, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine warned that heterosexual transmission could become the leading cause of AIDS transmission in China.

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He said, "Public conceptions of marriage and sex are changing. Heterosexual transmission must be the focus of efforts to stop the spread. Prevention is the only way to control AIDS. We have to educate people with correct morals about love, family and sex." China has reported 3,341 cases of HIV infections, 117 have developed into AIDS.

—Rajiv Chandra, "China-AIDS: Unprotected Sex a Main Cause of 'the Illness of Love,'" Inter Press Service (New Delhi), 12 July 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 July 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 August 1996

Ye Shunzhang, Director of the National Venereal Disease Control Center (NVDCC) reported that China's reported cases of venereal disease rose to 362,000 last year, and 18 percent annually. These included HIV/AIDS, gonorrhea and syphilis. Ye blamed the rise on VD cases on people's increased awareness about sex, and unsanitary toilets and bathtubs.

—"VD Cases Rising in China," Xinhua, 1 August 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 August 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 September 1996

Dai Zhicheng, Director of the Ministry of Health's (MOH) Disease Control Center reported that the State Council, along with representatives from 20 departments will put together a AIDS action plan for the next five to 10 years. Dai said the MOH plans to "upgrade laboratory testing techniques and carry out extensive publicity to increase public awareness of the risks." Only half of China's 30 provinces and autonomous regions have the technical capabilities to test for the AIDS virus, reported *China Daily*. In October a national AIDS prevention conference will be held to increase the necessity of AIDS prevention and taking "immediate and forceful actions." A nationwide program will be reviewed, including the duties of different social sections and goals for AIDS control.

This year the Chinese government increased its national AIDS budget to 1.8 million USD, up from 602,000 USD last year. China reported 3,341 HIV cases last year. Last year saw an increase of 1,567 HIV cases, compared to an increase of only 502 cases reported in 1994. Some 117 people have developed full-blown AIDS, of which 82 have died. MOH officials estimate there are 10,000 HIV cases in China, but outside experts place the number at 100,000 HIV cases. The number of reported venereal disease cases rose to 362,000 during 1995, a 18 percent increase. Yunnan province is reported to have 70 percent of China's HIV population.

—"China Attacks AIDS Explosion," United Press International, 4 September 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 September 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "More Funds to Combat HIV/AIDS Disease," Xinhua, 4 September 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 September 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

16 October 1996

Health Minister Chen Minzhang told members attending the National Conference on AIDS Prevention and Control, that "We have no time to waste." He said, "A general unawareness of HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, prostitution, illegal blood supply and the drastic increase of sexually transmitted disease cases may also contribute to the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

Furthermore, he was quoted as saying that "serious HIV/AIDS epidemics in neighboring countries," and China's own large migrant worker population has helped spread the disease.

Peng Peiyun, State Councilor said, "We should complete mechanism of HIV/AIDS prevention and control, getting governmental departments, community organization and the whole society involved." She said, "We should make every possible effort to curb the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

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The State AIDS Supervision Station said increases in HIV cases were reported in Beijing, Fujian, Hainan, and Xinjiang." A station spokesman said the national information campaigns "are obviously very weak. Awareness among high-risk groups is very low." The Ministry of Health (MOH) reports that the number of HIV cases in China is at 4,305 cases through the month of August, including 131 cases of full-blown AIDS. Of China's 30 regions and municipalities, 28 have reported having HIV cases. The MOH has identified there are three methods of transmitting HIV in China: sexual contact, contact with contaminated blood, and mother-to-child transmission.

—"China Sounds Alarm," United Press International, 15 October 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 15 October 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Experts Warn of AIDS Threat in China," Xinhua, 16 October 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 16 October 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Officials Say China has No Time to Waste to Control AIDS," Xinhua, 16 October 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 16 October 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 October 1996

The *New York Times* reported that blood products called serum albumin, manufactured by a Guangzhou Military Region enterprise call Wolongsong, and sold in Guangdong and Hong Kong, has tested positive for the AIDS virus. The enterprise and military run blood bank was attached to Military Hospital No. 161 and located in Wuhan. In April, the Ministry of Health ordered that all blood products of the Wolongsong brand be removed from the shelves and destroyed. However, there was no warning given in the Chinese press or given to foreign workers in China. The story broke earlier this year in a New York-based Chinese newspaper, the *World Journal*, and a newsletter called *China Focus*. After initial denials, on 28 October 1996, Minister of Health Chen Minzhang confirmed that the blood products were contaminated with the AIDS virus, but no patient had been infected, and that none of the products has been exported. Military hospitals are not normally accountable to Ministry of Health officials, *The New York Times* reported.

—Patrick E. Tyler, "China Concedes Blood Serum Contained AIDS Virus," *New York Times*, 25 October 1997, p. A3; "AIDS in Blood Scare," *The Australian*, 28 October 1996, p. 7; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 October 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 November 1996

By the end of August the number of confirmed HIV cases in China has reached 4,305, with the number of affected region at 28 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. AIDS is transmitted in China the following ways:

- Blood is the primary mode of transmission. Since blood donors are able to move about and donate in different geographical locations, they can spread the AIDS virus to all parts of China. In many areas, HIV cases have involved intravenous drug users.
- Sexual transmission is gradually increasing. A growing number of people returning from abroad have tested positive for the AIDS virus. Experts have pointed out: "China's huge population, people's lack of knowledge about prevention, the continued existence of drug abuse and prostitution, the growing number of people with venereal diseases and ineffective prevention against infections through blood transfusions and from medical sources have all created opportunities of the spread of AIDS," reported the *Zhong Guo Tongxun She* News Agency.

—"More than 4,000 People said to be Suffering from AIDS," *Zhongguo Tongxun She* News Agency, 1 November 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 November 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 November 1996

Zhang Konglai, Director of the Beijing-based China AIDS Network and a member of

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China's National Expert Committee on AIDS Control said that China's blood supply system is vulnerable to contamination and has already led to six people becoming infected with the AIDS virus. "Satisfactory control of HIV is still not possible," said Zhong. "Its is very probable that, in the foreseeable future, an HIV epidemic is to occur within the country." To date, China has reported 4,305 cases of HIV, and an estimated figure between 50,000 and 100,000 cases. Of the six people who contracted AIDS through infected blood or blood products, one has developed full-blown AIDS. China's blood supply is at risk of contamination because it primarily relies on professional blood donors who sell their blood. The system attracts drug addicts and prostitutes, as well as the general population who want to augment their income. Zhang noted that professional blood donors in several provinces have tested positive for HIV. A contaminated blood supply meant an "explosive rise in HIV infection in rural areas may possible occur," he said. Approximately 80 percent of China's population lives in the countryside.

—Didi Kirsten Tatlow, "AIDS Specialist Warns China's AIDS Blood System Vulnerable to HIV," Associated Press, 9 November 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 November 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 November 1996

Qi Guoming, Vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine announced the creation of a National AIDS Prevention and Control Center in Beijing. The new center will conduct research on the spread of HIV/AIDS, provide technical assistance to HIV/AIDS labs, evaluate technological applications of HIV/AIDS diagnosis, research social behaviors, and promote publicity and education with regards to HIV/AIDS.

—"China to Set Up AIDS Study Center," Xinhua, 25 November 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 November 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 1996

The *Shanxi Daily* has reported the opening of Shanxi's first AIDS hotline.

—"China Opens AIDS Hotline in Northern Shanxi Province," Agence France Presse, 30 November 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1996

During a conference marking World AIDS Day, Yin Dakui reported the number of confirmed HIV cases has risen to 5,157, of which 133 have developed full-blown AIDS by the end of October. It is estimated that China has 50,000 to 100,000 HIV cases. "China is undergoing an HIV/AIDS epidemic at present, since the speed of HIV virus transmissions obviously faster than before." Yin said. According to a United Nations report recently released, the AIDS epidemic may cost China up to 2 billion dollars annually in healthcare and lost labor by the year 2000. "Unlike some other Asian countries, China still has the opportunity to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS," Arthur Holcombe, UN resident coordinator in Beijing said. The conference was also accompanied by an STD and AIDS prevention and control exhibition that was open to the general public.

—"China Announces Latest HIV/AIDS Figures on World AIDS Day," Xinhua, 1 December 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Counting the Cost of AIDS," Agence France Presse, 1 December 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 December 1996

A survey conducted among 1,000 families in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Wuhan showed that the majority of respondents correctly identified that sexual activity and blood transmission are the two main channels of AIDS transmission. However, many of them said they would maintain a distance away from relatives and friends infected with the AIDS virus. The study also showed that younger respondents are apt to know more about AIDS

prevention than older ones.

—"More Chinese Citizens Understand AIDS, Survey Says," Xinhua, 4 December 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 December 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 December 1996

Chinese Premier Li Peng announced that the State Council has issued new regulations on China's blood supply. Li said the new laws would stipulate that all Chinese between the ages of 18 and 55 should donate blood, and calls for stricter measures to protect the nation's blood supply. Li pointed to college students, soldiers and government workers to "play a leading role in blood donations," reported Xinhua. The new law would ban paid blood donations and punish blood dealers. The *Workers Daily* said some professional blood donors have been found to carry AIDS virus in some areas since 1995. Furthermore, a Ministry of Health (MOH) survey has found that "40 percent to 50 percent of people who move around the country selling their blood plasma were infected with hepatitis C, and in some areas the infection rate was as high at 70 to 90 percent, the paper said.

—"China Passes Rules Protecting Blood Supply," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 6 December 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 December 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Aims to Clean Up Blood Supplies with New Law," Associated Press, 28 December 1996; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 December 1996, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>

1997

5 January 1997

Chinese Premier Li Peng signed a decree on the effective management of blood and blood products. The 48 regulatory articles "detail strict procedures for blood collection, the supervision of units that manufacture and manage blood products, as well as 'rigorous' punishments for violators," reports Xinhua. The new regulations were drafted in accordance with the Law on Medicine and the Law on the Prevention and Treatment of Contagious Diseases," with the aim at preventing and controlling infectious diseases in the country's blood supply. The new laws come after a number of Wolongsong-brand serum albumin vials produced by the military-run factory in Wuhan were found to contain HIV. "When we realized that a sample was infected with the HIV virus, we immediately ordered all the products recalled and all existing stocks destroyed," said Minister of Health Chen Minzhang.

—"China Seeks to Ensure Safety of Blood Products," Agence France Presse, 5 January 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 January 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Toughens Rules After Tainted Blood Sale," *New York Times*, 6 January 1997, p. A11; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 January 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 January 1997

Guangdong province has reported 54 cases of HIV infection, including six cases of full-blown AIDS in 1996, a 25 percent increase from 1995. Since Guangzhou's first reported HIV case, it has reported 214 HIV cases, including 17 cases of full-blown AIDS, of which nine have died. Recently, officials discovered a one year-boy who tested positive for the presence of antibodies associated with HIV. The provincial health department also reported more than 85,300 cases of venereal diseases last year. These included 29,770 cases of gonorrhoea and 4,190 cases of syphilis, an overall rate of 3.4 percent higher than 1995. "Based on other Asian countries' experience, the Chinese scientists predicted that the surge of syphilis cases in the province may lead to a wider spread of AIDS in the next few years," reported Xinhua.

—"HIV/AIDS Cases Increase in Guangdong," Xinhua, 30 January 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 January 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Province Tried to Stem HIV Rise," United Press International, 3 February 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 February 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 February 1997

Following the tainted blood products produced by a military manufacturing firm, the *People's Military Surgeon* published an article analyzing the threat HIV/AIDS has on the military. [Full Text]

—Wang Chicai, Zhang Xinsheng and Li Ying, "Impact of AIDS on the Military," *Renmin Junyi* (2) (*People's Military Surgeon*), 28 Feb 1997, pp 64-65.

7 April 1997

During a conference commemorating World Health Day, Minister of Health Chen Minzhang said, "China is undergoing an HIV/AIDS epidemic at present." Long believed to be isolated along China's coast and large cities, HIV/AIDS has started to appear in China's hinterland. "AIDS was originally contracted by foreigners," a doctor said. "Even if it appeared in China, it was only sporadically reported in the big cities, in the coastal provinces and border areas. But how could it happen that the virus appeared in our small inland town?" The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated the HIV prevalence rate of Chinese adults between the ages of 15 to 49 years old at 0.007 percent of the populace. However, since China reported its first AIDS case in 1985, the HIV infection rate has risen by more than 20 percent a year. Last year, the infection rate rose by 69 percent from the year before, said Chen. By the end of last October China recorded 5,157 HIV cases, of which 133 had full-blown AIDS. The estimated number of HIV infections is said to be between 50,000 and 100,000.

—Amy Woo, "China-Health: AIDS makes Deadly Inroads in the Hinterlands," Inter Press Service (New Delhi), 24 April 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 April 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 April 1997

A recent survey [4 December 1996] conducted in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Wuhan showed about one quarter of respondents know little about HIV/AIDS; two percent never heard of AIDS. About one third linked the spread of AIDS to the "degradation of morals," while one percent said that AIDS was a punishment sent by the gods for failing of mankind. Another report sponsored by the World Bank showed that 20 percent of people would not teach their children about HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, and only 10 percent of respondents knew how HIV/AIDS was transmitted.

—Amy Woo, "China-Health: AIDS makes Deadly Inroads in the Hinterlands," Inter Press Service (New Delhi), 24 April 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 April 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 May 1997

Some 150 Chinese and British scientists and doctors met in Beijing to discuss HIV/AIDS prevention and care. During the conference, jointly sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine (CAPM) and the British Chelsea Westminster Hospital, the participants discuss the "latest achievements in immunity, diagnosis, care, education, and managements," reported Xinhua. China has reported a total of 5,990 HIV infections as of the end of 1996, of which 155 have developed AIDS. "The growing speed of HIV infections in China has accelerated in recent years, noted Yin Dakui, Vice-Minister of Public Health. "The spread of AIDS worldwide is not only a major health issue, but a political, social, and economic one," he added.

—"Sino-British Symposium on AIDS Prevention, Care," Xinhua, 20 May 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 May 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 May 1997

The Ministry of Health (MOH) reported a total of 369 new HIV cases in the first three months of 1997. Including the new cases, the total of HIV cases in China now stands at

6,359. Vice Minister of Health Yin Dakui said yesterday at the opening session of a National Symposium on AIDS Control that China will soon establish a national laboratory base to conduct research on HIV/AIDS control and treatment.

—"China Reports Rise in AIDS Incidence" Xinhua, 22 May 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 May 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 June 1997

The Gongming Pharmaceutical Company, based in Harbin, Heilongjiang province, reported it has successfully developed an AIDS drug "which is able to inhibit or even destroy the HIV virus without impairing human immune cells," reported Xinhua. The drug named Gongming Anti-HIV injection is made entirely of Chinese herbs. Tests conducted by the People's Liberation Army Medical Research Institute affirmed the new drug is effective "to a certain degree" in inhibiting the virus.

—"New Drug to Inhibit AIDS Developed in China," Xinhua, 14 June 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 June 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

8 July 1997

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) provided a 1.8 million USD grant to China to assist with the fight against HIV/AIDS over the next four years. Ministry of Health (MOH) officials said the money will be used to focus on education programs in the three southern provinces of Fujian, Guangdong and Hainan. Also, the funds will be used to train ministry workers and intervention activities among high-risk populations. "These activities will be supported by multi-sectional efforts at national and local levels and complemented by national policy development," reported Xinhua. A survey conducted last year showed that 32 percent of all rural medical workers could not explain to patients how HIV was spread. China has reported some 7,000 HIV cases up to May 1997.

—"UN to Help China Fight AIDS," Xinhua, 8 July 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 8 July 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "UN Funds China AIDS Crackdown," United Press International, 8 July 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 8 July 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

3 August 1997

In a report on China's ancient trade routes, through which now flow China's illicit drug trade and AIDS, the Associated Press reported that in 1995 Xinjiang Autonomous Region reported no cases of HIV infection. However, by end of 1996, one in four out of 400 drug addicts tested positive for HIV infection. Some experts believe the number of HIV cases in Xinjiang are as many as 50,000. AIDS is being introduced along this route into small minority villages, and into cities later. "Linxia is one of China's heroin hotspots," said Ma Weimin, a grain trader. "It's in all the villages. It everywhere." The Chinese police have begun to crack down on the drug trade by setting up road blocks, and posting notices warning of stiff penalties for drug offenses. Zhang Konglai said the AIDS virus has not taken hold in some smaller towns and cities, such as Linxia, because heroin is so cheap people prefer to smoke rather than inject it. However, as the crackdown continues, and heroin become scarcer, people will turn to needles, said Zhang, a Beijing Union Hospital epidemiologist.

—Charles Hutzler, "Ancient Trade Route Brings Modern Virus to Remote China," Associated Presse, 3 August 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 August 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 October 1997

While attending a Sex and AIDS Education Expo in Hong Kong, SAR, Liu Kangmai of the Chinese Association of STD/AIDS Control and Prevention said that mainland China can learn from Hong Kong experience in sex education. "I think the Chinese government fails to stress the importance of education. They think there is nothing you can do about AIDS.

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Hong Kong has a lot of experience in education and condom promotion, and China can learn a lot," he said. According to Liu, the Chinese government does realized the AIDS situation is becoming more serious because it increases AIDS funding every year, but should focus more on education campaigns.

A recent survey conducted by the Association revealed up to 80 percent of sex workers in the rural areas have never heard of AIDS, while sex workers in the cities do not insist on their clients wearing condoms. Out of 20,000 people, the survey revealed the most common contraceptive in China is the diaphragm, with only 5.4 percent of rural residents, and 18 percent of city residents using condoms. Some sex workers, as young as 16 years old in Guizhou never heard of AIDS and never opted to use condoms. "We asked what AIDS was and they said that they did not know. The second question was 'How is AIDS transmitted' and they said they could not answer because they didn't know how to answer the first question," said Liu. China's official government figures show 5,990 HIV cases, but some sex educators believe the number as high as 150,000 to 200,000. Western experts now believe the number of HIV cases could be as high as one million.

For Hong Kong health officials, cross-border sex is fast becoming Hong Kong's primary HIV/AIDS threat. A recent survey showed one in three men who visited a mainland prostitute did not use a condom, and of these men, 75 percent did not use a condom when they returned to their wives.

—Alison Smith, "Mainland Seeks HK Help over AIDS Fear; Most Rural Prostitutes Do Not Know About HIV," *South China Morning Post*, 20 October 1997, p. 10.

31 October 1997

Health Officials from China, neighboring countries in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific, and the World Health Organization (WHO) attend a meeting to establish regional measures to control the spread of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. Antonio Tismo, a WHO official said, "The intention was to have a coordinated effort in controlling the diseases resulting from the migration of those residing at the border countries." China is particularly concerned with the rapid spread of infectious diseases across the border it shares with Southeast Asia. "Out regions may differ in policies, strategies and schedules of activities for communicable disease control, but we have a joint responsibility for the people who live in the border areas," said Dr. S.T. Han, Regional Director of WHO Western Pacific Office.

—"China: Meeting Backs Regional Links to Fight Diseases," *China Daily*, 31 October 1997, p. 2; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 31 October 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Asia-Pacific Health Officials Discuss Cross-Border AIDS Control," Agence France Presse, 31 October 1997; in Lexis-Nexis. Academic Universe, 31 October 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

13 November 1997

Chinese health officials report the official number of confirmed HIV cases in China reached 7,253, but experts believe the number to as high as 200,000. Last December, the reported number of cases was 5,157, but by June 1997, the number of cases rose to 7,253. The number of sexually transmitted diseases was reported to be 398,000, a rise of 12 percent.

—"China Says Up to 200,000 Chinese Infected with AIDS Virus," Associated Press, 13 November 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 13 November 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 November 1997

Guangdong providence established the Guangdong Provincial AIDS Prevention Association in order to promote HIV/AIDS education and awareness. Since its first HIV cases was discovered in 1986, Guangdong has reported 261 HIV cases, of which 26 developed

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AIDS. In the first 10 months of 1997, health officials have discovered 73 HIV cases, 36 are local residents and 29 come from outside Guangdong province. Health officials reported some 90,000 cases of sexually transmitted diseases.

—"China: AIDS Cases Increase in Guangdong," *China Daily*, 14 November 1997, p. 3.

17 November 1997

During the National Meeting for Communicable Disease Control, Yunnan health officials announced the province government will earmark seven million yuan (843,000 USD) to establish a three-tier HIV/AIDS control and prevention network which will link the Kunming with each prefecture and county in Yunnan. "The network, due to be completed next year, will be responsible for carrying out publicity and educational programs, conducting blood testing and making epidemic surveillance. It will also have some clinics to provide medical treatment for patients with HIV/AIDS," reported *China Daily*. Yunnan has 4,421 HIV/AIDS cases, of which 91 percent contracted AIDS through intravenous drug use. Of the HIV cases, 98 have developed AIDS and 84 have died. Some 70 percent of counties in Yunnan have reported HIV/AIDS cases. To date, Yunnan has tested more than 457,000 for HIV/AIDS, and spent more than 14 million yuan (1.6 million USD) on AIDS education and awareness programs. International organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and United National Development Program (UNDP) have provided 1.6 million USD to help train health officials and workers at all levels.

—"China: Steps Taken to Harness Wild AIDS," *China Daily*, 17 November 1997, p. 3; "China's Yunnan Province Launches New AIDS Battle," Agence France Presse, 17 November 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 17 November 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

18 November 1997

Chen Xianyi, Deputy Director of the Diseases Control Department with the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced the drafting of new legislation to "control the spread of major communicable diseases which pose a considerable threat to public health," such as HIV/AIDS, reported *China Daily*. New regulations will also be drafted specifically on HIV/AIDS control and prevention, health quarantine on domestic travel and the disinfection of medical facilities.

—"China: Rules Set to Curb Epidemic Diseases," *China Daily*, 18 November 1997, p. 2.

19 November 1997

The Ministry of Health (MOH) announced China's officially-confirmed cases of HIV have risen to 8,277 as of the end of September, of which 168 had developed full-blown AIDS and 77.5 percent were drug users. From January 1997 to September, 2,237 new HIV cases have been found. Since May, the number of cases has risen by 1,918, a 30 percent increase. According to Wang Zhao, Director of the Ministry of Health's Disease Control Department, AIDS in China has entered a third stage since 1994. "It started among the transient population and paid blood donors in central parts of China, and spread among drug users in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and Sichuan Province last year," reported Xinhua. HIV cases have been confirmed in 21 of China's 31 provinces and regions.

—"AIDS Cases in China Increasing," Xinhua, 19 November 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 19 November 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Number of AIDS Cases Rises 30 Percent in China," Agence France Presse, 20 November 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 November 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

23 November 1997

Chinese Health officials will pass out venereal disease and HIV/AIDS prevention leaflets to train passengers on the Beijing-Kowloon line. Officials will also pass out children's health pamphlets. Videos and exhibitions will be held on the train, as well as at stations along the

route. Although the number of mother-infant transmission is low in China, the number of cases is on the rise. China's first recorded mother-infant HIV transmission case was reported in 1995.

—"AIDS Education Campaign Among Children," Xinhua, 23 November 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 23 November 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

27 November 1997

A report released by the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine (CAPM) said the sharp increase in HIV/AIDS cases is because of the increase in sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and drug abuse. "The infection rate of human immune deficiency virus (HIV) which leads to AIDS, among sexually active people and drug abusers, has been rising over the past year. The CAPM national surveillance and monitoring network reported out of 21 stations for monitoring patients visiting STD clinics, three stations found people infected with HIV in the first six months of this year, compared to only one in 1996. Of 16 stations monitoring prostitutes, four women tested positive this year, none were reported last year. Some 187,000 STD cases were reported in the first half of this year, a 12.5 percent increase. "China is facing a great risk on an AIDS epidemic because of the rapid spread of STDs, since the majority of prostitutes in China fail to take protective measure, such as using condoms," the report warned.

The AIDS epidemic is rising among the intravenous drug user population in Yunnan and Xinjiang. Some 40 to 60 percent of HIV cases in China are related to drug use. Out of the 12 stations monitoring drug addicts, seven were found have HIV this year, compared to three last year. China's HIV infection cases have reached 8,277 by the end of September, of which 168 have developed AIDS.

—"Sexual Diseases, Drug Abuse Blamed for HIV/AIDS Increase," Xinhua, 27 November 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 November 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 1997

Xinhua reported that the Chinese Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine will begin a new study on the benefits of Chinese herbal medicine on AIDS patients. "Now we need to conduct more scientific and objective appraisal on the curative effects on AIDS of traditional Chinese medicine," said Guan Chongfen, Head of Immunological Research at the Chinese Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine. "Compared with Western medical treatment that focuses on attacking HIV, traditional Chinese medicine focuses on improving the patient's immunity to block the virus." The program will divide HIV patients into two groups: one will be treated with Chinese herbs, and the other will be treated with AZT.

—"China Launches New Assault on AIDS with Traditional Medicine," Agence France Presse, 30 November 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1997

Health Minister Chen Minzhang said China needs to increase AIDS education and awareness among Chinese children. According to Chen, 10 percent of Chinese confirmed HIV cases are under the age of 18, the majority of which contracted HIV through needle sharing. He said, "Children in our country also face the dreary situation of HIV infections." He added, "We should give adolescents enough knowledge about AIDS prevention as early as possible through community, school and family efforts." Zhang Xin, in charge of Hygiene and Health Education said, "We've asked middle schools to make students aware of sex, HIV/AIDS, and STDs. Universities and colleges are also required to improve sex ethics education. Most of the colleges and universities are doing this job, and we plan to conduct

the same activities in middle schools gradually," he said.

—"Chinese Health Officials Say Children Need HIV Protection," Xinhua, 1 December 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 December 1997

Beijing Vice-Mayor Lin Wenyi reported only eight new HIV cases have been reported this year in Beijing. Since 1985, Beijing has reported 189 cases of HIV infections, of which 59 are foreigners, 75 non-Beijing residents, and 55 local residents. The first mother-infant transmission, and drug related HIV transmission were also reported this year. Among the newly reported cases, the infection rate among gay men is increasing, reported *Beijing Daily*.

—"Beijing Successful in Controlling Spread of AIDS," Xinhua, 2 December 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 December 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

10 December 1997

Liu Kangmai, an expert with the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine told a conference on HIV/AIDS in China that the mass media can play an important role in China AIDS education and awareness drive by increasing HIV/AIDS awareness information to the public. In a recent survey conducted in Qingdao, Shandong province, some 74 percent of people were correctly able to answer questions about HIV/AIDS after local newspapers, TV, and radio increased their coverage of AIDS by 18 percent. Sales of condoms increased 55 percent, and books about AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases increased 49 percent. In the 15 provinces where China's HIV rate is the highest, media coverage reaches 80 to 100 percent of the population, Liu said. Next year the Ministry of Health will request that national and local media broadcast AIDS prevention programming as a public service for free.

—"Media Urged to Join AIDS Prevention Crusade in China," Xinhua, 10 December 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 December 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

11 December 1997

A recent survey conducted by a sociological research institute under the People's University in Beijing showed some 93 percent of Chinese university and college students know that sharing intravenous needles and having sex without condoms are methods of HIV transmission. It also revealed 60 percent of students know HIV could be transmitted through blood transfusion, and 75 percent said they need to know more about AIDS. The survey was made among 3,000 college and university students. Another survey conducted in Beijing, Shanghai and six other major cities found almost all students know HIV/AIDS is an infectious disease, and only nine percent think AIDS is curable. Zhang Xin, Secretary in charge of Health Education said, "We've asked the schools to carry out sex education more widely among students in order to prevent HIV/AIDS from invading into the campus."

—"Surveys Show Chinese College Students Know More About HIV/AIDS," Xinhua, 11 December 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 11 December 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 December 1997

A survey conducted in eight major Chinese cities showed that 80 percent of Chinese prefer giving teenagers an early education on sex. Chinese researchers believe that China's rapid development and opening up has left the Chinese youth unprepared. "Therefore, there is a need for giving them an early education on sex to help them build up a health awareness of sex, and avoid sexual diseases and HIV/AIDS," reported Xinhua. A study run by the Yunnan Provincial Academy of Social Science showed that students as young as 12 were able to make the correct choices regarding sexual health if sex education started at an early

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age. Currently, sex education is only mandatory in colleges and universities. Xiao Yan, an official with the Ministry of Health (MOH) said, "We hope that the earlier children receive an education on sex, the better."

—"Majority of Chinese Favor Early Education on Sex," Xinhua, 14 December 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 December 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

17 December 1997

A survey conducted by the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine found that 60 percent of doctors in eight Chinese cities believe AIDS could be transmitted by "sharing bowls and chopsticks," reported the *Beijing Youth Daily*. Furthermore, the survey showed 70 percent of common people held the same belief. It also found one in three people surveyed, and one in six doctors, believed AIDS could be transmitted through a handshake.

—"Survey Finds Chinese Doctors Uninformed About AIDS," Associated Press, 17 December 1997; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 17 December 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1998

9 January 1998

While speaking at an international donor's meeting on HIV/AIDS control in China, Liu Peilong, Director of the Department of International Cooperation under the Ministry of Health (MOH), said that funding and technical support from overseas governments and organizations will enable China to implement more than one hundred AIDS awareness programs. These programs include establishing an HIV/AIDS Internet Information Center, promoting condom use among China's high risk population and publishing material about sex education for Chinese school children. "The programs will undoubtedly help China curb the HIV/AIDS epidemic. However, the major problem centers on the lack of technology and capital," said Liu. He said the goal of the meeting was to "strengthen the international community's awareness of the HIV/AIDS situation in China and promote greater participation in control efforts," and to "ensure all possible international support will be forthcoming," according to Arthur Holcombe, resident coordinator of UN Operation activities in China.

—"New HIV/AIDS Intervention Measures Gain International Support," Xinhua, 9 January 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 31 October 1997, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 January 1998

China reported 8,303 HIV cases by the end of October 1997, of which 209 have developed AIDS and 119 patients have died. "The spread of HIV/AIDS entered into a period of rapid growth, namely HIV infections resulting from sexual activity and contact with contaminated blood, as well as infant HIV infection," said Health Minister Chen Minzhang. Ministry of Health (MOH) statistics showed 5,495 cases involved intravenous drug use, 547 cases resulted from sexual heterosexual contact, and homosexual sex and the use of tainted blood products make up a small number. The ratio of male to female HIV victims stands at 5:1. HIV patients in the age group between 20-39 account for 78 percent of all victims. Officials estimated there are up to 200,000 HIV cases in China, which could reach one million by 2000, and 10 million by the year 2010. "The multiple use of needles and the growth of prostitution have emerged as two major risks raising the possibility of an outbreak of HIV/AIDS in China," Health Officials noted.

Wang Zhao, Director of the MOH Disease Control Department listed several goals set forth in the Medium and Long Term Plan for AIDS and STD Control in China (1997-2010):

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- work hard to control the epidemic level at under 1.5 million cases during the next 12 years
- halt HIV transmissions through blood transfusions by 2000
- control and reduce drug abuse
- control and reduce annual STD rates.

The plan was drafted by the State Planning Commission, the State Science and Technology Commission, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health.

—"China Published HIV/AIDS Figures," Xinhua, 9 January 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 January 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

12 January 1998

United Nations (UN) officials warned that China could have over 10 million HIV/AIDS cases by 2010 unless effective measures are taken. Arthur Holcombe, resident coordinator of UN operations in China said, "The situation in China is potentially very serious, and HIV/AIDS infections could rise to more than 10 million by 2010 unless strong counter measures are now taken." China has 8,303 registered HIV cases, of which 209 have developed AIDS and 119 have died. Experts believe the number of HIV/AIDS cases could be as high as 150,000 to 200,000.

—"China Could Face 10 Million AIDS Cases by 2010, UN Warns," *Asia Pulse*, 12 January 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 January 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 January 1998

Sun Jiangping, Deputy Director of Beijing Medical University's Children's Health Research Institute announced Chinese health workers will distribute information on sex and HIV/AIDS to middle school teachers starting this September. Because of the nature of AIDS, school can play an important role in teaching young Chinese to avoid high risk behavior.

—"China Preparing AIDS Information Booklet for Young People," Xinhua, 14 January 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 January 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 January 1998

The Changchun Institute of Biological Products in Jilin Province reported that test conducted on 51 batches of albumin, 63 batches of immune globulin, 40 batches of hepatitis B vaccine, and 2 batches of factor VIII vaccine were all negative of the HIV/AIDS virus. Pre-donation physicals were conducted on Changchun blood donors and all "proved they are free of the AIDS virus."

—"Changchun's Blood Products Free from AIDS Virus," Xinhua, 28 January 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 January 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 February 1998

China Daily listed some of the aid provided by international organizations:

- The World Bank and the Ministry of Health (MOH) have recently drawn up new plans relating to the control of HIV/AIDS and STDs. Since the early 1990s, the World Bank has funded several AIDS projects in China.
- Since 1993, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has granted more than 2.9 million USD for programs aimed at reducing HIV infection rates.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has contributed HIV/AIDS awareness programs focusing on women and children.

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- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has supported teacher-training on HIV/AIDS.
- The World Bank has given substantial amounts of funds to support HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities.
- The European Union (EU), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and the Ford Foundation have help China in addressing HIV/AIDS in some "sensitive areas."

—"China Global Bodies Help AIDS Fight," Xinhua, 6 February 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 February 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 February 1998

The China Association for the Control of AIDS and Sexually-Transmitted Diseases (STDs) has opened China's first 24-hour HIV/AIDS Hotline. "The hotline's host will be a computer-controlled voice-simulator for which telephone callers only need to press buttons to get answers," reported Xinhua. All of China's provinces and regions now have AIDS hotlines which are staffed by medical experts. "All relevant topics maybe discussed between callers and the hotline staff, such as homosexuality, the nature of AIDS, and how to avoid and cure STDs," said a volunteer staff member.

—"China to open First Round-the-Clock AIDS Hotline," Xinhua, 22 February 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 February 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

23 March 1998

China and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will launch a program next month aimed at promoting reproductive health and family planning among women in rural China. The program is China's response to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which was held in Cairo in 1994, said Cong Jun, Department Director in charge of international cooperation with the State Family Planning Commission. "The ICPD program called upon all nations to provide high-quality reproductive health services for couples of reproductive age and to integrate family planning activities with information on preventing sexual diseases such as infections of the reproductive system and HIV/AIDS," reported *China Daily*. The UNFPA will provide a 14 million USD grant for the project, which will be completed by the year 2000.

In addition to the UNFPA project, the State Family Panning Commission and the World Health Organization have set up a three year program to develop China's capacity to produce new types of contraceptives, including condoms, and carry out training for healthcare professionals.

—"China Plan to Aid Rural Women; UN Will Provide US \$14 million," *China Daily*, 23 March 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 23 March 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

10 April 1998

China shared its AIDS control and prevention experiences at an international AIDS conference in Windhoek, Namibia. Gu Angran, a member of China's delegation said the conference focused on introducing legislation, enhancing monitoring and treatment of AIDS, reinforcing blood control, strengthening the fight against drug trafficking and promoting medical research and national AIDS awareness.

—"China Shares Experience in AIDS Control," Xinhua, 10 April 1998; in Lexis-Nexis. Academic Universe, 23 March 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 May 1998

Chinese Vice-Premier Li Lanqing met with Peter Piot, Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). This is Piot's first trip to China since he became executive director in 1996. During his stay in Beijing, Piot said that China's "floating population" will be a main obstacle in fighting AIDS in China. He said, "The number of infected people is still fairly low for a huge country like China. But what is important is to see what is the vulnerability of the population, with millions and millions of so-called floating populations migrating in the country with the very rapid economic and urban development."

—"Chinese Vice-Premier Meet UN Official," Xinhua, 4 May 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 May 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China's Transient Population AIDS Risk- UN Official," APP Newsfeed, 9 May 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 May 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 May 1998

Health Minister Zhang Wenkang presented an update on the HIV/AIDS situation in China to a executive meeting of the State Council, headed by Premier Zhu Rongji. He stated that the AIDS situation in China is becoming more serious and that the government at all levels should increase their efforts to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS to the general population.

—"State Council Meeting Hears Reports on Ecology, AIDS," Xinhua, 6 May 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 May 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 May 1998

Vice-Minister of Health Sun Longchun presented awards to middle school students who wrote the best essay on HIV/AIDS. Some 582 participants from 29 provinces and regions participated, and 155 received awards. Citing the 600 posters and essays presented, Sun said based on the entries here today, more work needs to be done on education and awareness. "We've learned from the participant's work that a great number of youngsters still know little about HIV/AIDS. Promoting health awareness among them is an urgent matter," Sun said. According to a 1997 survey of middle school students, some 60 percent know nothing about the "basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS," and 21 percent about HIV prevention. To date China has recorded 9,970 HIV cases at the end of March, of which 290 had developed AIDS, and 173 have died. "The increase in the number of HIV cases related to intravenous drug use and sexual contacts indicated a critical HIV epidemic in China," Sun said.

—"Number of HIV/AIDS Patients in China Continues to Rise," Xinhua, 6 May 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 February 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 May 1998

The Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine announced that the National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control will be established at the Academy later this year. It will be responsible for AIDS Surveillance, epidemiological research, and the development of vaccines and drugs. The Center will be divided into two departments, the Epidemiology Department and the National AIDS Reference Laboratory. Wang Ke'an said, "This is a very positive gesture by the government..." The Center will be a member of the global network of UNAIDS.

—"China to Set Up National AIDS Control Center," Xinhua, 20 May 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 May 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Daniel Kwan, "National Center for AIDS Set Up," *South China Morning Post*, 21 May 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 21 May 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 June 1998

A 18-year-old male repeat blood donor tested positive for HIV in Shanxi province reported the *Beijing Youth Daily*. The youth sold his blood some 40 times since 1996, and then spent

his earnings in nightclubs on prostitutes. The Ministry of Health (MOH) said the boy sold his blood to a local "blood head." "Right now we cannot tell how many people have sold blood and if some of them were also infected with HIV during the blood transmission," MOH officials said. Of Shanxi's 134 confirmed HIV carriers, 132 have been infected through blood transfusions. The report stated that the Beijing Red Cross and other legal blood donor centers follow the 1994 blood collection regulations, and follow safe collection practices when collecting plasma. However, "in order to cut costs, some illegal (blood collection) stations transfuse mixed red cells, from many donors, back to each individual donor, making it very likely to spread infections," the report wrote.

—Jasper Becker, "AIDS Fear as Virus Carrier Sells Blood," *South China Morning Post*, 6 June 1998, p. 9; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 June 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Owen Brown, "Tainted Blood Sparks China AIDS Fear," Australian Associated Press, 11 June 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 11 June 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 June 1998

During the 12th World AIDS Conference being held in Geneva, Chinese Vice-Health Minister Yin Dakui said "provided that HIV prevalence among the adult population in China can be kept below 0.2 percent, the best achievable target by 2010 is to keep the number of HIV infections below 1.5 million." He also announced the main objectives of the recently passed Medium and Long Term Plan for the Prevention and Control of AIDS (1998-2010):

- The long term objective to keep the HIV rate at a low level in the context of the global infection rate
- The medium objectives for HIV preventions and control by 2002 are to halt the transmission of HIV through the blood supply; control the spread of HIV through the intravenous drug user population; and reduce the STD rate to fewer than 15 percent.

The goal of prevention and control is to spread awareness and prevention information throughout the Chinese population by using all forms of media. China's high schools and universities should incorporate AIDS awareness courses, and condom promotion should be encouraged where applicable.

From 1985 to March 1998, more than 10 million people have been tested for the AIDS virus. Some 9,970 HIV cases were reported in 30 provinces, of which 290 have developed AIDS and 173 people have died. The Ministry of Health (MOH) reported some 36.3 percent of HIV infections are concentrated in China's minority population, and intravenous drug users account for 66.9 percent of all infections. However, the proportion of sexual transmission is rising annually.

Since 1987, China has reportedly spent 5.6 million USD on HIV/AIDS prevention. In 1987 the Chinese government established a special fund for HIV/AIDS prevention and control. According to Yin, from 1987 to 1994 China spent 1.3 million USD, from 1995 to 1997 China spent 4.28 million USD on AIDS prevention and control. The total amount of aid from international organizations totaled 17.4 million USD up to 1996.

—"China Aims to Keep HIV Infections Below 1.5 million by 2010," Xinhua, 30 June 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 June 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Spends Nearly 5.6 Million USD on HIV/AIDS Prevention," Xinhua, 30 June 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 June 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

12 July 1998

According to a recent survey on female reproductive health conducted by the State Family Planning Commission, some 57 percent of women of child-bearing age "expressed knowledge of venereal diseases and sexually transmitted diseases, with 63.5 percent expressing an awareness of AIDS." Most of the 16,000 respondents got their information from radio and television program, as well as, family members, newspapers and magazines. —"Chinese Women Concerned About Reproductive Health," Xinhua, 12 July 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 July 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 July 1998

China Daily reported that a person contracted the HIV virus from a commercial blood donor in Linfen prefecture, Shanxi province. The patient was admitted to Linfen No. 2 Hospital when the doctors advised him to receive a blood transfusion because anemia. The doctors of the hospital said the family would have to provide and pay for the blood themselves. The patient's family was referred to a middleman, who was able to find a 17-year-old commercial blood donor to sell 1,350 cc for 600 yuan (about 76 USD). The patient later tested positive for HIV and subsequently the donor also tested positive. The hospital was forced to compensate the patient's family 126,000 yuan (15,000 USD) and the doctors and middleman were prosecuted. The Ministry of Health (MOH) confirms that blood transmission is the primary cause of HIV infections in Shanxi province. There are three methods of blood collection in China: selling, obligatory donation and voluntary donation. Blood collected through voluntary donations account for only 10 percent of the total supply for clinical use, 40 percent comes from obligatory donation and the rest from professional donors. Shanxi reported its first HIV cases in 1995.

—"China AIDS Found in Shanxi Blood Bank," Xinhua, 14 July 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 July 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 July 1998

The Ministry of Health (MOH) announced the total number of reported HIV cases has reached 10,676 cases by the end of June, of which 301 have developed AIDS. Also, Qinghai province, "the nation's last AIDS-free province" has reported its first HIV case. Xiao Yan, an official with the MOH said, "The true number may have reached 300,000." Experts blamed rampant drug use and prostitution for the rapid rise in HIV/AIDS cases.

—"All Chinese Provinces Report HIV/AIDS Cases," Xinhua, 29 July 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 July 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 August 1998

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported it will increase its current funding for health projects in China by 1.5 million USD over the next two years. Currently, China has received a total of 14 million USD from the WHO for the period of 1998-99. The funding will be used for improvements in primary and community healthcare. In the context of HIV/AIDS, "work will be carried out in Hunan province and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region to prevent HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and to build health education schools.

—"WHO to Increase Technical Assistance," Xinhua, 6 August 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 August 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

18 August 1998

Beijing health officials reported since 1985 the total number of HIV cases has risen to 241, of which 33 have developed full-blown AIDS. Beijing currently has three hospitals with 2,000 beds for AIDS and STD patients. Officially, the number of HIV patients in China has reached 10,676 in all 31 provinces, regions and municipalities.

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—"Beijing's Number of HIV Infections Totals," Xinhua, 18 August 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 18 August 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

23 September 1998

While addressing delegates to the World AIDS Conference in Beijing, Vice-Minister of Health Yin Dakui announced the total number of HIV cases in China has risen to 10,676, almost 30 percent from 1997. The Ministry of Health (MOH) also reported that there are 301 confirmed cases of AIDS, and an estimated 200,000 HIV cases in China. Intravenous drug users account for nearly two-thirds of confirmed HIV cases. The number of registered drug users has risen from 148,000 in 1991 to 540,000 in 1997. Sexual transmission has increased 15 percent from 1996 to 1997, and 40 percent in the first six months of this year.

—"Known Cases of HIV Show 30 Pct Increase," *South China Morning Post*, 23 September 1998, p. 8; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 23 September 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 October 1998

China's first law regarding blood donation became effective today. The law "lays down the rights and duties of Chinese citizens relating to the donation and use of blood as well as standardizing the practices of blood collection and supply institutes," reported *China Daily*. China currently requires 800 tons of blood annually for medical use.

Shenzhen began promoting voluntary blood donation in 1993. Before 1993, all blood for medical use came from professional donors and only 30 percent met standards. In 1995 Shenzhen passed China's first blood donation regulation and blood management, emphasizing the duty of blood donation and right to use blood. The amount of people donating blood in Shenzhen rose from 249 in 1994 to 34,000 in 1997. Some 79 percent of all blood for clinical use now comes from donated blood, with 90 percent being up to standard.

—"Blood Law Set for Implementing; Voluntary Donors to be Target," *China Daily*, 22 September 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 September 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 November 1998

Shen Jie, an official with the Ministry of Health announced the medium and long-term program to control HIV/AIDS will be released in about a month. The MOH also reports there are 11,170 confirmed cases of HIV, of which 338 have developed full-blown AIDS and 184 have died. Most confirmed cases are reported to be farmers who live in Yunnan and Henan provinces, and Xinjiang and Guangxi Zhuang autonomous regions. Some 80 percent of patients are males between 20 and 40 years old, with 9.6 percent under the age of 20. It is reported 68 percent of HIV/AIDS victims were infected through intravenous drug use, 7 percent through heterosexual contact and others through homosexual sex, and the use of contaminated blood or blood products. Some have reported mother to infant transmissions. MOH officials also report the number of STD cases at the end of 1997 to be at 461,510, a 15.8 percent increase from 1996. Cases in the first six months of 1997 have risen 40.5 percent compared to the same period last year. Chinese officials estimate the number of HIV cases to be at 300,000, while the United Nations (UN) believes the number stands at 400,000.

—"Long Term Program Worked Out - AIDS Spread a Major Concern," *China Daily*, 6 November 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 November 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "National Response to AIDS Unveiled," *China Daily*, 2 December 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 December 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 1998

China officially released its [Medium and Long-term Program of AIDS Prevention and Control \(1998-2010\)](#). The plan aims to keep the number of China's HIV infections to under

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1.5 million by the year 2010. The Chinese government blames the cross-border transmission of HIV/AIDS in its southwest region where there is a large floating population, wide-spread drug use, and prostitution, for China's AIDS problem.

—"China Announces 12-year Program of AIDS Control," Xinhua, 30 November 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1998

Beijing Municipal Bureau of Public Health reported there are 285 HIV cases, of which 96 have been diagnosed this year, nearly three times from 1997. Of Beijing's HIV/AIDS cases some 285 are Beijing residents, 115 from other Chinese provinces and 65 are foreigners. The three modes of transmission are intravenous injections, sexual contact and mother to infant. More than 80 percent of the HIV cases are males between the ages of 20 and 40 years old. "The carriers are from nearly every walk of life, including waiters, and waitresses, college students, performers, workers, officials, doctors, businessmen and teachers," reported Xinhua.

—"285 HIV Carriers Found In Beijing," Xinhua, 1 December 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1998

A recent survey of 7,425 students in south China showed more than 50 percent did not know the three main channels of HIV infection -- blood and blood products, sexual intercourse and mother-to-baby. More than 65 percent could believe they tell if someone is HIV positive by their appearance, and only 10 percent would be willing to study in the same room with another student who was infected with the AIDS virus, reported *China Daily*. The survey was conducted by the Children and Youth Health Research Institute.

—"Half of China's Teenagers Alarmingly Ignorant about AIDS: Survey," Agence France Presse, 1 December 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 December 1998

The number of people in Guangdong province infected with the AIDS virus jumped to 402 people in 17 cities. Of the 100 HIV cases that were discovered this year, 52 were Guangdong residents, 39 were from outside Guangdong province and nine were foreigners. Of these 100 cases, nine have developed AIDS and one has died.

—"More AIDS Victims in South Chinese Province," Xinhua, 2 December 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 December 1998

Since the "peer education" program was first established in 1994 by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Australian Red Cross Society and the Red Cross Society of China, it has trained more than 1,600 core members and has expanded its program originally in Yunnan province to Fujian, Jilin, and Hainan provinces, as well as Xinjiang and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Regions.

—"Peer Education Plan for Disease," *China Daily*, 2 December 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 December 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

18 December 1998

Zhejiang health officials recently published its first official report on the AIDS situation in the province. Zhejiang reports its first AIDS case was in 1985 when a man contracted HIV through imported blood products he used to treat his hemophilia. To date, 95 people have contracted HIV, of which 10 have died of AIDS. Some 80 percent are below 30, HIV transmission via tainted blood is 45 percent and sexual contact transmission is 19.8

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percent. Local experts believe the actual number could be higher "because 90 percent of the victims who were discovered (carrying HIV) had never heard of the illness until they were found to be carrying the deadly virus," reported Xinhua.

—"Eastern Chinese Province Finding Ways to Prevent AIDS," Xinhua, 18 December 1998; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 18 December 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1999

1 January 1999

Ministry of Health (MOH) officials reported that 132 people have been infected through blood transfusions, while the number infected with syphilis and hepatitis B and C is even greater. Even though the State Council passed the Blood Donation Law last October 1st, few believe it can be enforced. "In some areas, entire hamlets and townships have actually made their fortunes off selling blood. The professional blood donors include laid-off workers, part-time laborers, drug addicts, unlicensed prostitutes, and homeless people -- groups at relatively high risk of blood-borne diseases," wrote the *Financial Times Asia*. Furthermore, some blood brokers can earn up to 600,000 yuan per year in agent fees acting as middle men for hospitals and pharmaceutical companies who request their services.

—"130 People Contract AIDS from Blood Transfusions," *Financial Times*, 1 January 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 January 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 January 1999

Health officials in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous region reported a rapid increase in HIV cases. From only one HIV case two years ago, Guangxi now reports 700 confirmed cases. Most of those infected are unemployed and drug users with a male to female ratio of 7 to 1.

—"South China's Guangxi Region Reports Escalating HIV Infections," Xinhua, 4 January 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 January 1998, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 January 1999

China opened its first HIV support group in Beijing's Ditan Hospital. Supported by the United Nations, the Red Ribbon Club aims to help educate people about HIV/AIDS and lessen discrimination and prevent misunderstanding. Lun Wenhui, a worker at the club said, "The club plans to play a role as a bridge between AIDS patients and the rest of society, since these patients still have difficulty trying to live a normal life." He continued, "HIV/AIDS isn't a simple medical problem, but a complicated social problem for China. Lots of virus carriers and patients suffer not only from the disease, but also from discrimination and isolation from society." Yu Keyi, an AIDS specialist at the Ditan Hospital said, "Chinese people who were previously conservative in their attitude to sex and thought of AIDS as a disease of other countries now realize AIDS has become a problem in China." As of last October, China has reported 11,170 HIV cases, of which 338 have developed AIDS. Last year 180 people had died from AIDS.

—"1st HIV Support Group Set Up in China," Kyodo New Service (Tokyo), 13 January 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 13 January 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Sets up First AIDS Club," Agence France Presse, 7 January 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 January 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 January 1999

Glaxo Wellcome will build a 100 million USD manufacturing plant in Suzhou, Jiangsu province following China approval of lamivudine, an oral treatment for hepatitis B. Besides producing lamivudine, the plant will also produce antibiotics. Lamivudine, which is sold under the brand name Epivir for HIV patients, could earn Glaxo Wellcome additional sales of 250 - 300 million pounds as a hepatitis B treatment, half of which could come from China.

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—“Glaxo Wellcome Builds 85 million pound Factory in China,” *Financial Times* (London), 9 January 1999, p. 17; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 January 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

11 January 1999

The Shanghai-based *Wen Hui Daily* reported as of last November 183 people have been found to have HIV in Shanghai. However, the paper warned the number could reach 16,000 by next year. The paper listed increasing prostitution, intravenous drug use, illegal blood collection, an increased of migrant workers now numbered at about three million and a general lack of awareness about self protection among the general population. A recent survey among Shanghai residents showed 33 percent did not know using a condom could help prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus, and 20 percent did not believe sharing needles helped spread the virus. Currently, an AIDS patient in China could expect to spend 12,000 yuan (1,440 USD) per year on medical treatments, while causing 200,000 yuan per year in indirect medical cost and economic losses. “Thus Shanghai could face a bill of 3.4 billion yuan (409.6 million USD) each year if HIV/AIDS cases reach 16,000,” the paper reported.

—“Shanghai Fears Rapid AIDS Epidemic,” *Xinhua*, 11 January 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 11 January 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; “Shanghai Put on AIDS Alert Amidst Explosion Warning,” *China Business Information Network*, 12 January 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 January 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 January 1999

Sources at the Chinese Association of Prevention and Control of STDs and AIDS said a nation-wide network including public health, family planning and the media will be established to promote AIDS prevention and awareness among China's estimated 120 million internal migrants. About 80 percent are laborers who migrate to urban areas in search of seasonal jobs. “If we do not pay more attention to controlling the spread of the disease, particularly in floating populations, cases will hit 1.2 million in 2000,” warned Chen Xianyi, Deputy Director of the Department for Disease Control of the Ministry of Health (MOH). MOH officials reported at the end of 1998, China had recorded 12,580 HIV cases, of which 439 had developed AIDS and 337 had died. Officials estimate there are 300,000 HIV carries in China.

—“Transients Susceptible to HIV/AIDS,” *China Daily*, 29 January 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 January 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

3 February 1999

Beijing health officials announced the drafting of a 10-year working program to monitor and keep the amount of HIV cases in Beijing under 30,000 by the year 2010. By 2010, Beijing city officials expect 80 percent of city residents and 50 percent of rural residents to know about HIV/AIDS prevention and control. Furthermore, city health officials will target the 2.85 million migrant workers in Beijing for AIDS awareness and prevention. Official statistics show that 64.5 percent of Beijing's floating population is people aged between 15 and 39. As of 1 December 1998, Beijing has recorded 285 HIV cases, of which 105 were Beijing residents, 115 were from outside Beijing and 65 were foreigners. Over the past few years, HIV cases in Beijing rose 20-40 cases annually, however, last year health officials reported 96 case were found. In the past 10 years Beijing has invested over 8.8 million yuan (1 million USD) to prevent and control AIDS, as well as set up 37 HIV/AIDS laboratories.

—“Capital to Increase AIDS Prevention Program,” *China Daily*, 3 February 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 February 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

19 March 1999

While addressing an international conference on HIV/AIDS in Bangkok, Thailand, Shao

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Yiming, Deputy Director of China's National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control (NCAIDS) reports about 75 percent of China's HIV/AIDS cases are located in Yunnan province. He said, "The main reason is because it (Yunnan) is very close to the Golden Triangle and there is a lot of drug trafficking into China through this province." About 70 percent of China HIV/AIDS cases are related to intravenous drug use.

—"Yunnan Province Accounts for 75 Percent of Chinese HIV Cases," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 19 March 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 19 March 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

27 April 1999

Calypte Biomedical Corporation will provide urine HIV tests to the Chinese National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control. This test is the only non-invasive HIV test used in China. The center and Hua Ai Company plan to create a joint venture with Calypte and produce the test in China.

—"Calypte Biomedical Corp. to Provide non-invasive HIV Test to Chinese National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control," *Chemical Business News*, 27 April 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 April 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 May 1999

Funded by Save the Children, Tibet will launch a program to train local healthcare workers on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. Furthermore, the United Nations' Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Tibet will host a series of public activities to promote AIDS awareness among the general population of Tibet. To date, Tibet has reported no HIV/AIDS cases, but two foreign tourists were refused entry into Tibet after testing positive for HIV.

—"Tibet to Publicize AIDS Prevention Knowledge," Xinhua, 4 May 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 May 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

5 May 1999

The World Bank has approved a 10 million USD loan and a credit of 50 million USD to fund China's Health Nine Project. This project has two components. The first part focuses on material health and child developments in China's poorest regions. The second component aims to prevent and control sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS in four of China's high-risk provinces. It will "implement comprehensive and multi-sectional public health policies and programs" on the local level, as well as "build technical and management capacities at the central level." The second component will also promote the involvement of non-governmental organizations.

—"World Bank Helps China Address Health Needs," Xinhua, 5 May 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 May 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

21 May 1999

The Ministry of Health (MOH) announced new a regulation on the rights of patients who have been infected with HIV/AIDS. The new regulation provides the following rights for HIV/AIDS patients:

- No organization or individual can reveal the identity or address of an HIV/AIDS patient.
- Medical personnel are required to keep the patient's medical information confidential, and all samples should be sent to a laboratory for confirmation.
- Lab staff must notify the patient or relative of the results.
- Lab results are considered personal and are protected under China's civil law.

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- Medical documents belonging to HIV/AIDS patients are considered confidential and are only to be handled by assigned personnel.
- All public health departments should assign medical facilities to provide treatment for HIV/AIDS patients.
- No medical facility shall refuse medical treatment to HIV/AIDS patients who are citizens of China and thus entitled to medical and healthcare.
- HIV carriers and their children should not be deprived of their right to work, study or participate in social activities.
- HIV carriers can apply to get married, provided both bride and groom have received medical consultations.
- HIV carriers are not allowed to donate blood, organs or other body fluids. HIV carriers who intentionally infect others will be prosecuted.
- If the person has developed AIDS, he or she will not be allowed to marry. According to China's Marriage Law, one cannot marry if the man or woman suffers from a disease which can be passed on to an unborn child.

—"Regulation Protects HIV Carriers and AIDS Patients," *China Daily*, 21 May 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 21 May 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

27 May 1999

The National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control (NCAIDS) and Beijing's Ditan Hospital announced it will begin administering "cocktail therapy" to 18 HIV patients starting in June and 12 others later this year. The State Drug Administration (SDA) approved the drug even though they did not undergo long-term clinical trial because the effectiveness was confirmed and the urgent needs of China's HIV/AIDS patients. Cao Yunzhen, Deputy Director of NCAIDS said, "It has become very urgent to provide proper and effective treatment against HIV/AIDS in China since the epidemic situation is getting serious." The cost of the therapy is expected to reach 100,000 yuan per year (12,000 USD) which most Chinese cannot afford. Cao continued, "The money is the biggest problem. But we're making every effort to help patients, whether through raising funds by patients themselves or asking help from pharmaceutical companies and charity groups."

—"AIDS Patients in China to Receive Cocktail Therapy," *Xinhua*, 27 May 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 May 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

18 June 1999

A new program to teach first year university students has been popularized on campuses in Beijing and Shanghai. Initiated last year by the Australia's Royal Women's Hospital, Beijing Medical University and Shanghai Second Medical University, the program has junior medical students teach their freshman peers on safe sex and AIDS prevention. Usually, Chinese educational practices have the teacher lecture to the students, however this program allows for teacher - student interaction. For example, an instructor may have a shy student blow up a condom to become comfortable handling the common contraceptive device. Last year the program reached 17,000 students at eight universities and 4,000 residents in Beijing and Shanghai. This year, the program will expand to eight other universities in two additional cities. Durex, Schering and Organon condom manufacturers have been sponsoring the program. Of China's HIV population, 65.5 percent are between the ages of 16 and 29 years old.

—"New Program Used to Teach About AIDS," *China Daily*, 18 June 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 18 June 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 July 1999

During a two-day conference on political and security implication for ASEAN in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen stated strengthening regional cooperation is extremely important because it offers three opportunities:

- It will help resolve outstanding issues of common concern.
- It will provide opportunities for joint development projects in the GMS.
- It will allow participating countries to act jointly to meet common needs.

Some of the current problems facing the sub-region are migration, illegal arms trade, cross-border trade, smuggling, pollution and the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS. The GMS includes Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and China's Yunnan province.

—“Cambodia Stresses Importance of Regional Cooperation,” Xinhua, 6 July 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 July 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 July 1999

The Ministry of Health (MOH) reported the estimated number of HIV cases has reached 400,000 reported *Yangcheng Evening News*. More than two-thirds of HIV victims live in the countryside and are drug users. Some 83 percent were men and more than 50 percent were in their twenties. The number of estimated infections only represents 0.03 percent of China's 1.2 billion population.

—“AIDS Cases in China Soar Past 400,000,” Associated Press, 9 July 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 July 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

27 July 1999

The Disease Prevention and Control Branch of Sichuan province ordered HIV blood tests be mandatory during all premarital physical examinations. The action follows the first female AIDS death this past June. Sichuan has an estimated 6,000 HIV cases, of which 590 have developed AIDS and 14 have died. Official statistics show that 75 percent of recent HIV cases are related to unsafe sex.

—“Measure to Curb Spread of AIDS,” *China Daily*, 27 July 1999, p. 3; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 July 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 July 1999

Liu Xiaoming, the interim person in charge of China's embassy in the United States and Jean-Michel Severino, Vice-President of the World Bank, signed three loan agreements worth 330 million USD. One of the projects will be aimed at preventing and controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and improving healthcare for mothers and children in China's impoverished areas.

—“World Bank Funds Three New China Projects,” *China Online*, 2 August 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 August 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 August 1999

The Beijing-based *Health News* reports that eight subtypes of the HIV-1 virus have been found in blood samples taken from 600 HIV/AIDS patients in 30 provinces. The eight subtypes include *HIV-1* _ A, B, B', C, D, E, F and G. Lab results show the following distribution:

- Some 47.5 percent of the samples were *sub-type B'*, a type transmitted from drug addicts in Thailand.
- Some 34.3 percent were *sub-type C*, which originated from drug addicts in India.

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- And 9.6 percent were of *sub-type E*, which originated in southeast Asia.
- *HIV-1_B'* is prevalent in all areas. *sub-type C* is concentrated among the intravenous drug users of Northwest China, Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan and is spreading to east and southeast China by the transient population from Xinjiang Autonomous Region. *sub-type E* is mostly found along China's southeastern coastal areas and border areas of southwestern China.
- Returning laborers in the hinterland have *sub-type A, D* and *G*, which originated from Africa. *sub-type F*, which originated from South America, is found in Guangdong province.
- Researchers show only 4.5 percent of the cases in Yunnan involve recomposed strains, but after the virus has entered the populations in Xinjiang via Sichuan, Gansu and Ningxia, all strains become recomposed.

China Daily reported it took five to six years for the rate of infection to reach 70 percent among Yunnan's drug users, but only two to three years in Xinjiang. China currently has some 13,000 HIV/AIDS cases.

—"Type B' Found in All Area Eight HIV Strains Identified," *China Daily*, 6 August 1999, p. 2; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 August 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

11 August 1999

China is beginning to install the first 90 condom vending machines in public restrooms, subway stations and universities in Beijing and Shanghai. Previously, condoms were only available to married couples via prescription.

—Oliver August, "China's Sexual Revolution Leads to People's Condom," *The Times* (London), 11 August 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 11 August 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

16 August 1999

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Chinese Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) are planning to establish a new five-year plan (2001-2005) that will focus on child abduction, protection of girl's rights and the prevention of HIV/AIDS. "Our plan may attach greater importance to the protection of abducted children and street children, and to health and education issues among the children of migrant peoples in cities," said Zhou Bing, MOFTEC program officer. "Through this (UNICEF's) cooperation, children's affairs have become a major part of the governmental agenda, and sustainable development in program areas has been promoted," added Zhou.

—"China, UNICEF Plan for New Five-Year Cooperation," *Xinhua*, 16 August 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 16 August 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 November 1999

An anti-AIDS group will provide HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention to railway passengers on the Beijing West Railway Station / Ulan Bator, Mongolia line. "I believe this campaign will play a positive role in quickly publicizing knowledge for AIDS prevention," said Health Vice-Minister Yin Dakui. The eight day tour is co-sponsored by the Mongolian government and China's Ministries of Health and Railways.

—"Anti-AIDS Tour Gets on Track," *China Daily*, 1 November 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 November 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 November 1999

A spokesperson from the Yunnan-Australia Red Cross HIV Prevention Project said the zero-tolerance for China's marginalized groups, such as sex workers and drug addicts, have

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made education and prevention more difficult for the increasing number of nongovernmental organizations in China. She said, "The government now openly acknowledges the threat of HIV but it will take time for it to realize there is a parallel universe out there, they have their cultural morals but there are people who live outside of those on the ground in China." An official from the Disease Control Division of the Ministry of Health (MOH) said HIV carriers who are guilty of prostitution and illegal drug use are sent to "reform through labor camps." Also, she said "China is not capable of offering these people free syringes or condoms. We cannot afford to give these things out for free." However, she noted the state provide married couples with free condoms. For these reasons, many people at risk for HIV infections do not come forward. Many experts also believe that because of these reasons it is almost impossible to actually track the AIDS crisis in China solely on official statistics.

—"Prejudice the Basis for China's Looming AIDS Epidemic," *Hobart Mercury* (Australia), 1 November 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 November 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

8 November 1999

China Daily profiled [Shen \(Gao\) Yao Jie](#), a 72-year old gynecologist from Zhengzhou, Henan in her struggle to promote HIV/AIDS awareness, safe sex and the increasing number of "quacks" that claim they can cure any STD for a high fee. After meeting her first AIDS patient in 1996, she began publishing a monthly newsletter on AIDS, STD and Preventive Mean. She has already published more than 40,000 copies and she has absorbed the cost by using her own savings.

—"One Granny's Mission: Crusade against AIDS," *China Daily*, 8 November 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 8 November 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

10 November 1999

The Ministry of Health (MOH) reported China has 15,088 confirmed cases of HIV, of which 477 have developed full-blown AIDS and 240 people have died. HIV cases have been reported in all 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. China estimates there are over 400,000 people now with HIV. The *Beijing Evening News* reported that the first three quarters of 1999 have seen a 33 percent increase in HIV cases compared to the same period last year. Some 58 percent of infected persons are in their 20s and there are five times as many infected men as women.

Health experts warn that sexual transmission is on the rise in China. Although most of China's HIV cases are drug related, over 75 percent of world-wide cases are sex related. "China will on be the same road (of sexual transmission) if rampant prostitution and the rising incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are not curbed," said Chen Xianyi, an official with the Ministry of Health (MOH). In 1996, Chinese police arrested over 420,000 prostitutes, and their clients, but police report this only represents one tenth of the total number. Also in 1998, 630,000 STD patients were reported, an increase of 37 percent from 1997--still only one eighth the true figure.

—"Urgent Measure to Curb Transmission of AIDS," *Xinhua*, 10 November 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 November 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China's HIV Infection rate up 33%," *China Online*, 17 November 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 17 November 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Unsafe Sex May Worsen AIDS Epidemic in China," *Xinhua*, 15 November 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 15 November 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

18 November 1999

During an International AIDS Vaccine Symposium held in Beijing, the AIDS Prevention and Control Center under the Ministry of Health (MOH) signed an agreement with the Ellen

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Diamond AIDS Research Center of Rockefeller University (USA) to build a joint research laboratory.

—"Sino-US Joint Efforts AIDS Solution," *China Daily*, 30 November 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 November 1999

Chinese scientists will conduct the first AIDS vaccine trial in China next year if the application is approved, said Shao Yiming of the National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control. The DNA-based AIDS vaccine has been developed by Chinese and German scientists.

—"Clinical Tests for AIDS Vaccines," *China Daily*, 24 November 1999, p. 4; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 November 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 November 1999

China's first condom advertisement debuted on China Central Television Channel One (CCTV-1). This 42 second public awareness ad is the first ever run by the Chinese mass media. "We hope the ad will raise public awareness about sexual health, as well as concern about the seriousness epidemic of HIV/AIDS," said Zhang Jian, deputy Director of the Chinese Center for Family Planning Publicity and Education. In the past, condom advertising was viewed as promoting promiscuity.

—"Television Advertisements Promote Condom Use, AIDS Awareness," *Xinhua*, 29 November 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 November 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1999

During a World AIDS Day meeting, Vice Minister of Health Yin Dakui announced that China has 15,088 confirmed HIV cases, of which 477 have developed full-blown AIDS and 240 have died. However, health officials believe there are over 400,000 HIV carries in China. Some 70 percent of HIV cases are related to intravenous drug use and seven percent through sexual contact. "China is in a grave situation and the tasks ahead are very hard and complicated, due to an enormous number of drug users and people with multiple sex partners, plus over 100 million transient people each year, and commercial blood-sellers, who are all vulnerable to HIV/AIDS," Yin said. In addition, the number of reported sexually transmitted diseases rose to 630,000 in 1998. Officials believe the real number could be 10 times higher.

—"China Has More Than 400,000 HIV Carriers: Health Ministry," *Agence France Presse*, 1 December 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China, with an Increasing...," *Xinhua*, 1 December 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Wages Hard Fight Against AIDS," *China Daily*, 2 December 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 December 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1999

Under current State Advertisement Law, China has banned all advertisements and public awareness notices advocating the use of condoms. "Presently according to the State Advertisement Law, sex products cannot be advertised," said an official at the State Administration for Industry and Commerce Administration Bureau. Also, the *Beijing Morning Post* ran a debate on whether condoms should be passed out in Chinese schools.

—"In a Dramatic About Face, Beijing bans Condom Ads on China TV," *China Online*, 1 December 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 1999

Health officials in Jiangsu province reported 68 HIV cases with one case of full-blown AIDS. Of the total number of AIDS cases, 31 were discovered this year, 24 of which were either foreigners or Chinese from outside Jiangsu province. The majority of those infected were

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between 20 and 29 years old with the youngest being only 15 years old. Sexual intercourse and the sharing of needles were primary modes of transmissions.

Changchun, capital of Jilin province has established a five year plan to increase HIV/AIDS awareness in the city. Under the program, AIDS awareness classes will be offered at schools of all levels by the end of 2001. The program aims to reach 80 percent of the local people. Since its first AIDS case in 1993, Jilin has reported 107 HIV/AIDS patients, of which 18 were between the ages of 20 and 45 years old. The ratio of men to women infected with the AIDS virus is four to one.

—"East China Province Reports 68 HIV Carriers," Xinhua, 1 December 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Five Year Plan Enacted to Combat AIDS," Xinhua, 1 December 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

10 December 1999

The condom announcement that originally aired on 28 November 1999 and was seen by hundreds of millions of people throughout China has caused a "stir," reported *China Daily*. The State Administration of Industry and Commerce banned the announcement last week because condom ads are illegal. However, Zhang Jian, Deputy Director of China National Communication and Education Center for Family Planning said, "It is not a commercial but a component of our program on AIDS prevention. Indeed we never intended to make a commercial." Sun Guohua, a professor of legal philosophy at Renmin University added that the ban is baseless because no current law governs public service announcements. "It is unreasonable to cite a law governing commercials to ban the condom announcement that is apparently for the benefit of the public," Sun said "The administration should follow the country's policy when there are grey areas in current legislation."

—"Condom Spot: Ad or Education?" *China Daily*, 10 December 1999; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 December 1999, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2000

9 January 2000

Chengdu hosted Sichuan's first AIDS prevention and control exhibition. Officials stated over 40,000 people passed through the exhibition while viewing 1,500 pictures, 200 slides and dozens of videos that warn of AIDS and show various methods of prevention. To date, China has more than 12,000 confirmed cases of HIV infection, of which 439 have developed AIDS and 337 have died. Some experts have estimated the number HIV cases in China is actually above 300,000 and may hit 1.2 million by the end of the year.

—"Sichuan Host Exhibition on AIDS Prevention," Xinhua, 9 January 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 January 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

12 January 2000

Beijing health officials reported the number of HIV cases in the city has reached 444. Beijing's first HIV/AIDS case was reported in 1985, 44 cases in 1997, 99 in 1998, 145 in 1999. Also, the annual prevalence rate of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) has been 20 to 40 percent annually. Since 1985, Beijing has spent over 10 million yuan (about 1.1 million USD) on its AIDS prevention campaign and established 37 AIDS testing laboratories.

—"People with HIV Virus on Increase in Beijing," Xinhua, 12 January 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 January 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

27 January 2000

Liu Kangmai, Assistant to the Director of the AIDS Prevention and Control Center of the

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Ministry of Health revealed China's new AIDS and Venereal Disease (VD) Prevention and Control System. Under the new system, China aims to halt the spread of AIDS via blood-supply channels by 2002, and reduce the annual VD prevalence rate to under 15 percent over the next 10 years. The AIDS and Venereal Disease (VD) Prevention and Control System will consist of an AIDS monitoring network, a blood examination system and a medical training center. According to the plan:

- All hospitals and healthcare facilities in China's AIDS stricken areas should improve their AIDS treatment and consultations, and their professional training
- All high schools and secondary vocational schools should provide extensive education on the prevention of AIDS and VD.

As of September 1999, China reported 15,088 HIV cases, of which 477 had developed full-blown AIDS and 240 had died. However, there are an estimated 400,000 HIV carries in China.

—"China to Establish AIDS, Venereal Disease Prevention System," Xinhua, 27 January 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 January 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

16 February 2000

Delegates from China, Lao, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia meet in Phnom Penh to attend a Greater Mekong Sub-regional (GMS) seminar on HIV/AIDS. The seminar gave delegates an opportunity to discuss the potential ways of computing the impact of AIDS on national economic development and the ways of creating and implementing an appropriate multi-sector plan to address the issue.

—"Cambodia Holds Sub-Regional Seminar on HIV/AIDS," Xinhua, 16 February 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 16 February 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 March 2000

The New Century Hotel in Chengdu, Sichuan became the first hotel in China to make condoms available in every room reported *China Daily*. A rival hotel chain stated New Century was denying their clients freedom of choice by only offering one kind of condom. Sichuan province has the fifth highest rate of HIV in China. The Health Ministry (MOH) estimates there are 400,000 HIV carriers in China, and more than 15,088 cases of full-blown AIDS.

—"Commotion Caused by First Hotel in China to Give Out Condoms," Agence France Presse, 2 March 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 March 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 March 2000

The National Narcotics Control Commission announced China had over 680,000 registered drug users in 1999, a 14.3 percent increase from 1998. Official statistics show 80 percent of registered users are male, and people between the ages of 17 and 35 make up 78 percent. Some 490,000, or 72 percent, take and inject heroin. Vice Minister of Public Security Bai Jingfu said some 2,081 counties have reported having a drug problem, 48 more than 1998.

—"China Has More Drug Addicts," Xinhua, 2 March 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 March 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

3 March 2000

Chen Xianyi, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Health's Department of Disease Control reported the number of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) reached 836,000 in 1999, a rise of 30 percent over 1998. He said the real figure could be as high as eight million. "STD has

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become a major infectious disease threatening the people's health. More seriously, the outbreak of STDs will fan the flames for the spread of HIV/AIDS," said Chen.

Chen also admitted that many STD patients go to illegal clinics and are treated by "quack" doctors. The majority of STD sufferers would rather go to an illegal clinic rather than being identified as a STD patient in a public hospital. "Some patients have lost their fortune to pay for treating the disease, but failed because the doctors use fake medicine," a recent report wrote. Chen also added the Ministry of Health will release standard operation procedures for STD treatment this year, focusing on clinics and doctors. In a recent survey of 800 medical workers in Shenzhen's STD clinics who took a written exam on medical knowledge, only 23 percent passed.

—"Figure of STDs on Rise in China," Xinhua, 3 March 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 March 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

6 March 2000

The All China Women's Federation, Beijing offices of United Nations Department Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS co-sponsored a symposium on Gender and HIV/AIDS in Beijing. The conference focused on the "dramatic increase of HIV/AIDS in women and children." Of the world's 33.4 million HIV infected adults, 43 percent are women. In addition, by the end of 1998 1.7 million children under the age of 15 have died of AIDS globally, and 90 percent of these children were infected by their mothers.

—"Symposium on Gender, HIV/AIDS Held in Beijing," Xinhua, 6 March 2000 in FBIS CPP20000306000148.

9 March 2000

The World Bank financed a 10 million USD health project covering 15 cities and 16 counties in Xinjiang Autonomous Region. The project will target the healthcare of women and children, and "tackling the rising number of HIV cases and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)." Since Xinjiang's first registered HIV case was discovered in 1995, the number of cases has risen to 3,600. Officials estimate the number of HIV infections is at 400,000.

—"World Bank Finances HIV, Sexual Diseases Prevention in Xinjiang," Xinhua, 9 March 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 March 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

10 March 2000

The Ministry of Health (MOH) allocated 3 million yuan (about 360,000 USD) to standardize the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The program will sponsor training for doctors, set up STD clinics, and crack down on illegal STD clinics. It is estimated China has over seven million STD cases.

—"China Deals with Increasing Venereal Diseases," Xinhua, 10 March 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 March 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

11 March 2000

A non-governmental association was established in Xinjiang Autonomous Region which will deal with the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). "The association will publish journals, spread knowledge on AIDS and protect patient's rights and interests," wrote Xinhua.

—"AIDS Association Set up in Northwest China Region," Xinhua, 11 March 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 11 March 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 March 2000

Shandong province established an HIV/AIDS monitoring and testing network covering the

entire province. Since its first reported HIV case in 1992, Shandong has reported 56 confirmed cases of HIV infections.

—"East China Province Stresses AIDS Monitoring, Testing Net work," Xinhua, 24 March 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 March 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 March 2000

Ministry of Health (MOH) officials detected 4,677 new cases of HIV infection last year, a 41.5 percent increase over 1998, reported *Health News*. Officially, China has 17,316 confirmed HIV cases, of which 647 have developed full-blown AIDS. In 1999, China conducted more than 4.4 million HIV/AIDS tests of high-risk groups. Dai Zhicheng reported women now account for 15.4 percent of all HIV cases. For the past 15 years, the AIDS virus has been confined to intravenous drug addicts and their sex partners. However, HIV has begun to be detected in long-distance truck drivers and prostitutes.

—"AIDS Cases Rise in China, More Women Infected," Associated Press, 29 March 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 March 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

3 April 2000

The Ministry of Health (MOH) officials reported that two cases of the HIV-2 infection have been discovered in China. HIV-2 is mainly found in Africa and can be transmitted by the same routes as HIV-1. A man in Shanghai, and a man in Fujian province, who both tested positive for HIV-2, spent time working in West Africa. Currently, China's monitoring system is only set-up for detecting HIV-1.

As of the end of 1998, official statistics reveal China has a total of 17,316 confirmed HIV cases, of which 647 have developed full-blown AIDS and 356 died. The MOH estimates there are over 400,000 HIV cases. "The figure has been rocketing for successive five year, and rampant sexually transmitted diseases and co-infection of HIV and tuberculosis may make the situation worse," said Dai Zhicheng, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Association of STD and AIDS Prevention and Control.

—"HIV-1 Strain Confirmed in China," *China Daily*, 2 April 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 April 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>;
"HIV/AIDS Situation Could Get Worse," Xinhua, 3 April 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 April 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

4 April 2000

During a State Council meeting on the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), Vice-Premier Li Lanqing urged all government officials to pay attention to HIV/AIDS control. Li said all levels of government should view this task as "a strategic issue of vital importance to the nation's fortune and state development." Minister of Health Zhang Wenkang reported the estimated number of HIV cases to be at 500,000 people in 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

—"Vice Premier Li Lanqing Urges Prevention of HIV/AIDS," Xinhua, 4 April 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 April 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

7 April 2000

During a conference marking World Health Day, Health Minister Zhang Wenkang said "China still has a long way to go to guarantee blood safety even though it has encouraged blood donation since the 1980s and pushed forward the implementation through enforcing a national blood donation law on October 1998." Up to five percent of HIV infections worldwide are caused by blood transfusions with tainted blood, however, "the proportion in China is much higher," said Shan Ouqi, a Ministry of Health official who is in charge of blood management work.

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—"Donation Viral to Blood Safety: Health Officials," Xinhua, 7 April 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 April 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 April 2000

The American Public Health Association (APHA) and the China Prevention Medicine Association (CPMA) signed a memorandum of understating (MOU) on public health management, and training and continuation education programs. Dr. Wang Hexiang said China could learn a lot from the United States in the fields of tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and tobacco use - areas US public health officials have been fighting for decades.

—"Sino-US Health Memorandum Signed in Washington," Xinhua, 25 April 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 April 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 April 2000

The first person to be tested for HIV during a pre-marriage medical check up in Beijing tested positive for the AIDS virus, reported the *Beijing Morning News*. According to the Beijing Birth Control Research Institute, all couples will be required to receive an HIV test during their pre-marriage medical check up starting in July. Currently 28 pre-marriage stations around Beijing are receiving training to conduct HIV tests. At the end of 1999, China had 17,316 confirmed HIV cases, 677 of which were women.

—"AIDS Carrier Discovered Through Pre-Marriage Checkup in Beijing," Xinhua, 25 April 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 April 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "AIDS Test Becomes Mandatory for Chinese Planning to get Marrying," Xinhua, 27 April 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 April 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

11 May 2000

Beijing city officials released an AIDS prevention and control plan aimed at keeping the number of HIV cases under 30,000 by the year 2010. According to the plan:

- Information on HIV/AIDS will be publicized among the city's high-risk groups: drug addicts, homosexuals, venereal disease patients, contract workers sent abroad, medical workers and college students.
- By 2010, all universities and colleges should provide courses on AIDS prevention and awareness and at least 50 percent of the rural residents should have some knowledge about the virus.
- Cooperation between Chinese and foreign research institutes should be increased.

As of the end of 1998, official city statistics show that Beijing has 285 HIV cases, of which 105 are local residents, and 115 are from other provinces and 65 are foreigners. Some 80 percent of those infected are between the ages of 20 to 40.

—"Beijing to Enact Regulations on HIV/AIDS," *China Daily*, 11 May 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 11 May 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 May 2000

In a report submitted to the State Council, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) urged the government to increase measures to control HIV/AIDS in order to avoid a future crisis. The report stated the key to preventing the spread of the virus lies in the prevention of HIV/AIDS among drug addicts, prostitutes, homosexuals and other high-risk groups. Statistics in the report show that China's biggest HIV population is in Yunnan, Xinjiang, Guangxi, Sichuan and Guangdong, where the virus is spread mostly among drug users and their sex partners. Also, "the report said that blood transfusions are another major source of HIV infection, because some grass-roots hospitals in China do not follow the rules of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and still use donated blood that has not undergone HIV

testing," wrote Xinhua.

—"PRC Government Urged to Control Spread of HIV/AIDS," Xinhua, 25 May 2002; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 May 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

13 June 2000

The China-UK HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project launched a program aimed at creating a model of disease prevention, treatment and care for people most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Although the program will mostly target areas in Yunnan and Sichuan provinces, the ultimate goal is to create an "effective national response to HIV/AIDS and to develop the national policy framework," according to Wang Longde, Vice Minister of Health. Official statistics show China now has 18,143 confirmed HIV cases, with an estimated 500,000 cases. For STDs, the "real figure...may be five or even ten times the confirmed 836,600 cases in 1999," Wang said. Nigel Cox, the Minister of the British Embassy in Beijing said, "The project aims to reduce the public stigma attached to the disease, and to make more people aware of the need for adequate public spending on treatment and prophylaxis against opportunistic infections commonly associated with AIDS."

—"Sino-British HIV/AIDS Project launched in Beijing," Xinhua, 13 June 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 13 June 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

15 June 2000

Professor Zeng Yi of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine said the rapid spread of AIDS may cause a national disaster if intervention measures remain weak. He stated, "Both the time and opportunities needed to control the deadly disease have become limited. But we've arrived at the critical point: We can control the spread of HIV/AIDS or let it overtake us." He continued, "Based on the experiences of some other countries, the outbreak will be inevitable if intervention measures are not taken immediately. It would be a national disaster if China became one of the top AIDS stricken nations in the world."

"Unfortunately, the possibility of an AIDS epidemic and its serious aftermath have been underestimated, which has resulted in far too few HIV/AIDS-related healthcare policies, investment and measures for education, scientific research, and intervention campaigns among high-risks people such as drug users," Xinhua reported. Chinese AIDS activists have long requested policies which would "support medical professionals and social workers at non-governmental organizations to conduct self protection program among prostitute and drug users, encouraging the use of condoms and clean needles," wrote Xinhua.

—"HIV/AIDS May Become National Distaste," Xinhua, 15 June 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 15 June 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

26 June 2000

China Daily published an opinion article comparing China's drug epidemic with its AIDS epidemic. "Through a chronological coincidence, the timing illustrates the connection between AIDS and drug use," wrote *China Daily*. Intravenous drug use is responsible for 72.4 percent of all HIV infections in China, while sex is accountable for only 6.7 percent. As of March, China has reported 18,143 HIV cases. Also, by the end of 1999, Public Security officials reported 681,000 registered narcotic users. The number of registered drug users in 1991 was 148,000, and in 1995 was 520,000 users.

"Eighty percent of the reported HIV/AIDS cases were found in young and middle-aged people. About the same proportion of registered drug addicts are under 35 years old. The

long latency between HIV contraction and AIDS symptoms makes the disease even more perilous among those who are sexually active," the article said. The article concluded with a call for an anti-drug crusade. It stated, "We can tell from the obvious correlation between drugs and AIDS that any headway in our anti-drug crusade would ease pressure on the other battlefield."

—"Opinion: AIDS, Drugs Related; So are the Answers," *China Daily* (Internet), 26 June 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 26 June 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Faces Uphill Battle Against Narcotics: White Paper," Xinhua, 26 June 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 26 June 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

7 July 2000

China opened its first teenage sexual health education center in Beijing. The center, partially funded by the US-based Ford Foundation, will establish a counseling hotline, a quarterly newsletter and a website to assist "teenagers to understand their sexuality, and avoid unsafe and underage sex," reported Agence France Presse (AFP). "If we don't address this issue now, it'll affect a whole generation's health," said Chen Yiyun, Head of the Jinglun Family Service Science Center of the China Social Workers Association, one of the center's sponsors. This center is also sponsored by the China Children's Center and China Sex Education Association.

—"China's First Teen Sexual Health Education Center Opens in Beijing," Agence France Presse, 7 July 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 July 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 August 2000

A number of Chinese medical experts have called upon the Chinese government to increase its resolve in fighting AIDS. "Although Chinese doctors have now started a number of research and education projects, there has been no nationally coordinated effort to determine the prevalence of HIV so that the government has only a vague idea of how and where the disease is spreading," wrote the *New York Times*. "The central government doesn't seem to realize how serious this is," said Qiu Renzong, a bioethicist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. "We have not yet had an effective risk reduction strategy, because some departments are very conservative. They think chastity is more important than condom use. They say that the only way to prevent HIV transmission is to rely on China's traditional values," said Qiu. Many experts have called for national AIDS education, condom use and needle exchanges for drug addicts. China's current AIDS budget is less than Thailand's and Vietnam's respective AIDS budgets.

In the past, some surveys have found a high rate of infection among localized populations in China. For example more than 80 percent of drug addicts arrested near the Myanmar border were HIV positive. And a recent survey among blood donors in Henan province found HIV infections rates as high as 16 percent in localities where illegal blood selling was common -- "until local officials blocked further testing." Illegal blood stations often pool the blood of peasants who have the same blood type, remove the components needed for medical use, and then re-inject the blood donors. As many as 6 to 12 donors have their blood pooled at one time.

Compared to the West, where huge education campaigns begun soon after AIDS became a problem, China only talks "about it openly one day a year -- on December 1st -- International AIDS Day. That is not enough," said Zeng Yi, a leading AIDS researcher. Last December 1st, the State Family Commission (SFC) released a new television announcement promoting condom use as a way to prevent HIV, but it was pulled the next day by the State

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Administration for Industry and Commerce. In June, a billboard promoting condom use in Wuhan was removed after only 22 hours. Zhu Qi, a government consultant said, "If you promote condoms among youth, it would lead to a great deal of sexual license and abandonment of sexually morality." Zhu believes the best answer to HIV is "chastity."

—Elisabeth Rosenthal, "Scientists Warn of Inaction as AIDS Spreads in China," *New York Times*, 2 August 2000, p. A1; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 August 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

7 August 2000

A Chinese-made pharmaceutical has proven effective in treating 28 AIDS patients in Sapatong Hospital in Chang Mai, Thailand. The medicine, called Fufang SH, was developed by the Kunming Botanical Research Institute. The HIV virus in nine AIDS patients were significantly reduced after taking the medicine for three months, while the HIV infection in the other 16 patients remained stable, reported the Thai Public Health Minister Korn Dabbaransi. The drug trial was carried out according to an agreement signed between Thailand and the Kunming Botanical Research Institute in July 1999.

—"China-Made Anti-AIDS Drug Experimented in Thailand," *Xinhua*, 7 August 2000, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 7 August 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 August 2000

China has begun a program to halt the use of second-use syringes. "The Health Ministry (MOH) has ordered all hospitals to make sure discarded syringes are destroyed, so they do not get picked up and resold," reported *China Daily*. Recently, Zhejiang police officials seized and destroyed 10 tons of used syringes. Also, the police also arrested 13 people for collecting used syringes and organizing villagers to manually wash them, then repackage them to sell as new.

—"China Trying to Curb Thriving Market In Second-Hand Syringes," *Agence France Presse*, 28 August 2000, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 August 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 August 2000

Zhejiang province drafted new regulations on halting the spread of AIDS. These new regulations call on all high schools and universities to include courses on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in their curriculum. Also, all hotel, hairdresser and amusement parlors are required to educate their employees about AIDS. Since 1985, Zhejiang has reported 149 AIDS cases, of which 18 have died. Shanghai and Chongqing have already passes similar regulations.

—"Coastal Province Drafts Regulations to Curb Spread of AIDS," *Xinhua*, 29 August 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 August 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2 September 2000

Over 1,000 public health experts from 40 countries attended the Ninth International Public Health Congress of the World Federation of Public Health Associations in Beijing. The conference focused on the impact of the global economy and environmental changes on public health, the control over tobacco products, HIV and AIDS, oral and mental health, and the development of public health undertaking in China.

—"Beijing to Host Ninth Int'l Public Health Congress," *Xinhua*, 31 August 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 31 August 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

22 September 2000

China launched a five-year Sino-US joint Adolescent Reproductive Health Project aimed at providing reproductive health information to China's youth aged between 10 to 24. Liu Hanbin, Vice President of the China Family Planning Association (CPFA) said China's

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adolescents and young people are under threat from sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy. The project will be carried out in urban areas in 12 provinces including Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Chongqing, Shenzhen, Qingdao, and the provinces of Shandong Heilongjiang, Hubei, Guangdong, Zhejiang, and Shaanxi, as well as some rural areas.

—"Project Launched to Improve Adolescent Reproductive Health," Xinhua, 22 September 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 22 September 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

27 October 2000

Lu Yong, an associate professor at Xi'an Jiatong University produced the anti-AIDS drug Stavudine. Stavudine is a second generation form of Zidovudine or AZT, the first anti-AIDS drug, but with less toxicity and side effects. The cost of China-made Stavudine is one third that of the world market price. China is only the third country to produce Stavudine after the United States and Spain.

—"China Develops Anti-AIDS Drug," China Pulse, 27 October 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 October 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 October 2000

Without permission, Dr. Gui Xian, a researcher from Hubei province, drew 155 blood samples from farmers in Shangcai county in Henan province, where blood selling was common. Of the 155 samples, 96 were positive for HIV, including the blood sellers, their spouses and children. Also, in Shangcai county, more than a dozen families in one village of 2,000 people have lost a relative from AIDS, reported a Beijing-based magazine called *China News Weekly*. The rates of the surrounding villages are the same. Any attempt to investigate the extent of the HIV infections is with resistance from both officials and townspeople. "When an infectious disease specialist from Beijing made an undercover tour of hospitals in rural Henan this year, he saw many patients who appeared to have AIDS. When his identity was discovered, he was thrown out of the province and faced a reprimand," reported the *New York Times*. [Gao Yao Jie](#), a retired gynecologist from Zhengzhou, often uses her retirement income to purchase second-hand clothing and some medicines to relieve some of the villager's suffering. "No hospitals here take in these patients. Their families turn them out. There is no option, just to die. Many people think AIDS is a bad disease, so they don't talk about it and don't admit they have it," she said

—Elizabeth Rosenthal, "In Rural China, A Steep Price of Poverty: Dying of AIDS," *New York Times*, 28 October 2000, p. A1; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 28 October 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

31 October 2000

The Ministry of Health (MOH) reported a 37 percent rise in HIV cases. According to Yin Dakui, the Deputy Minister of Health, China has 20,711 confirmed HIV cases, of which 741 have developed AIDS and 397 have died. The ratio of male to female carriers stand at 5.2:1, those in the 20-29 age group account for 56 percent and those in the 30-39 age group account for 24 percent of country's HIV population. Infection through intravenous drug use makes up 72 percent of the cases. It is estimated there are over 500,000 HIV cases by the end of last year. To date, China has built 600 prevention and treatment centers in 22 provinces and autonomous regions, which target entertainment girls, venereal disease patients and drug users.

—"China's Health Ministry Announces 37 Percent Increase in HIV Carriers," Xinhua, 31 October 2000 in FBIS CPP20001031000124.

3 November 2000

Speaking at the 55th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Huang Xueqi said

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HIV/AIDS has caused a heavy burden on many developing countries, where the advances of economic development could be erased if the international community did not take immediate action. The UN will convene a special session on HIV/AIDS on 25-27 June 2001.

—"China Urges Global Political Commitment in Fighting AIDS," Xinhua, 3 November 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 3 November 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>. [UN Press Release of Statement]

6 November 2000

China Daily reported 830,000 sexually transmitted disease (STD) patients in China, but experts estimate more than eight million have a STD. The average annual STD prevalence rate is almost 40 percent. "China's medical service on the prevention of STDs and their control is trailing behind the swift spread of the diseases," said Zhang Guocheng, Deputy Head of the Health Ministry's STD and Leprosy Control Center. *China Daily* listed several reasons why STDs are spreading so rapidly:

- The spread of STDs is linked with prostitution, and China has an estimated four million prostitutes.
- There are an estimated 23 million women of the average age of 23 among China's "floating population."
- Most rural hospitals have no STD specialists, and therefore provide poor service.
- Illegal STD clinics offer inferior or fake medicine.
- Most patients are too shy, or afraid to report they have a problem with their supervisor.

From 1996-1997 China spent 2.75 million USD on AIDS prevention, compared to 74 million USD spent by Thailand, 7.4 million USD spent by India, and 4.5 million USD spent by Vietnam.

—"China Struggles to Cope with Explosion of Sex Diseases," Agence France Presse, 6 November 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 November 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

13 November 2000

The Central People's Broadcasting Station presented a program to spread information about AIDS prevention and awareness to the public from 12 November to 1 December. The program entitled, "Medicine Consultation Platform," is designed to broadcast dialogues and take phone calls on a hotline manned by AIDS experts. The program is co-sponsored by the Central People's Broadcasting Station and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

—"China Spreads AIDS Prevention Knowledge Among Public," Xinhua, 13 November 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 13 November 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

13 November 2000

In a report carried by the Shanghai-based *Public Health News*, the Vice-Minister of Health said China's AIDS epidemic situation is extremely grim, and there is a possibility of an AIDS epidemic facing the country. As of September China had 20,071 confirmed HIV cases, of which 741 had developed AIDS and 397 had died. Most the cases are scattered in China's rural areas.

—"China Faces Possibility of AIDS Epidemic," Zhongguo Tongxun News Agency (Hong Kong), 13 November 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 13 November 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 November 2000

Some 27 Chinese non-governmental organizations (NGO) reached an agreement to unite

and prevent the spread of AIDS. "Experts attending today's meeting said that because of the geographical mobility, concealment and complexity of the spread of AIDS, the government's efforts are not enough and the participation of nongovernmental organizations is urgently needed," wrote Xinhua. Some of the participating NGOs include Beijing Red Cross, Beijing Venereal Diseases and AIDS Prevention and Control Association, Beijing Trade Union, Beijing Youth League and others.

—"Beijing NGOs Join Hands to Fight AIDS," Xinhua, 24 November 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 November 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>

30 November 2000

The Agence France Presse (AFP) reported that the Chinese village of Wenlou, Henan has been devastated by AIDS. "In the past two years 30 of the 800 residents have died from the disease, while at least 10 others are dying. A sample of 155 villagers tested found 95 were HIV-positive, a staggering 65 percent." Making up to 5 dollars per visit, Wenlou villagers routinely donated blood to "roaming blood banks." Villagers told AFP that "everyone did it."

—"Chinese Villages 'Devoured' by AIDS; Locals Ordered to Keep Silent," Agence France Presse, 30 November 2000 in FBIS CPP20001130000006.

30 November 2000

Guangdong province reported 570 HIV cases and 13 AIDS patients during the period from January to October this year. By the end of October, Guangdong province had a total of 1,341 HIV cases, of which 78 had developed AIDS. Guangdong recorded its first mother-to-infant transmission of the AIDS virus this year. Experts believe there are up to 20,000 HIV cases in the province. Some 90 percent of the cases were men and most of the victims were drug addicts or homosexuals. "Some contracted AIDS during casual sexual activities," reported *China Daily*. Guangdong reported its first AIDS case in 1986.

—"Guangdong Alert to Soaring AIDS Cases," Xinhua, 30 November 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Zheng Caixiong, "Guangdong Alert to Soaring AIDS Cases," *China Daily*, 30 November 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 2000

Shanghai reported 93 HIV cases this year, bringing the total to 380 cases. City officials recently released a 15-year AIDS action plan aimed at keeping Shanghai's HIV cases to fewer than 20,000 by the year 2015.

—"Shanghai Draws up 15-year AIDS Prevention Plan," Xinhua, 30 November 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 2000

Chinese Health officials reported the total number of HIV cases in China is 20,711. Edwin Judd, China representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned, "China is on a fast track to having a big epidemic. Unless there is really substantial action in the next three or four years, the real danger is that we will have 10 million cases of HIV or AIDS in the year 2010 or worse." Zeng Yi, head of one of the two biggest Chinese AIDS non-governmental organizations said, "If they don't deal with the isolated cases, it could become a big problem." Zeng was referring to the AIDS villages of Shangcai county, Henan province where up to 65 percent of villagers have been infected through blood donations.

In a recent survey conducted among 3,824 people by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the People's University of China, just 3.8 percent of Chinese knew how HIV/AIDS is transmitted. The poll also showed that 53.6 percent of people, both rural and urban residents,

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believe they can contract AIDS though the sharing of chopsticks or bowls with an infected person. It also showed 49.5 percent believe that can catch AIDS from a sneeze, and 30 percent through shaking hands. Some 45.3 percent thought using a condom would not help them from catching HIV.

—"China Aware of AIDS Threat to Vast Population, Amid Dire Warnings," Agence France Presse, 1 December 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 2000

In cooperation with Glaxo Wellcome (British) and Merck Pharmaceutical Company (US), the China National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control established six community AIDS treatment centers throughout China. They are located in Beijing, Shanghai, Kunming (Yunnan Province), Guangzhou (Guangdong Province), Zhengzhou (Henan Province) and Urumqi (Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region). Cao Yunzhen, Deputy Director of the National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control confirmed that there are about 100 HIV patients being treated at the centers. The current treatment method being used is "dependent on imported drugs, such as Combivir, Indinavir, and Stocrin." China has 20,711 HIV carriers.

—"China Sets Up Six Centers Engaged in Treatment of AIDS," *China Daily*, 1 December 2000 in FBIS CPP20001201000023; AIDS Centers Pioneer Treatment," Xinhua, 1 December 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 December 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 December 2000

China Daily stated that HIV/AIDS "has become a public health hazard and a social problem." Furthermore, HIV/AIDS prevention and education has become part of China's national economic and development plans. As of September, the official number of people living with HIV/AIDS is 20,711 with most living in China's rural areas. Males between 20-39 constitute 83 percent of HIV cases. "To prevent and control its spread is a matter that concerns the future of the nation. As the world's most populous country, China fully understands its arduous task and responsibility in controlling the AIDS epidemic," the report wrote.

—"China Understands its Responsibility to Control AIDS," *China Daily*, 1 December 2000 in FBIS CPP20001201000018.

1 December 2000

According to Guangxi Autonomous Region's public health department, the actual number of HIV cases "exceeds 50,000." This places Guangxi behind only Yunnan and Xinjiang with the highest number of reported HIV cases. HIV cases are found in two-thirds of Guangxi's cities and villages and have an infection rate of 10 percent. Among the HIV carriers, 90 percent are intravenous drug users, however, sexual transmission is on the rise. "Most of the people infected are ...in the age bracket of 20-40, and males account for 85 percent of them." Officially there are 20,711 reported HIV cases in China.

—"Guangxi's Number of HIV-infected People Ranks Third in China," *Nanning Guangxi Ribao*, 1 December 2000 in FBIS CPP20001201000047.

1 December 2000

The *Chengdu Xinan Guofang Yiyao* published a study about HIV infection and the effect on People's Liberation Army (PLA) Troops in Yunnan Province. A survey of the local population revealed the "special characteristics of the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in China." These characteristics are as follows:

- AIDS entered China though the Simao Region of Yunnan Province from Southeast China. This occurred between 1985 and 1991. The first case in Yunnan was reported in 1991;

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- Now, the main method of HIV transmission is drug use;
- Prior to 1993, the mode of transmission was through sexual contact, but after 1994 HIV was occurring in intravenous drug users and from mother to child;
- “The rapid rate of the spreading of HIV/AIDS has increased in geometric proportions;”
- “The spread of HIV infection is dominated by irregular sexual behavior (sexual transmission), and the majority has been among youths, juveniles, and unmarried people.” The study identified this region as a “high risk AIDS environment” and forms a “tremendous threat to the troops stationed and living in this region for a long period of time.”

—“China: Study Views HIV/AIDS in Yunnan Province, Impact on Troops,” *Chengdu Xinan Guofang Yiyao* Vol. 10 no. 6 (01 December 2000) pp. 381-382 in FBIS CPP20010405000155.

2 December 2000

The Hong Kong Edition of *China Daily* reported that a serious increase of HIV/AIDS may take place in Shenzhen. According to Donghu Hospital, there are 101 carriers of HIV in Shenzhen; the number of people with AIDS is 12. Some experts estimate that the number of HIV carriers in the city could be as high as 2,000. In contrast to other parts of China, the main mode of HIV transmission in Shenzhen is through sexual contract (60 percent), with the majority of victims being male (70 percent). A doctor at Donghu Hospital stated: “Migrant, low-income, young and less-educated people make up a majority of the cases in Shenzhen.” Transients make up eighty percent of the total HIV carriers in Shenzhen. Occupationally, farmers, unemployed people, business people, and prostitutes make up more than ninety five percent. The majority of them have below a high school education.

—“Experts’ Warn of Possible AIDS Outbreak in Shenzhen,” *China Daily*, 2 December 2000 in FBIS CPP20001202000025.

4 December 2000

Officials from Chongqing reported a rapid increase in the number of people infected with HIV. Since 1993, there have been a total of 48 officially diagnosed cases in the city. In 1999, healthcare officials diagnosed 15 people with HIV. During the first 10 months of 2000, 18 more people were found to be infected with HIV. Of the total 48 carriers, 43 were found to be less than 40 years old, and 36 were males.

—“China: Chongqing Records ‘Rapid Growth’ in the number of People with HIV,” Xinhua, 4 December 2000 in FBIS CPP20001204000092.

5 December 2000

The government of Switzerland provided China with a 40 million yuan (about 4.82 million USD) to set up a comprehensive infectious disease control and medical service system in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The system consists of technology and equipment in the fields of immunization, blood-transfusion, irradiation examination, medical operations, ward facilities and biological testing. The system will help reduce hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS infections through blood transfusions.

—“Medical System for Infection Control Set Up in Xinjiang,” Xinhua, 5 December 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 December 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

5 December 2000

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Regional branch of China's Red Cross began offering courses on safe sex and HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention in the region's universities and colleges. The estimated number of HIV carriers in Guangxi is more than 50,000, most of whom are between the ages of 20 and 40, said Huang Yun, Deputy Director of the branch.

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—"Guangxi Increases AIDS Awareness Among Youngsters," Xinhua, 5 December 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 December 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

8 December 2000

The Chicago-based Female Health Company announced it is working with UNAIDS and the State Family Planning Commission in order to make the Female Condom available in China. "It's a product for people worried about sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS," said Mary Ann Leeper, President of Female Health Company. The female condom is the only women-controlled method of contraception that helps protect against sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and is sold in over 75 countries. The Female Condom is popular with female sex workers because they are most at risk for STDs. "We have gotten a very positive response from sex workers worldwide," Leeper said. UNAIDS studies show when the Female Condom is an available option, there is a significant reduction in STDs, compared when only a male condom is available. The Shanghai Daba Trading Development Co. registered the product in China and has received permission to distribute the product under the name Femidom.

—"China - Female Condoms Debut in China," China Online, 8 December 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 8 December 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

8 December 2000

Asia Week released the United Nations AIDS statistics for Asia. The following are China *estimated* statistics:

China: Needle-sharing causes most new HIV infections, though there is concern about the four million sex workers and an increasing mobile population:

- Infected: 500,000
- No. of orphans: 4,500
- Deaths in 1999: 17,700

—"The AIDS Advance," *Asia Week*, 8 December 2000, p. 40; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 8 December 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

8 December 2000

The *Renmin Ribao* (*People's Daily*) reported, "What we understand about HIV is just the tip of an iceberg." World AIDS Day "is a change to understand some things that have been hidden." The *People's Daily* also mentions the existence of a black market for blood collection and "AIDS villages," especially in Henan province where villagers were paid 5 USD for their blood.

China's response to the HIV epidemic is too slow and lags behind other countries in money spent and mobilizing organizations to fight the spread of the virus. *Southern Weekend* reported it took China twelve years to establish an AIDS Prevention Program. Some 37 countries had an AIDS prevention plan in place within 18 months of discovering their first HIV/AIDS infection. The first AIDS case in China was reported in 1985 and the Ministry of Health (MOH) did not establish the AIDS Prevention and Control Center until July 1998.

—"China's Once Hidden HIV Fears Now out in the Open," China Online, 12 December 2000; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 December 2000, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

2001

January 2001

Of the 18 people arrested during an illegal blood donation raid in Lingqiu County, Shanxi province (North Central China); all 18 were positive for Hepatitis B, 16 were positive for Hepatitis C, 7 for syphilis and 11 for HIV. Of the 64 plasma bags confiscated and tested, all were contaminated with Hepatitis B and HIV.

—Leigh, Jenkins, “Chinese Health Experts Blame ‘Little, Late’ Government Efforts to Fight AIDS,” *South China Morning Post*, 11 August 2001.

1 March 2001

During a joint European-China Training Program on HIV/AIDS and STD, the Health Ministry announced there were 22,517 confirmed cases of HIV/AIDS in China. The total number of STD cases has reached 4 million. “China has so far discovered 880 patients with full-blown AIDS since 1985. Between 1985 and the present, 466 of those patients have died.” The conference acknowledged that current HIV education and awareness programs are currently being carried out in urban areas only, but “efforts must be made to further inform the 900 million farmers and transient laborers in urban and township areas.” A condom promotion plan was also announced.

—“China Health Ministry Officials Express Concern over Rising AIDS Rates,” *China Daily*, 1 March 2001 in FBIS CPP20010301000017.

15 March 2001

During the 4th Session of the Ninth National People’s Congress, 33 deputies proposed an AIDS prevention law. “Before a cure can be found, education and prevention should top the agenda of our efforts to fight the epidemic, and legislation is the best way to institutionalize these efforts,” stated Zhu Mingde, a Shanghai deputy. Zhu added that the proposed law should “include the releasing of information, epidemic control and supervision and coordination of the dissemination of AIDS-prevention knowledge.”

—“NPC Legislators Call For AIDS-Prevention Law,” *China Daily*, 15 March 2001 in FBIS CPP20010315000018.

9 April 2001

With support from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Ford Foundation and the United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, the State Family Planning Commission (SPFC), conducted a survey in December 2000 of 7,000 residents of Beijing, Shanghai, Heilongjiang Province, Henan Province, and others measuring their knowledge of HIV/AIDS. The survey found that 20 percent had never heard of AIDS. Of the people who heard of AIDS, only 22.7 percent knew AIDS is spread by a virus. Only 50.3 percent knew that AIDS was not curable, and 29 percent had worried about being infected. “Over 70 percent never thought about trying to prevent the spread of the disease.” The survey also noted that the Chinese public “fears and detests” HIV and AIDS patients. At the end of 2000, there were 22,517 confirmed HIV patents in China.

—“PRC Survey: Public Knows Little about AIDS,” *Xinhua*, 9 April 2001 in FBIS COO20010109000170.

25 June 2001

At a special UN General Assembly session on HIV/AIDS, Chinese Minister of Health Zhang Wenkang formally proposed a four point proposal for combating HIV/AIDS, “saying that leadership, coordination and resources are closely inter-linked in HIV/AIDS control.” He added that the Chinese government has increased its AIDS funding from 1.7 million USD to 12.4 million USD. Furthermore, “The rapid spreading of HIV/AIDS is attributable to poverty and is, at the same time, a major contributing factor to worse poverty.” The four point proposal proposed:

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- “Laying emphasis on prevention is a strategy of prime importance to the control of HIV/AIDS, particularly by developing countries, whose resources are inadequate. Only by doing a better job perseveringly in prevention can we free the broad mass of people from the threats of HIV/AIDS, minimize the impact of HIV/AIDS on socioeconomic development and protect the interests of communities, families and individuals.”
- “The treatment of HIV/AIDS is a critical issue. However, expensive treatment is beyond the reach of most patients in developing countries. There still are many barriers standing in the way of most patients to get effective and affordable medicines. It is utterly unfair. With the current trend of lowering pharmaceutical prices in the international market, the United Nations is expected to cooperate closely with the rest of international community to promote the solution of treatment of HIV/AIDS patients in developing countries, in order to benefit the vast number of patients.”
- “The international community should adopt both good measures in light of current issues and long-term control and prevention strategies. Vaccination against HIV/AIDS, which is a measure for thorough control of HIV/AIDS and more economical for developing countries, merits adequate attention in a global control strategy.”
- “International cooperation should be further strengthened for the mobilization of resources to render aid and support to developing countries in their efforts to control HIV/AIDS. It is the responsibility of the international community to help developing countries in their control activities. It would be impossible to realize the global control of HIV/AIDS without the improvement of the situation of the worst hit regions as soon as possible.”

—“Health Minister Puts Forth Proposal for Combating AIDS,” Xinhua, 25 June 2001 in FBIS CPP20010625000168.

12 July 2001

Individual AIDS activist and retired gynecologist [Gao Yaojie](#) has been banned from entering the AIDS villages of Henan province. Gao stated, “Village cadres have ordered that I am not allowed to enter their villages to meet AIDS victims. I have not been allowed to contact these patients in person since my last visit to the Henan villages on May 1st. The move by the village cadres is aimed at stopping me from espousing the dark side of their way of handling the AIDS issue. I’ll wait until October 1st National Day holidays when all village cadres disappear for vacations. I’ll go to the villages then.”

Last month Gao was denied leave to visit the US where she was to receive the 20,000 USD Jonathan Mann Award for Health and Human Rights from the Global Health Council.

—“AIDS Crusader Banned from Entering Henan Provincial Villages,” *South China Morning Post*, 12 July 2001.

16 July 2001

Medical researchers have found more than eight different stains of HIV-1 in China. Most available medication for combating HIV is developed for the HIV-1 strains found in North America and Europe.

—Bates Gill and Sarah Palmer, “The Coming AIDS Crisis in China,” *New York Times*, 16 July 2001, p. 15.

2 August 2001

The Ministry of Health announced an updated [ACTON PLAN](#) aimed at keeping HIV infections below 1.5 million by 2010. As of March 2001, there were 23,905 confirmed cases of HIV/AIDS. “According to the new plan, blood for clinical use will have to undergo complete HIV treating. To ensure the safety of the blood, more than 85 percent of blood for clinical use will be provided by non-profit blood centers, and the rest can be supplied by authorized hospitals for their own use.” The plan also calls for the use of the media to promote tolerance and reduce discrimination and fear of HIV/AIDS victims.

—“China Launches New Campaign against HIV, AIDS, STD,” Xinhua, 2 August 2001 in FBIS CPP20010802000163; “China Boost AIDS Funding and Vows to Clean up Blood Supply,” Agence France Presse, 3 August 2001; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 2 August 2001, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

9 August 2002

The *People's Daily* reported that members of the AIDS Prevention and Treatment Working Group, including its head Yin Dakui, traveled to Wenlou village, Shangcai County, Henan Province to witness the effects of the AIDS epidemic and “to express sympathy, to provide solace, and to carry out medical treatment.” The working group has identified illegal blood collection as the main cause of the rural AIDS epidemic in Henan. “According to what is known, a few ‘blood bosses’ and ‘blood bullies,’ driven by economic profit, set up unauthorized clinics in the early 1990s and illegally and clandestinely gathered plasma. A few local businesses and blood banks acted without authorization in Henan to set up clinics that collected plasma. This resulted in the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) being spread widely among the throng who sold blood.”

—“RMRB Says Illegal Blood Trade Contributed to Rural HIV Epidemic,” *Renmin Ribao*, 9 August 2001, pg. 6 in FBIS CPP20010810000054.

11 August 2001

The *South China Morning Post* reported that the Chinese government will spend 950 million yuan (116 million) to create 250 new blood collection and screening centers and will earmark 100 million yuan (12 million USD) per year “towards improved education and treatment.” The plan hopes to reduce China's annual HIV infection rate from 30 to 10 percent. However, public outreach plans intend to target “only 45 percent of the rural villagers, compared to 75 percent of urban residents.” Furthermore, it “does not focus on enhancing condom distribution or giving addicts clean needles.” The Chinese government estimates 71 percent of HIV infections are contracted through the sharing of dirty needles. Gao Yaojie (LINK) recently conducted a vulnerability survey and found that less than 15 percent out of 10,000 people surveyed “know how the disease was spread or how to protect themselves.” Officially, China has 23,905 people infected with HIV and 956 have full-blown AIDS. The Health Minister now estimates that there are 600,000 people infected with HIV/AIDS.

—Leigh, Jenkins, “Chinese Health Experts Blame ‘Little, Late’ Government Efforts to Fight AIDS,” *South China Morning Post*, 11 August 2001.

23 August 2001

Yin Dakui, Vice Minister of Health, reported the current number of confirmed HIV/AIDS cases is 26,058 (1,111 cases of full-blown AIDS), with an estimated number of HIV positive people exceeding 600,000, a 67.4 percent increase in confirmed HIV/AIDS cases. “Since the disease was for the first time discovered in China in 1985, 584 patients have died,” he said. This was the first time Chinese government officials acknowledge that tainted blood and unsafe blood collection has made up a “significant percentage of infections.” The following statistics were also released: average infection rate among drug users, from 0.4 percent in 1995 to 5 percent; infection rate among prostitutes from 0 percent in 1995 to 1.32

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percent (only 9.1 percent were found to be using condoms regularly).

—“China Reports New HIV/AIDS Statistics,” Xinhua, 23 August 2001 in FBIS CPP2001082300001; “China Admits 600,000 Infected with HIV,” Agence France Presse, 23 August 2001 in FBIS CPP20010823000087; “Xinhua: China Reports New HIV/AIDS Statistics,” Xinhua, 23 August 2001 in FBIS CPP20010823000096; Henry Chu, “China Admits AIDS Rising Rapidly; Asia: Many Villagers Contract HIV by Selling Blood. New Cases up 67%,” *Los Angeles Times*, 24 August 2001, p. A1.

23 August 2001

The Agence France Presse (AFP) reported that “China admitted for the first time that tens of thousands of its citizens have been infected with the AIDS virus.” Deputy Health Minister Yin Dakui stated, “A large number of blood sellers have been infected with HIV due to illegal blood plasma.” The “illegal” blood collection stations usually collected and pooled blood from poor farmers, separated the plasma, and then returns the contaminated blood back to the donators. Yin said, that “so far the problem of HIV infection caused by blood donations had only affected several provinces in central China.”

—“PRC Health Ministry Official: China to Act Sternly against Illegal Blood Deals,” Xinhua, 23 August 2001 in FBIS CPP20010823000092; “AFP: China Admits Tens of Thousands Infected with AIDS from Selling Blood,” Agence France Presse, 23 August 2001 in FBIS CPP20010823000067.

31 August 2001

Helene Gayle, director of a HIV center commented on China’s progress on HIV/AIDS. While praising China new openness, she stated that the small “pilot” programs are too small to have any effect on reducing the spread of AIDS in China. Gayle stated, “What is occurring are small pilot activities...that are not large enough to significantly slow the spread of HIV.” She continued that China needs to incorporate these programs into the existing healthcare network on a national level, rather than constructing a new system. She added, “There is a window of opportunity to keep it from becoming a generalized epidemic ... I don’t think it’s a decade. I think we’re talking about a few years.”

—Leslie Chang, “U.S. AIDS Expert has Duel Message for China Officials,” *Wall Street Journal*, 31 August 2001, A5.

5 September 2001

The five countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on reducing HIV vulnerability among the mobile population. “The GMS countries agreed to facilitate access and reduce obstacles to information and services for the mobile population. They also agreed to support and facilitate international and national NGOs, civil society and local authorities to collaborate with their counterparts in neighboring countries.”

—“GMS Nations Sign MOU on Reducing HIV Vulnerability,” Xinhua, 5 September 2001; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 September 2001, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 November 2001

Peter Piot, Director of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) remarked that China has a unique position in the global fight against AIDS “by preventing an HIV epidemic in the world’s most populous nation.” Commenting on China’s five year AIDS action plan Piot stated, “The plan is very good, and I expect it will be implemented. In that way China can contribute enormously to the global battle against AIDS.” He also stressed the need to “break the silence at all levels.” He added, “The media can save more lives than doctors.”

—“Xinhua Cites Remarks of UN Official on China’s Role in Anti-AIDS Battle,” Xinhua, 14 November 2001 in FBIS CPP20011114000141.

23 October 2001

In a recent interview, Zeng Yi, a professor with the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicines and an academian with the Chinese Academy of Sciences reported “the main

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cause of AIDS in China is shifting from drug injection and shared syringes to sexual transmission.” Zeng added that once the sexual transfer of AIDS becomes more prevalent, “it will be more difficult for China to effectively control AIDS.” He also called for a consistent enforcement of regulations to secure a safe blood supply, “revise the current legal stipulations on the ban of prostitution and drugs,” which often stand in opposition to AIDS prevention efforts, and for the government at all levels to become a major financial source of AIDS prevention and advocacy efforts.

—“Expert Says China on Brink of AIDS Pandemic without Effective Control Measures,” *China Daily*, 23 October 2001.

24 October 2001

The *Shanghai Morning Post* reported that The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) will begin testing new recruits during entrance physical examinations. “Observers say the new screening process for recruits reinforces a growing fear among China’s authorities that the country faces an AIDS epidemic.”

—“Chinese Army Testing Recruits for HIV,” *Hong Kong RTHK Radio 3* (Internet Version-WWW) in English, 24 October 2001 in FBIS CPP20011024000126.

26 October 2001

The Chinese Ministry of Health will host China’s first national AIDS conference in Beijing. “The conference will focus on AIDS prevention and treatment policies and strategies, cooperation among government departments, NGOs participation, medical research and disease surveillance,” said Dai Zhicheng, secretary-general of the organizing committee.

—“China to Hold First National HIV/AIDS Conference,” *Xinhua*, 26 October 2001 in FBIS CPP20011026000148.

4 November 2001

China hosted its first international AIDS conference in Beijing, and the Chinese media “has raised its estimates of HIV/AIDS” in China. The *Beijing Morning Post* reported that while official estimates place China’s HIV population at 600,000, “unrevealed” sources have placed the number of HIV positive persons “five to 10 times higher.” China’s Health Minister Zhang Wenkang stated, “Infections in the first half of the year increased 67.4 percent over the same period last year.” China now reports 28,133 officially registered HIV patients.

—“PRC Health Minister Says HIV/AIDS Epidemic ‘Severe and Worsening,’” *South China Morning Post*, 04 November 2001 in FBIS CPP20011114000037.

14 November 2001

Chinese Health Minister Zhang Wenkang confirmed China has 28,133 confirmed HIV patients. “1,208 were AIDS patients and 641 have already died.” The official estimated number of HIV infection cases is approximately 600,000 and increasing at 67.4 percent annually.

—“China Vows to Do More to Control AIDS,” *China Daily*, 14 November 2001 in FBIS CPP20011114000020.

15 November 2001

Corresponding with China’s first National AIDS/Sexually Transmitted Disease Conference held in Beijing, *Xinhua* conducted an interview with Zeng Yi, a member of the Chinese Academy of Science and the Director of China Preventative Diseases HIV/AIDS Foundation. Zeng stated, “The most important thing in China’s efforts today to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS is to carry out ‘broad, in-depth, sustained’ propaganda and education campaign.” He continued that AIDS prevention education programs should not be limited to urban residents, but also increased in the rural areas. *Xinhua* also noted efforts

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to promote condom use, the government's efforts to "strike hard" against prostitution, and the launching of China's first methadone drug abuse clinic in Yunnan, which will allow patients to take methadone orally, reducing the sharing of dirty needles. Finally, Xinhua also highlighted Qingdao Medical University Hospital's Zhang Beichuan's efforts to promote HIV prevention among the Chinese gay community.

—"Xinhua 'News Analysis:' China Squarely Faces Challenge of AIDS," Xinhua, 15 November 2001 in FBIS CPP20011115000159; China launching First Methadone Program in Attempt to Limit Spread of HIV Virus," Xinhua, 16 November 2001 in FBIS CPP2001111600058.

19 November 2001

Hubei Province will launch a pilot program to provide medical insurance for HIV victims. The plan will entitle medical insurance equal to that of general state employees. Furthermore, "education departments in the province will not charge tuition fees to those AIDS patients who have children." The provincial health department also stressed that the privacy of HIV/AIDS patients will be protected by the medical community. "Sources with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security said there are currently no measures at the national level to ensure HIV carriers and AIDS patients enjoy medical insurance."

—"China's Hubei Province to Make Medical Insurance Available for HIV, AIDS Victims," *China Daily*, 19 November 2001 in FBIS CPP20011119000014.

28 November 2001

On December 1st, Chinese Central Television (CCTV) will air China's first television play on the subject of AIDS. December 1st is World AIDS Day. The name of the play is "If I have Tomorrow" and is expected to reach 92 percent of China's television viewing population. "The play explores the theme of AIDS from social, family, ethic and moral perspective, cautioning people to keep away from AIDS and calling for social concern for AIDS patients," said Pan Guiyu, Vice Minister of the State Family Planning Commission (SFPC).

—"First TV Play about AIDS to Debut in China 1 December," *Xinhua*, 28 November 2001 in FBIS CPP20011128000002.

29 November 2001

The *Guangzhou Daily* released the latest statistical data on HIV/AIDS in China. As of 30 September 2001, 28,133 cases were confirmed HIV positive, and 1,208 of those have developed AIDS. The death toll was 641.

AIDS Transmission in China:

- Intravenous drug use 68.7 percent,
- Blood and blood products 7 percent,
- Mother to infant 0.1 percent;
- Sexual transmission: heterosexual 6.7 and homosexual 0.2 percent.

Authorities have noted that HIV transmission through sexual contact is on the rise. In a recent study in Beijing, intravenous drug users (IDUs) accounted for 36.88 percent of HIV cases. HIV infection through sexual contact accounted for 22.94 percent.

—"AIDS Cases in China," Xinhua, 29 November 2001; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 29 November 2001, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 2001

Public health authorities in Jiangsu Province announced that they have confirmed 159 HIV cases. The first HIV case is reported to be in 1991, and first AIDS case in 1999. This is the first public reporting of HIV/AIDS from authorities in Jiangsu.

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—“East China Province Identifies 159 HIV Virus Carriers,” Xinhua, 30 November 2001; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 30 November 2001, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 November 2001

Merck Sharp & Dohme (China) Ltd, based in Shanghai, announced it will lower the factory prices of two AIDS drugs in China. It is estimated that AIDS patients in China have to pay around 100,000 yuan (12,000 USD) annually for protease inhibitor treatments.

—“Merck Cuts Price of AIDS Drugs in China,” Xinhua, 30 November 2001 in FBIS CPP20011130000117.

1 December 2001

China’s news agency Xinhua marked World AIDS Day by characterizing the AIDS situation in China:

- Xinhua noted that “society was more tolerant and compassionate. Health Minister Zhang Wenkang was reported visiting AIDS patients in Beijing, and popular actor Pu Cunxin became China’s first “image ambassador.” Pu is attempting to reduce discrimination against HIV/AIDS victims by stating: “AIDS patients are victims. They need your care and help;”
- AIDS related stories are now published on front pages of major newspapers and state run television is now broadcasting prime-time programs about AIDS. The *China Youth Daily* recently ran a story about the dangers of unclean blood by running a story about an 8 year old girl who needed a blood transfusion. Furthermore, China Central Television (CCTV) recently “devoted its prime time Saturday night to a videotaped show entitled ‘Fluttering Red Ribbon,’ which was staged two weeks ago as a tribute to the country’s first national AIDS conference;”
- Several western pharmaceutical companies have agreed to allow China’s drug administration to sell their AIDS drugs at reduced prices. These companies include Merck, GlaxoSmithKline and Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. BoehringerIngelheim and Abbott Laboratories have entered negotiations with the Chinese government;
- AIDS is now seen as an issue of national security. Yuan Jianhua, a researcher studying the impact of HIV/AIDS on China’s socio-economic development stated, “In fact, the impact of AIDS is no longer supposition but reality in China. Now we have to consider the AIDS issue from the perspective of state security.”

—“China Marks World AIDS Day,” Xinhua, 1 December 2001 in FBIS CPP20011201000089.

3 December 2001

Shanghai Health Officials announced that the city has confirmed 582 HIV cases since its first case in 1987; 98 AIDS patients since 1995, 34 which have died. Shanghai has established an AIDS hotline and the Shanghai Isolation Hospital has begun seeing outpatients.

—“AIDS Prevention Efforts in Shanghai Viewed,” *China Daily*, 3 December 2001.

4 December 2001

Officials in Fujian province announced that 239 have officially tested positive for HIV. This includes 80 AIDS patients, “to date 59 have died.” Some 72.8 percent of infected individuals are between the ages of 20 to 40, and 88.1 percent contracted HIV through unprotected sex.

“People in Fujian who have contracted the HIV virus within China account for more than 50 percent of those infected.” This statement indicated that HIV is spreading from within Fujian and not being introduced from outside the province.

—“China: Fujian Official Vows Province-Wide Education Campaign to Help Battle HIV/AIDS,” *China Daily*, 04 December 2001 in FBIS CPP20011201000011.

10 December 2001

Jiang Chunyun, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National People’s Congress, called for the Chinese government “to severely punish blood-buying companies responsible for many HIV infections.” He went on to say, “Owners of such companies must be brought to court and punished severely.”

—Qin Chuan, “Jiang Chunyun Urges Punishment for Illegal Blood-Buying Companies,” *China Daily*, 10 December 2001 in FBIS CPP20011210000024.

11 December 2001

In late November 2001, there were four separate instances of peasants infected with the HIV/AIDS being detained by local Henan authorities after protesting for improved access to health care.

- Officials from Chenghuan township held three Chinese journalist from Beijing and 11 infected peasants. Up to 50 villagers gathered outside demanding their release.
- In Suixian county, a number of HIV positive villagers traveled to Beijing to present their case. Once arriving in Beijing there were brought to a hospital for testing, and released after the AIDS conference was over.
- In Wenlou, the only village that has been acknowledged by name to have an AIDS problem, eight villagers staged a two day sit-in. They were demanding better medical care. After the sit-in, they were detained and official charged in Shangcai county with "disturbing order of a government office." Three men served 15 day sentences.
- In Dongguan South several attempts by Chinese journalist to interview AIDS villagers were thwarted by local authorities. This led to demonstrations by the villagers. The majority of adults sold blood to blood collectors affiliated with the local hospital and the local disease prevention station from 1994 to 1997. In 1997, the authorities stopped all blood collections. Today, in a village of 600 adults, 200 are showing signs of AIDS, and 14 have died since spring.

Local officials in Henan stated as of early December 2001 there are only 1,495 HIV/AIDS cases in Henan province. "At present the AIDS disease situation in our province remains very low," a provincial health official stated.

—Elisabeth Rosenthal, "Spread of AIDS in Rural China Ignites Protest," *New York Times*, 11 December 2001; available in <http://www.nytimes.com>.

13 December 2001

In order to reduce the dependency on commercial blood donors, the Chinese Health Ministry and Red Cross Society of China have organized to increase voluntary blood donations. Commercial blood donation “not only go against humanitarian principles, but also force hospitals to depend on commercial blood deals, which potential endanger the safety of blood,” said Peng Peiyun, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the

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National People's Congress and President of the Red Cross Society of China

—“PRC Urges More Blood Donations to Reduce HIV/AIDS Risk,” Xinhua, 13 December 2001 in FBIS CPP20011213000113.

2002

4 January 2002

The Henan Health Department reports that 80 percent of the residents of Houyang village are HIV positive. Of the village's 4,000 residents between the ages of 16 and 55, 90 percent have participated in illegal blood donations. More than 400 villagers have developed full-blown AIDS, and 150 have died of HIV/AIDS between November 2000 and November last year. The Henan Health Department further shows that “40 out of every 10,000 residents are testing HIV positive.” Therefore, it is estimated 370,000 people in Henan Province (pop. 92.65 million) are carrying HIV. Before this report, there had only been 1,495 cases of AIDS officially recorded in Henan.

—“Workers Daily Says 80 Percent of Henan Village Ravaged by HIV,” *South China Morning Post*, 04 January 2002 in FBIS CPP20020105000021.

1 February 2002

A video featuring more than 20 HIV positive villagers from Henan Province was delivered to the United Nations, the Chinese Health Ministry, and the media. While most media reports place the blame of Henan's HIV epidemic on illegal blood collection, the tape reveals the villagers possessing official blood donation passbooks provided by the Health Department.

—“HIV Scandal Villagers Produce Video Plea to Health Ministry, UN,” *South China Morning Post*, 01 February 2002 in FBIS CPP20020201000062.

26 March 2002

Eight HIV positive villagers from Wenlou, Henan gathered outside government offices in Shangcai County demanding medicine. One of the Wenlou villagers stated, “We need effective medicine. The medicine they give us is useless. We don't plan to go home soon. Going home means dying.” This is the largest AIDS-related protest to date.

—“AIDS Patients Protest Outside Henan Government Office Demanding Medicine,” Agence France Presse, 26 March 2002 in FBIS CPP20020326000132.

28 March 2002

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer announced Australia will provide 15 million USD to “help fight the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Xinjiang Uyghur area of northwest China. The project will include work with local governments and community groups to improve the care of those living with HIV and AIDS, and promoting awareness of the disease and the training of health workers.”

—“Australia to Provide AIDS funding for China's Xinjiang,” *Melbourne Radio Australia*, 28 March 2002 in FBIS SEP20020328000081.

11 April 2002

The Chinese Ministry of Health (MOH) announced the estimated number of people living with HIV is 850,000. From 1985 to the end of 2001, the total confirmed number of HIV patients was 30,736, “among whom 1,594 people were fully-developed AIDS patients, and 684 of them had died.” It was reported that 60 percent of confirmed HIV patients were infected from the sharing of needles, 11.2 percent through illegal blood donations, and 7.2 percent through unsafe sex (21.6 percent unknown). The 20 and 29 age group makes up 53.8 percent of the total HIV population, while the 30 and 39 age group is the second largest group. Men makes up more than 80 percent of infected patients.

—“Chinese Ministry of Health: HIV Carriers Total 850,000,” Xinhua, 11 April 2002 in FBIS CPP20020415000195; Zhang Feng, “HIV/AIDS Cases Increase 58%,” *China Daily*, 12 April 2002.

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17 April 2002

The Yunnan Red Cross AIDS Prevention and Education Office, an AIDS counseling center targeting migrant workers and intravenous drug users, opened in Kunming. The center is supported and provides training by the Hong Kong and Macau Salvation Army. Furthermore, AusAID and the Australian Salvation Army will provide 220,000 USD in funding the first year. Yunnan Province has the largest HIV population in China.

—Raymond Li, "Counseling Center for AIDS Blackspot," *South China Morning Post*, 17 April 2002.

19 April 2002

The Agence France Presse (AFP) reported that China is considering lowering tariffs on AIDS drugs sold by major pharmaceutical companies in order to reduce the cost of treatment. "We are talking to relevant departments about exempting tariffs... We have not reached a decision yet, but... every department's response is positive," said Shen Jie, director of the National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control. China's import tariff is 26 percent compared to 15 percent in other countries. In addition, Merck and GlaxSmithKline have agreed to reduce the cost of their medications. Shen stated that the cost of AIDS treatment in China is 20,000 yuan (2,409 USD) to 30,000 yuan annually.

—"China Considering Exempting Import Duties for AIDS Drugs," Agence France Presse, 19 April 2002 in FBIS CPP2002041900062.

13 May 2002

The Jinyue Campus of Northeast China Teachers' University hosted "a large-scale public propaganda campaign aimed at preventing AIDS in Jilin Province." The campaign was organized under the "joint auspices" of the Publicity Department of the Jilin CPC Committee, the provincial Public Health Department, the provincial Education Department, and the provincial Committee of the Communist Youth League. The goal of the campaign was to "prevent AIDS," and "show less indifference but more love to AIDS patients." Since the first Jilin AIDS case was diagnosed in 1993, 155 people in Jilin Province have been infected and 15 have died.

—"China's Jilin Province Holds AIDS-Prevention Campaign," *Changchun Jilin Ribao*, 13 May 2001, pg. 1 in FBIS CPP20020531000086.

27 May 2002

Zhang Fujie, Director of the Treatment and Care Department of the National Center for AIDS/STD Prevention and Control under the Chinese Center for Disease Prevention and Control, said the central government is preparing a "national comprehensive care strategy" to help alleviate the suffering of AIDS patients. "Comprehensive care" is a term used by the World Health Organization (WHO) meaning to provide the best possible humane medical care and economic support. A pilot comprehensive care center will soon be established in Yunnan province, and if successful, a nationwide system will follow. Medical costs for AIDS patients run between 2,000 yuan (240 USD) to 3,000 yuan (360 USD) per month. Chinese health insurance companies do not cover HIV/AIDS.

—"Chin to Provide 'Comprehensive Care' to AIDS Patients," *China Daily*, 27 May 2002 in FBIS CPP20020527000022.

27 May 2002

The Chinese Center for Disease Control (China CDC) announced a Care and Treatment Department was created under the China CDC in January 2002. The department was established "in order to train medical staff and conduct pilot projects focusing on providing 'comprehensive' treatment and care to HIV/AIDS patients in a sampling of urban and rural communities." "The rights of HIV/AIDS patients and their widows and children will be

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protected," stated Xu Lianzhi, a professor at Beijing You'an Hospital.

—"China Escalates Fight against AIDS," *China Daily*, 27 May 2002.

27 June 2002

The United Nations (UN) issued a report called "[HIV/AIDS: China's Titanic Peril](#)" which criticizes Chinese officials on the "insufficient political commitment," "scarcity effective policies," and the lack of treatment for people who have HIV/AIDS. It also stated that the estimated number of HIV carriers could be as high at 1.5 million people, and could hit 10 million by 2010 unless the Chinese government takes serious steps to increase prevention and awareness. The report praised China on holding its first international AIDS conference last year, and increasing its cooperation with successful projects funded mostly by foreign non-governmental organizations. It also noted that [China's five year action plan against HIV/AIDS](#) "fell far short of the United Nations goals for combating the worldwide spread of the epidemic." The report said, "The Chinese five year plan continues to present HIV/AIDS as a medical problem, and fails to understand the epidemic as a broader development issue."

—Elisabeth Rosenthal, "UN Publicly Chastises China for Inaction on HIV Epidemic," *New York Times*, 28 June 2002, in <http://www.nytimes.com>.

28 June 2002

The United States Institute of Health (NIH) has awarded China a five year 14.8 million USD grant to expand AIDS research in increasing China's blood supply and improve HIV testing. Tommy Thompson, US Health Secretary and China's Health Minister also signed an agreement to "promote US/Chinese cooperation in researching ways to prevent and treat the AIDS virus." [[Press Release](#)] Also, part of the money will go to studying HIV's spread and prevention programs in Yunnan and Shanxi provinces.

—"US Awards China \$14M to Fight AIDS," Associated Press, 28 June 2003 in <http://news.yahoo.com>.

28 June 2002

Chinese Health Officials reject the United Nation's (UN) report, "[HIV/AIDS: China's Titanic Peril](#)" saying it does nothing to help China with its AIDS crisis. "I think the information they have is not sufficient and cannot be fully trusted," said a division chief of disease control for the Ministry of Health (MOH). Wang Liji, Division Chief of International Cooperation stated, "The situation of AIDS control in China should be analyzed and understood from different angles. Unfortunately, the UN officials saw this issue only from their own angle." Siri Tellier, Chairwoman for the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in China, who wrote the report, said it is not supposed to be read as a criticism of the Chinese government's handling of the AIDS crisis. She said, "It would be a complete mistake to think that this report is saying that China has not done a lot to slow this terrible disease. Its done a great deal. But it's not enough." Tellier continued, "The Ministry of Health cannot bear the burden. Our main message is that others - including the UN, the public, the media - have to do more."

—Audura Ang, "China Officials Reject AIDS Report," Associated Press, 28 June 2002 in <http://news.yahoo.com>.

3 July 2002

The AIDS Action Project, Aizhi Xingdong, was ordered to shut its office and leave from its host institution, a private university. Wan Yanhai, director of the NGO said the project was probably shut down because of its criticisms of the central government's slow response to the AIDS crisis in China. Also, Wan said, "I think the reason is because they are uncomfortable with the UN report (28 June 2002)." Wan founded the group nine years ago

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after being let go by the Health Ministry. A Health Ministry spokesperson said he was unaware of the AIDS Action Project, but "the law requires all organization to be registered." To register a NGO in China required a 100,000 yuan (12,000 USD) registration fee.

—Cindy Sui, "Chinese NGO That Probed Village AIDS Deaths Evicted," Agence France Presse, 3 July 2002 in FBIS CPP20020703000064.

6 July 2002

A 1.4 million USD HIV/AIDS prevention research project sponsored by the United States was launched in Urumqi, Xinjiang Autonomous Region. The project will involve 500 HIV negative intravenous drug users taking medicine as a preventive measure. The project will also take place in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The first case of HIV in Xinjiang was discovered in 1995.

—"China Launches US-Sponsored Anti-HIV Program in Xinjiang Province," Xinhua, 6 July 2002 in FBIS CPP20020706000013.

9 July 2002

At the 14th International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain, China reported the results of its State Family Planning Commission's December 2000 survey of HIV/AIDS awareness. The survey interviewed 7,000 people between the ages of 15 and 50 in seven counties. The survey showed that one in six never heard of the disease. "About 90 percent said they knew AIDS could be transmitted from person to person, but 85 percent were unaware it could be passed from mother to child; 81 percent didn't know it could be acquired by sharing needles; and 52 percent didn't know it could be transmitted by unsafe blood transfusions. Slightly over 75 percent were unaware that proper use of condoms could prevent infection." The survey also showed that only 8 percent of people use condoms as a form of birth control. The most common method is sterilization.

—David Brown, "Survey Finds China's AIDS Awareness is Lacking," *Washington Post*, 9 July 2002, pg. A2; in <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

12 July 2002

Xu Hua, Secretary General of the China Foundation for Venereal Disease and AIDS Prevention reported that China's AIDS exhibit at the 14th Annual International AIDS Conference in Barcelona has attracted numerous visitors and "aroused much interest." Xu believes so many people are interested in China's exhibit because of China's large population of 1.2 billion people. A slight rise in China's AIDS rate means a "drastic rise in the number of HIV carriers." He said, "So to speak, China's success or failure in AIDS control has a direct effect on the world's anti-AIDS effort."

—"PRC AIDS Official on Barcelona Conference, Progress of Disease in China," Xinhua, 12 July 2002 in FBIS CPP20020712000157.

15 July 2002

China's Xinhua news agency reported that students from China's medical school will soon go to rural areas to promote AIDS awareness and prevention among the peasant population. Xiao Donglou, an official with the Ministry of Health (MOH) said, "Dominant number of HIV carriers and AIDS patients live in the rural areas. But their knowledge about AIDS prevention and relevant laws are very insufficient." The students plan to give lectures, show videos, and hand out informational pamphlets. Also, they will hold class anywhere: "countryside fairs, transportation stations, or docks."

—"Chinese Medical Students to Teach Farmers about AIDS," Xinhua, 15 July 2002 in FBIS CPP20020715000091.

24 July 2002

In an editorial in Beijing's *People's Daily*, it was reported that the number of AIDS victims in China has risen 30 to 40 percent annually since 1985. Currently, it is estimated that China has

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850,000 HIV cases. The hardest hit areas are Beijing, Anhui, Yunnan, Xinjiang, Guangxi, Guangdong, Henan, Sichuan and Shandong. In the western area, the sharing of tainted needles is to blame for the spread of HIV. In the central area, illegal blood collection is the main reason. The author cited Shanghai as an example of uncontrolled HIV infection rates. The number of AIDS victims has risen 45.16 percent since last year; 528 HIV carriers have been verified, while 34 have died. Unprotected sex is seen as the main avenue for the spread of HIV in Shanghai. "Statistics show 80 percent of females and 20 percent of males are infected by their spouse, and 67 percent of married and 45 percent of single males, by prostitutes and sex partners. The author warns if measures are not taken by all levels of Chinese society, the number of HIV cases will hit 10 million, causing 7.7 trillion USD in economic losses.

—Yang Ruoqian, "Curbing AIDS Proliferation, No Time for China to Delay Any Longer," *Renmin Ribao (People's Daily)*, Beijing, 24 July 2002 in FBIS CPP2002724000119.

25 July 2002

Since May 2001, the Guangxi Red Cross and the University of Melbourne, Australia have been working together to promote peer education in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The program has been training students from Guangxi Medical School to teach teenagers and farmers about sex education and how to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS. They use several methods, such as playing games, telling stories, watching slides shows and taking quizzes to teach their students about AIDS. "Our program is to let young people spread the message of how to protect themselves from the HIV virus and how to prevent it spreading among themselves," explained Long Junsheng, Secretary-General of the Guangxi branch of the Red Cross Society of China. So far 2,400 teenage students have taken part in the program. In a recent survey of area high school students, 80 percent said they are confident in their knowledge about AIDS, compared to two percent before the program. "The topic of sex was taboo in our hometown. We knew little about HIV, except that it killed. The peer-group education expanded my horizon and I think it is my duty to tell others what I now know," said a 22 year old farmer from Leiping. In Guangxi, there are 3,745 carriers of HIV with 30 cases of full-blown AIDS. Sixty percent are below age 30. Nationwide, China reports 30,736 confirmed cases of HIV, of these 1,594 have full-blown AIDS. To date 684 people have died. It is estimated China has 850,000 HIV carriers.

—"Peer-Group Education Helps Spread AIDS Prevention Information in China's Guangxi," Xinhua, 25 July 2002 in FBIS CPP20020725000028.

1 August 2002

The Shenzhen Biotech firm Piji Bioengineering Company, claims to have manufactured the "fastest and most cost effective AIDS detection in the world." Already approved by China's State Drug Administration in Beijing, and being used in two Shenzhen hospitals, this new test can give results in three hours. "Unlike most tests that rely on measuring white blood cells and the presence of antibodies produced by the body to fight HIV, Piji's method directly tests for the virus." A spokesperson for Piji commented: "We believe that our testing method will have huge implications for both China and for other developing nations such as those in Africa and Southeast Asia struggling to afford the cost of realizing how serious their AIDS epidemics actually are."

—"Bio-Tech Firm Develops High Speed AIDS Test," Agence France Presse, 01 August 2002 in FBIS CPP20020801000112; Leigh Jenkins, "New AIDS Test has Global Benefits," *South China Morning Post*, 1 August 2002.

16 August 2002

Gou Xilian, a public relations officer from Northeast Pharmaceutical Group, announced a

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Chinese-produced versions of AZT (zidovudine) would be available for use in Chinese hospitals next month. "We are trying our best to get things ready as soon as possible," he said. "It will quite possible be available to patients in special AIDS hospitals this September." Northeast Pharmaceutical Group received authorization from the State Drug Administration last week, and has begun marketing the anti-AIDS drug. AZT is one of three anti-AIDS medicines used in the anti-AIDS "cocktail." The company stated manufacturing AZT in 2000, but until now has only been exporting the medication. To date, China has 28,133 confirmed HIV cases, of which 1,208 had AIDS, and 641 have died.

—Tang Min, "Chinese-Made AZT Could Be Available Next Month," *China Daily*, 16 August 2002; available in <http://www.chinadaily.com>; Zhang Jianping, "China's Domestically Developed and Produced Anti-AIDS Drug Approved for Sale," *Xinhua*, 9 August 2002.

17 August 2002

During the first seven months of 2002, the Guangzhou Municipal Public Health Bureau reported more than 300 new AIDS patients and HIV carriers have been identified in Guangzhou, the capital city of Guangdong Province. This represents a 100 percent increase from the previous year. It was also reported the majority of Guangzhou's AIDS patients are men and drug addicts, however some contracted HIV through casual sex or blood transfusions. By the end of 2001, 80 AIDS patients and 520 HIV carriers (total 600) were identified in Guangzhou. Guangzhou's first AIDS patient was identified in 1986.

A local official stated Guangzhou will increase its annual AIDS prevention expenditure to 8.3 million yuan (1 million USD). This includes 1.3 million yuan (156,000 USD) to promote AIDS prevention, and 7 million yuan (843,300 USD) to import and upgrade Guangzhou's current AIDS testing and treatment facilities.

—Zheng Caixiong, "More HIV/AIDS Cases Reported," *China Daily*, 17 August 2002.

18 August 2002

The municipal leaders of Mpumalanga, South Africa have contacted Chinese Professor Zheng Wenyu of Hunan Province to conduct human drug trials "using a series of as yet unregistered Chinese herbal tonics and medicines." The *Johannesburg City Press* reported that the district council has "also neglected to get approval from either the provincial or national health authorities and has made no attempt to check the credibility of the Chinese researchers." Zheng Wenyu has been described as the owner of China's largest chain of private hospitals and has established up to 124 alternative health clinics across China and Thailand.

—Steven Ntuli and Justin Arenstein, "Drug Trials Spark a Row," *Johannesburg City Press*, 18 August 2002, p. 4.

25 August 2002

The *New York Times* reported on the probable explosion of AIDS orphans in China's Henan Province. In the Donghu village, Xincui county, there are nearly 20 orphans; until this year there were none. The number is expected to rise because an estimated 200 of the village's 600 families have one parent dead and the other too sick and weak to work. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) estimated there are 270,000 people living below the poverty line in Xincui county, up from 40,000. The AIDS crisis in Henan is so devastating because the majority of the adult population, both male and female, in the villages were infected around the same time period. Also, the problem is exacerbated because of China's family planning policy, there is usually no older sibling to act as a surrogate parent. Many of the healthy children have dropped out of school to take care of ill parents, or have been forced to leave because one of their parents has AIDS.

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—Elisabeth Rosenthal, "AIDS Scourge in Rural China Leaves Villages of Orphans," *New York Times*, 25 August 2002 in New York Times Online, 25 August 2002; <http://www.nytimes.com>.

28 August 2002

Shanghai city officials reported the official number of residents with AIDS is 532. However, estimates have the real number at more than 2,500 infected people. "Statistics show that 70 percent of China's one million AIDS patients get the terminal disease through drug abuse, and the rest are infected through sex. But in Shanghai it is the other way round with 65 percent becoming victims through sexual transmission." Official statistics show 70 percent of male Shanghai HIV carriers were infected from prostitutes or women other than their wives. Eighty percent of female victims were infected by their husbands. From 2000 to the end of 2001, Shanghai's HIV rate rose to 45 percent.

—"HIV/AIDS Increasing in Shanghai Due to Prostitution, Drug Abuse," *China Daily*, 28 August 2002.

28 August 2002

Some 300 medium-level officials from around China attended a recent AIDS symposium sponsored by the Party School of the Chinese Communist Party. Of these officials, 31.2 percent thought it was necessary to restrict promotion of infected individuals, and 19.2 percent thought it was "right" for health officials to refuse treatment to AIDS patients. Some 6.4 percent thought that a school had the right to exclude children from the classroom whose parents are AIDS patients.

—Pan Haixia, "Bia Hindering Fight Against Scourge," *China Daily*, 28 August 2002; available in <http://www.chinadaily.com>.

28 August 2002

A joint project sponsored by the China Youth Development Foundation, *China Youth Daily* and Guilin Latex Company launched a 1 million yuan (120,000 USD) project aimed at increasing HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention among China's youth. Chinese medical experts believe nearly half of new HIV carriers are in the age group 15 - 24 years-old.

—"AIDS Fund Set Up for Youngsters in China," Xinhua, 29 August 2003.

30 August 2002

Wan Yanhai the founder of AIDS Action Project disappeared and was last seen on 24 August 2002 at film festival at a Beijing gay bar named On/Off. Wan was expected to fly to Montreal on 13 September 2002 to receive an award for his work on AIDS in China from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. "The Shanghai-trained doctor has not made political statements. Instead, he has highlighted areas where officials are showing their ignorance of HIV/AIDS."

—Robert J. Saiget, "Rights Groups Worried at Disappearance of China AIDS Activist Wan Yanhai," Agence France Presse, 30 August 2002 in FBIS CPP20020830000023; "Editorial: Ignoring Realities," *South China Morning Post* (Hong Kong), 7 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020907000019.

1 September 2002

Chen Gang, Chairman of the Northeast China Pharmaceuticals Group Company, announced the first China-made AIDS drug has gone on sale in tablet and capsule. The drug, Kedu, is the legal imitation of AZT. The patent protection period for AZT in China expired at the end of 2001. He hopes the availability of Kedu will bring down the annual cost of AIDS medication per person to below 10,000 yuan (1,204 USD) annually. Currently, the monthly cost of AIDS cocktail therapy in China is between 2,500 yuan (301 USD) to 3,000 yuan (361 USD) per month.

—"China-Produced AIDS Drug Kedu Enters Market 1 September," Xinhua, 2 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020902000023.

5 September 2002

Chinese AIDS activist, Wan Yanhai, has been detained for "suspicion of leaking state secrets."

—"Press Rights Groups Says China AIDS Activist Wan Yanhai in Detention," Agence France Presse, 5 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020905000183.

5 September 2002

Deputy Director of the Ministry of Health's Department of Disease Control, Chen Xianyi, announced that the Chinese government is increasing its anti-AIDS budget from 15 million yuan (1.8 million USD) to 100 million yuan (12 million USD). He said the increase in the budget is for the central government to "strengthen the monitoring and testing of people that are highly vulnerable to HIV infection, enhance publicity to the general public and strengthen AIDS education, and enhance efforts in enacting laws relating to the prevention of AIDS and venereal disease." At end of 2001, China has 30,736 confirmed cases of HIV cases, which is a 36.5 percent increase from 2000. But, Chen admitted, "the actual situation is much worse."

—Wen Chihua, "Chinese Government Increase Anti-AIDS Budget," Xinhua, 5 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020905000142.

6 September 2002

The *Guangzhou Evening News* reported that people in Guangdong will be allowed to take anonymous HIV testing. Guangdong has the fourth largest HIV population in China after Yunnan province, Xinjiang Autonomous Regions and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

—"China Daily Cites Daily Paper: Guangdong Allows Anonymous AIDS Tests," *China Daily* (Hong Kong Edition) 6 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020906000037.

6 September 2002

Qi Xiaoqiu, Head of the Department of Disease Control of the Ministry of Health (MOH) told a press conference, "It is estimated that the total HIV positive population (in China) stood at about one million." This is up from the official number of 850,000 at the end of 2001. He continued, "It's very difficult to get the exact number, but we can tell you that AIDS is at a very dangerous stage in China and on the verge of becoming an epidemic. If the AIDS epidemic is not dealt with efficiently, by the year 2010 there is the likelihood of more than 10 million HIV or AIDS patients in China. Currently China has 30,000 reported HIV cases, and 1,900 reported cases of full-blown AIDS. The estimated number of full-blown AIDS is 200,000 people.

—"China Has Around One Million HIV Positive People," Agence France Presse, 6 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020906000023; "Further on China's One Million HIV Positive People; AIDS Near 'Epidemic,'" Agence France Presse, 6 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020906000073.

13 September 2002

A four year regional AIDS control program covering Vietnam, Myanmar and China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Yunnan province was launched in Kunming, Yunnan. The project is funded with a 9.05 million Australian dollar grant from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and 210,000 Australian dollars (116,00 USD) from the Chinese government. The project "aims to control AIDS in the four areas through promoting technical exchanges, training and other measures."

—"Asia Regional AIDS Control Program Launched in Yunnan Province," Xinhua, 13 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020913000141.

13 September 2002

China announced that the Health Education Institute of China Disease Prevention and

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Control Center and the Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS Prevention and Control Center will sponsor a national campaign and contest for posters promoting AIDS education and prevention. The posters are required to "feature themes related to prevention" of AIDS, such as fighting discrimination and caring for victims of HIV/AIDS.

—"AIDS Awareness Campaign Soliciting Posters," Xinhua, 13 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020913000116.

21 September 2002

Chinese AIDS activist, Wan Yanhai, was released by Chinese authorities. Upon his release, Xinhua reported Wan as "admonished" and released after "confessing to his crimes and agreeing to cooperate with police in the investigation." The report continued, "Wan had delivered some illegally-acquired interior classified documents of relevant state departments to overseas individuals, media sources and websites on 17 August 2002." After his release Wan said, "We will continue to fight. All I can hope for is that the government will have a better understanding of our cause."

—"Wan Yanhai Released after Confessing to Leaking State Secrets," Xinhua, 20 September 2002 in FBIS CPP200209200000089; Robert Saiget, "Freed Chinese AIDS Activist Not Sure if 'Ordeal in Over,'" Agence France Presse, 21 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020921000004.

23 September 2002

Ten hospitals contacted by the *South China Morning Post*, the Beijing Medical Association, and the Shanghai Medical Association all confirm that they are requiring patients to sign waivers before undergoing surgery. Hospitals say they have patients sign the waivers to protect themselves against malpractice claims resulting from tainted blood. Zhu Youghui, a Beijing Jingdu Legal Service lawyer said, "These are clearly one-sided agreements instigated by hospitals who don't understand they can still be sued for providing tainted blood, or who want to make patients believe why have no right to sue if something goes wrong." Hospitals began requiring waivers after the Provision of Handling Medicals Accidents legislation came into effect this month. A spokesperson from the Ministry of Health (MOH) commented, "It's fine with us that the hospitals are requiring patients to sign the waivers because we are 100 percent sure that our blood supply is safe." Graham Smith, of Hong Kong-based AIDS Concern questioned the accountability of China's blood supply. He said, "The key issue is who is responsible for the cleanliness of the nation's blood supply? We want a situation where hospitals are obligated to check their blood supplies, because the AIDS crisis won't be solved under a cloak of darkness."

—Leigh Jenkins, "Hospitals Try To Dodge HIV-Blood Cases," *South China Morning Post*, 23 September 2002.

23 September 2002

The European Future Group and Horizon Research surveyed 6,835 adults in selected cities and towns across China and found less than 30 percent of the respondents know how to protect themselves from AIDS. The survey respondents were a random sampling of adults with various educational backgrounds, ranging from illiterate to post graduates. The survey showed that in the big cities, 93 percent and 82 percent in smaller cities, and towns have heard of AIDS. However, they do not understand how to protect themselves from AIDS. When asked if the use of condoms could protect them against AIDS, 31.5 percent of city residents and 23.5 of town residents said "yes." The research also revealed that condom use was seen more as a contraceptive, and people "pay little attention to the use of condoms as protection against HIV infection." "The reason for the lack of knowledge concerning AIDS transmission and protection is the lack of media propaganda and a fear of AIDS," said Cheng Feng, Project Manager of the China-UK HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project. Further results showed that 41 percent of city residents and 31 percent of town residents

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think AIDS patients should be treated equally. Moreover, 68 percent of city residents and 63 percent of town residents said they would take care of a relative who was infected with AIDS. The study also showed that people would take care of a family member if HIV was contracted through a blood transfusion, but if it was contracted sexually, "the relative would feel angry and insulted."

—Zhang Feng, "Survey Finds AIDS Awareness Still Low," *China Daily*, 23 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020923000015.

23 September 2002

Wan Yanhai reported that he is in the process of trying to register his Beijing AIDS Action Health Education Institute as a non-governmental organization with the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Beijing's Dongcheng District. Wan said an "administrative oversight" is delaying the application. "It's a small technical problem. They told us we had to find another administrator. Once the dossier is complete, either today or tomorrow, we have to wait for two weeks for authorization," said Wan.

—"Freed China AIDS Activist Seeks to Register Education Group as NGO," Agence France Presse, 23 September 2002 in FBIS CPP20020923000061.

24 September 2002

The China Internet Information Center (CIIC) released an article on what China should do to fight AIDS. The report said that China has 30,736 registered HIV carriers as of 2001. To date, the Chinese government has increased its annual AIDS prevention budget to 100 million yuan (about 12 million USD), and issued 1.25 billion yuan (151 million USD) in treasury bonds to construct and restore 459 blood banks, "but these measures may still not be enough to satisfy the needs of the country." The report suggested that more surveillance stations be built, and funding increased to improve blood screening stations to prevent the transmission of HIV through blood transfusions and the use of blood based medicines. Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Long Yongtu said, "AIDS is not only a health problem, but also an issue that seriously affects economic, social and cultural development, and therefore demands the highest level of attention from all sectors in society." The report also calls on the central government to launch a mass educational campaign to increase the public's awareness of HIV/AIDS. The report ended with a quote on the effectiveness of education in the fight against AIDS. It wrote, Siri Tellier, Deputy Head of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) said, "Promoting public awareness of the disease through AIDS information campaigns is an effective and efficient way to prevent and control the spread of the virus."

—Feng Yikin, "How Will China Fight HIV/AIDS?" *China Internet Information Network*, 24 September 2002 in China Internet Information Center Online, 24 September 2002, <http://www.china.org.cn>.

8 October 2002

China's first non-profit AIDS center in southwest China opened in Kunming, Yunnan. The center named, "Homeaids," provides AIDS patients and the general population with consultancy services, spread information on prevention and treatment of AIDS, and coordinates government, medical and AIDS agencies. Homeaids is jointly run by the Yunnan Red Cross and the Honk Kong and Macao Salvation Army. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) provided 300,000 yuan (36,000 USD) for start up costs. <http://www.homeaids.org>

"AIDS Center Opens in Yunnan Province," *Xinhua*, 8 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021008000137.

12 October 2002

The Chinese State Drug Administration (SDA) has given approval to the Shanghai based

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Desano Biopharmaceutical Co. Ltd. to manufacture the AIDS drugs didanosine (DDL) and stavudine (D4T), both were originally manufactured by Bristol-Myers Squibb. Desano has also submitted an application to produce zidovudine (AZT) and nevirapine (NVP). The Northeast China Pharmaceutical Group Company has granted the first SDA approval to produce AZT in August. As many as a dozen other pharmaceutical companies have filed applications to produce AZT, D4T and NVP. Desano's Chairman Li Jinliang said, "With four drugs available, we can provide two drug combinations at an approximate price of approximately 3,000 yuan (360 USD) per person per year, about one tenth of the cost of imported drug cocktails." When asked if there was any infringement of intellectual property rights, Zhang Junjie, a Desano manager said there was none.

—"Domestic Version of AIDS Treatment Soon Available," Xinhua, 12 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021012000061.

14 October 2002

While speaking at a ceremony where he was receiving an honorary doctorate at Zhejiang University, United Nations General Secretary Kofi Annan said China "stands on the brink of an explosive AIDS epidemic." "There is no time to lose if China is to prevent a massive further spread of HIV/AIDS. China is facing a decisive moment," Annan said. He added that dealing with AIDS takes "leadership at every level," and "it requires breaking the silence and stigma at every level," he said. AIDS is not only a health problem, but a problem relating to development and security. The Ministry of Health said the annual HIV infection rate has dropped to 16.7 percent in the first half of 2002 compared to the same last year. [[Full Text of Speech](#)]

—"China Needs Leadership to Stop 'Explosive' AIDS Epidemic," Agence France Presse, 14 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021014000038; "Kofi Annan Says UN Willing to Join China in Fighting AIDS," Xinhua, 15 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021015000168.

15 October 2002

Yu Guangzhou announced that the central government will invest 800 million yuan (93.4 million USD) to strengthen local healthcare facilities in China's 12 western provinces and regions. Yu said the overall goal is to improve the capacity of disease prevention and control institutions at all levels within the next 5 to 10 years. Xinhua reported, "The project will establish or improve disease control centers at provincial level in western China to strengthen their ability to counter potential epidemics, deal with public health problems and provide treatment for chronic diseases." Also, facilities that provide vaccinations and inoculation services will also benefit from the central government's investment. The western regions of China have the highest rates of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

—"PRC to Invest \$93 Million to Improve healthcare in Western Regions," Xinhua, 15 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021016000020.

16 October 2002

Chinese Health Minister Zhang Wenkang announced that China has an estimated one million HIV infections as of the end of June. He said the first half of 2002 saw a 16.7 percent increase in HIV carriers. From 2000 to 2001 the HIV infection rate was 58 percent, and currently there are an estimated 100,000 AIDS patients in China. Sixty-eight percent of all HIV/AIDS cases are related to unclean needles, while infection from tainted blood accounts for 11.2 percent of the total. Unprotected sex accounts for 7.2 percent, and 13.4 percent do not know the source of infection.

Zhang Wenkang also stated some of the steps China is taking to fight HIV/AIDS. He said the Ministry of Health (MOH) has created a pilot program to provide "comprehensive care

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and treatment" for HIV/AIDS victims in 100 key areas where AIDS is spreading the most. The MOH is planning to establish a "scientific and modern forecast system" to increase the monitoring of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2001, the central government increased its HIV/AIDS prevention and control budget from 15 million yuan (1.8 million USD) to 100 million yuan (12 million USD). Furthermore, China has invested 2.2 billion yuan (271 million USD) to improve the country's blood supply. China has also streamlined the manufacture of domestic HIV/AIDS medicines, and lowered tariffs on imported medicines.

—Zhang Feng, "Nation Vows to Contain AIDS," *China Daily*, 16 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021016000053.

16 October 2002

In reference to Suzhou's Measures to Control and Prevent AIDS and VD resolution to protect the rights of AIDS patients and their families, Zhao Ning, a disease control division director at the Ministry of Health (MOH) said the first draft of a national resolution was outlined about six months ago, however the final draft still has to be submitted to the State Council and the National People's Congress (NPC) for final approval.

—Zhang Feng, "New Rules to Control Disease," *China Daily*, 16 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021016000065.

18 October 2002

Asian parliamentarians meet in Beijing to vow "to act more effectively to ensure that governments give due attention to population and development programs. During the conference, the General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) declared all government to "continue to formulate and improve laws and regulations on population control, environmental protection, resource management and disaster prevention and reduction." The delegates also agreed that HIV/AIDS is a common problem among Asian all countries and it can hinder sustainable development.

[[Full Text: Beijing Declaration 2002](#)]

—"Asian Parliamentarians Vow to Pursue Sustainable Development," Xinhua, 18 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021018000124.

18 October 2002

Chinese AIDS activist Wan Yanhai was able to register Beijing AIDS Action Health Education Institute as a legal non-governmental organization last week.

—Cindy Sui, "Freed Chinese AIDS Campaigner Succeeds In Registering Action Group in PRC," Agence France Presse, 18 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021018000009.

21 October 2002

The Sino-British cooperative AIDS prevention, monitoring and education program that began in 2000 is seen as a great success and has been implemented throughout Sichuan and southwest China. The program was initiated when the British government gave China 15.3 million British pounds (about 9.7 million USD) over a 5-year period to fund the project. Zhang Jianxin, a professor with Sichuan University and a Chinese expert with the program said, "International cooperation has provided not only funds, but also modern ideas and methods which have helped Chinese people to open their minds to new concepts." He continued, "Chinese people have come to realize that AIDS victims should not be blamed in terms or morality. It represents a breakthrough in AIDS education." Not long ago, the Chinese categorized AIDS victims into several groups: Those who were infected by tainted blood received sympathy; those who contracted HIV as a result of sexual behavior, homosexuality, or intravenous drug use were blamed for their behavior. Statistics show that China now has engaged in nearly 100 AIDS related programs in cooperation with over 30 international organizations, countries, and regions.

—"Success of Sino-British Program to Prevent AIDS in Sichuan Viewed," Xinhua, 21 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021021000025.

21 October 2002

The Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS), the New York-based Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center and the Yunnan Provincial Center for Disease Prevention and Control launched a three-year clinical HIV/AIDS treatment study. The largest AIDS treatment program in China will consist of 300 patients "being treated with triple combination antiretroviral therapy (cocktail therapy). "What is needed most (by HIV patients in China) is treatment. This would be viewed as the first step," said Dr. David Ho of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center. The patients will take GlaxoSmithKline's Trizivir, a drug approved by both the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and China's State Drug Administration (SDA). Trizivir combines three medications (zidovudine, lamivudine and abacavir) into one pill. Chinese participants will only have to pay for the examination fee, the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center and GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceutical Company will pay for the cost of the treatment.

—"Chinese, US Scientists Launch AIDS Treatments Study in South China," Xinhua, 21 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021021000148; "Largest AIDS Treatment Program in China Described," *South China Morning Post*, 22 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021022000103; Qin Chuan, "Program Helps AIDS Patients," *China Daily*, 22 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021022000046.

22 October 2002

Norwegian Health Minister Dagfinn Hoeybraaten said Norway will spend 12 million kroner (about 1.58 million USD) on a health partnership with China. Half of the money will go to projects dealing with HIV/AIDS in China. He said, "As part of the international community, Norway has as responsibility for helping to fight this epidemic.

—"Norwegian-Chinese Health Partnership Announced," Oslo NKR, 22 October 2002 in FBIS EUP20021022000487.

25 October 2002

The city of Suzhou in Jiangsu province introduced the Measures to Control and Prevent AIDS and VD in the area. The local regulation is the first of its kind in China. It stipulates "the rights and duties of HIV/AIDS patients and their families. According to the Measures to Control and Prevent AIDS and VD, AIDS victims and their families have equal rights to education, employment and privacy.

Article 23 of the Measures stipulates: "HIV/AIDS victims and their family members should not be discriminated against, and will have the same rights to education, employment, healthcare and to participate in social activities. The rights of sufferers' children to education and employment shall also not be compromised. The name, address, and private information of sufferers and their families shall not be published or broadcast. Social institutions will be requested to show due care and concern to these people, and provide medical aid as necessary."

At the same time, the regulation also requires the duties of HIV/AIDS victims to society. Patients must follow the advice of their doctors and obey the instructions of the Disease Control Department. In addition, the regulation stipulates that people shall receive HIV tests as part of their health examinations before marriage and during pregnancy. This is also the first time such mandates have been introduced in China.

—"Chin's Suzhou 1st to Clarify AIDS Patient's Rights," China Internet Information Center (CIIC), 25 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021025000083.

28 October 2002

The Ministry of Health (MOH) sent a AIDS taskforce to Henan province to supervise AIDS control programs and distribute medication. The *South China Morning Post* reported, "The

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team, which arrived last month, will remain in the province to monitor the situation until improvements have been made."

—Fong Tak-ho, "Taskforce Supervises AIDS Relief Efforts," *South China Morning Post*, 28 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021028000091.

29 October 2002

Li Heng of *People's Daily* wrote an article describing the steps China's population needs to take in order to stop the spread of AIDS. [\[Full Text\]](#)

—Li Heng, "Facing AIDS, Silence is Death," *Renmin Ribao* (Online), 29 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021029000084.

30 October 2002

China's State Council passed a resolution on improving healthcare in rural areas. The resolution calls for "90 percent of children in rural areas (to be) inoculated against common epidemic diseases by 2010." Also, 95 percent of rural counties will be required to implement "modern measures" against tuberculosis by 2010. By the 2010 target date, 75 percent of townships "will offer HIV carriers and AIDS patients appropriate healthcare, and 95 percent of counties should have delimited iodine deficiency." These targets were presented at the National Conference on Public Health Work in Rural Areas in Beijing. In a letter to the conference, Chinese President Jiang Zemin said healthcare is directly related to the prosperity of rural areas and to China's economic and social goals.

—"healthcare Resolution to Inoculate 90 Percent of Rural Children," *China Daily*, 30 October 2002 in FBIS CPP20021030000026.

1 November 2002

During speech at the Sino-US Conference on Research and Training in AIDS-related Areas, Chinese Minister of Health Zhang Wenkang said cooperation between the United States and China not only benefits the Chinese people but also the global fight against AIDS. "China is at a critical time in HIV/AIDS control since the disease is spreading very rapidly from those with high-risk behaviors to the common people," Zhang said. Zhang also called on increased training of health workers in China. He said, "We are especially in urgent need of professionals involved with disease control." Both the China Health Minister and US Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt Jr. promised to increase their cooperation in the fight against AIDS in China.

—"China, US to Collaborate in Anti-AIDS Fight," Xinhua, 1 November 2002 in FBIS CPP20021101000175; Zhang Feng, "Minster: Nation Need Immediate HIV/AIDS Action," *China Daily*, 2 November 2002 in FBIS CPP20021104000036.

3 November 2002

The governments of Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam signed a joint declaration on the cooperation of growth and prosperity in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). In the declaration, they agreed that HIV/AIDS would destroy the sub region's "most important development resource" - people. It stated: "We will take joint action to address other areas in developing human potential, including the protection from trafficking of women and children, and combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and illegal drug production and trade." [\[Full Text\]](#)

—"Joint Declaration of Greater Mekong Subregion Summit in Phnom Penh," Cambodia -Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

21 November 2002

Officials in Guangdong province authorized the sale of clean needles at designated drug stores to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS reported the *Information Times*. In Guangdong province up to 80 percent off all HIV/AIDS cases are linked to intravenous drug use. Also, surveys showed up to 53 percent of drug users share needles.

—"AIDS-wary South China Provides Clean Needles for Drug Addicts," Agence France Presse, 21 November 2002.

21 November 2002

According to *Worker's Daily*, the city of Chongqing has begun to distribute condom at hotels and public place in order to promote safe sex among the city's high risk groups. The majority of AIDS victims in Chongqing are drug users, but 23 percent have contracted the virus though sex, an increase from 10 percent. "Educated people and professionals also began to comprise a larger number of cases," the report said. Initially, the city tried to get models to hand out condoms and promote awareness, but many refused. The city finally decided on vending machines, but many have been vandalized by local residents. Many residents believe the availability of condoms will promote sexual behavior.

—"Chongqing to Hand Out Free Condoms," *Agence France Presse*, 21 November 2002 in FBIS CPP20021121000135.

22 November 2002

The GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceutical Company announced it will localize production of the AIDS "cocktail" drug - Combivir - in Tianjin beginning by the end of 2004. Combivir is the foundation of the AIDS medication therapy called "cocktail treatment." Also, GlaxoSmithKline will introduce the product Trizivir into China next month. Trizivir is a AIDS drug that combines zidovudine, lamivudine and abacavir and will be available in China starting next month. The State Drug Administration confirmed that GlaxoSmithKline has submitted an application for the localization of Combivir manufacturing in Tianjin. This is the first instance of a foreign pharmaceutical manufacturer to localize production of an AIDS drug said Sun Jianping, Deputy Director of the National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention. By locating the production of AIDS drugs in China, GlaxoSmithKline hopes to drastically reduce the cost.

—"Chinese AIDS, HIV Patients Promised Greater Access to Drugs," *China Daily*, 22 November 2002 in FBIS CPP20021123000004.

26 November 2002

According to the *Wuhan Post*, China's central Hubei province is expecting an "explosion" of HIV cases within the next two years. Similar to farmers of Henan's "AIDS Villages," many of Hubei's farmers also sold blood to blood collectors during the early 1990s. Provincial leaders now say that Hubei has entered the "peak period" of HIV carriers getting full-blown AIDS. To date, Hubei has reported 674 HIV cases with 167 of them developing full-blown AIDS, and 74 have died. (Hubei is located on Henan's southern border.)

—"China's Hubei Province Expects Explosion of AIDS Cases from Blood Sales," *Agence France Presse*, 26 November 2002 in FBIS CPP20021126000102.

26 November 2002

The United Nations released its annual report on the AIDS epidemic and warned, "The window of opportunity for bringing the HIV/AIDS epidemic under control is narrowing rapidly in Asia." The report says the number of HIV/AIDS cases in Asia will double in five years. Currently Asia has approximately 7.2 million HIV carriers, "almost one million" more from the previous year, and about 2.1 million of them are aged between 15-24 the report said.

In China the report said the number of HIV cases in China could hit 10 million by 2010. The report showed that "serious localized HIV epidemics" are occurring among China's intravenous drug user population. Also, it said, "There are also signs of heterosexually transmitted HIV epidemics spreading in at least three provinces (Yunnan, Guangxi and Guangdong) where HIV prevalence in 2000 was as high as 11 percent among [street prostitutes.]" Finally, the report warned of China's HIV population, which was infected

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through blood transfusions, transmitting HIV through sexual intercourse. A recent survey of blood donors in rural eastern China discovered that 1 in 8 carried the AIDS virus. [[Full Text UN Report](#)]

—"UN Agency Warns India, China on Brink of AIDS Epidemics," Agency France Presse, 26 November 2002 in FBIS EUP20021126000257.

27 November 2002

Shanghai has approved the sale of three AIDS drugs that are used in "cocktails" for treating AIDS patients. The availability of domestically produced didanosine, stavudine, and nevirapine will reduce the price to a tenth of imported equivalents. Furthermore, Shanghai will soon approve another AIDS drug called zidovudine, which is also used in AIDS "cocktails." The four AIDS drugs can be used to form two groups of "cocktail treatments."

—"China to Localize Production of AIDS Drugs," Xinhua, 27 November 2003 in FBIS CPP20021127000131.

30 November 2002

The *South China Morning Post* reported the number of registered drug users in China has risen from 70,000 in 1990 to more than 900,000 in 2001. Among half of these, 450,000 use intravenous drugs, of which 225,000 share needles. Wu Zunyou, a research scientist at the National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control said access to clean needles and methadone would aid in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Officially, China had 30,736 registered HIV/AIDS patients in 2001, of which 68 percent contracted HIV through needle sharing, 9.7 percent from tainted blood donations, and 7.2 percent from unsafe sex. Recently, Guangdong relaxed a local regulation and is allowing some drug stores to sell clean needles. In the past only officially licensed medical equipment stores were allowed to sell needles.

Wu said migrant workers also need to be targeted for increased HIV/AIDS education as a high risk group. "The tricky nature of AIDS makes control difficult. People infected with HIV have no symptoms for 8 to 10 years and can continue work but spread the virus to others," he said.

—Ella Lee, "SCMP Says Needle Sharing Main Cause of Rising HIV Rates on Mainland," *South China Morning Post*, 30 November 2002 in FBIS CPP20021130000024.

30 November 2002

The *Beijing Youth Daily* reported that the number of "AIDS orphans" in China could reach 260,000 by 2010 (based on China's HIV cases reaching 10 million by 2010) if efforts are not immediately taken. Recent statistics showed of 143 HIV carriers in China, nearly 17 percent had children under 5 years old.

—Robert J. Saiget, "China Established Self-Help Group Ahead of Worlds AIDS Day," Agency France Presse, 30 November 2002 in FBIS CPP20021130000031.

30 November 2002

China News Service announced the founding of China's first officially recognized HIV/AIDS self-help group. Called the "Mangrove Forest," its main office is located at Beijing's Zuoan Hospital. The four organizers of the group, all HIV positive, plan to build a nationwide network of HIV/AIDS self-help groups with funding from the United Nations and other sources.

—Robert J. Saiget, "China Established Self-Help Group Ahead of Worlds AIDS Day," Agency France Presse, 30 November 2002 in FBIS CPP20021130000031.

30 November 2002

A 12-part television series, that uses documentary films, and computer animation to increase

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the public awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention, how to use a condom to prevent infections, and "appropriate attitudes to show towards people suffering from HIV/AIDS" debuted in a village on the outskirts to Beijing. Ma Xiaowei, Vice Minister of Health, said the TV series is part of a nation wide education campaign corresponding with World AIDS Day. The series was developed with the guidance from the National AIDS Center under the Chinese Center for disease Prevention and Control. Zhang Guiyun, a 60 year old resident from the village that viewed the first episode said she thought *Ai Zi Bing* was a foreigner problem. She said, "China's already got one million people infected with the disease? I'd heard about it before. But I thought it was a foreigners' problem and had nothing to do with us Chinese." The TV series will be aired on two state-run national broadcasters, China Central Television (CCTV) and China Education Television (CETV), as well as around 1,000 local TV stations. The program is being target at China's vast rural population and is expected to reach 600 million viewers.

—"China Publicizes HIV/AIDS Information with Televised Educational Programs," *Xinhua*, 30 November 2002 in FBIS CPP2002113000069.

1 December 2002

A study by Chinese and international researchers showed that by 2010 China could have up to 12 million HIV carriers. But if broad based measures are established, the total can be kept to around 1.2 million. Yuan Jianhua, the team leader and researcher at the Beijing Institute of Information and Control said, "We still have the chance to prevent a large-scale epidemic of HIV/AIDS at present. But it may be the last chance." The study warned that the consequences could be devastating to individuals, families, local communities, health departments, and even the macro-economy.

The report estimated if China has 12 million HIV carriers, it would have 2.15 million AIDS patients and 260,000 AIDS orphans by 2010, "with total medical expenses from HIV/AIDS rocketing to 6 billion yuan (725 million USD), from 215 million yuan (26 million USD) in 2001." China's gross-domestic product (GDP) would be reduced by 40 billion yuan (4.8 billion USD) in 10 years because of the impact AIDS has on the young work force. Current studies found most people living with AIDS have lost their jobs and live on a reduced income.

The researchers propose several strategies to China's policy-makers to decrease China's HIV/AIDS infection rate:

- invest between 720 million yuan and 1.44 billion yuan for full-scale intervention work
- target high-risk groups by promoting condoms and clean needles as a way of reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS
- establish a support system for HIV/AIDS patients that include subsidies for medical care, such as medical exams and AIDS drugs
- increase education and awareness programs among China's 210 million young people.

—"12 Million Chinese HIV Carriers by 2010 Unless Government Takes Control Measures," *Xinhua*, 1 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021201000074.

1 December 2002

At a World AIDS Day event, Rodney Hatfield, Regional Director of United Nations

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Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned that AIDS could hinder China's rapid economic growth. "At the moment we know the epidemic is still growing very quickly and it will continue. The biggest thing is for everyone to accept this is a major problem that can actually, eventually, if not handled properly, interrupt China's economic growth."

—"UN Officials Warn China AIDS Epidemic Could Jeopardize Economic Growth," Agence France Presse, 1 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021201000026.

1 December 2002

To mark World AIDS Day, 450 university students attended a lecture in the Great Hall of the People on how ignorance can cause HIV to spread. Besides government experts, the students also heard from two AIDS sufferers, Xiao Wei and Lao Ji of Shaanxi province. Both were infected through blood transfusions. "I really hope all the government departments will give us support and care and help us to buy medicine to continue living," said one of the HIV speakers. Xiao Wei said, "HIV/AIDS patients look forward to a life just like everyone else. We want to love and be loved." Their testimonies kicked off a month-long national campaign in line with the United Nation's theme - "Live and let Live." Also, China's first AIDS modern play opened in Beijing called "Waking up." The play is about a undergraduate university student who is infected with the AIDS virus.

—"UN Officials Warn China AIDS Epidemic Could Jeopardize Economic Growth," Agence France Presse, 1 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021201000026; "Nation Marks World AIDS Day," *China Daily*, 2 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021202000014.

1 December 2002

Xia Guomei, a Chinese consultant with the United Nations (UN) program on AIDS in Beijing warns that the lack patient privacy rights is contributing to the rapid spread of AIDS in China. "Rampant discrimination, which inhibits people from voluntarily seeking advice and the testing of possible HIV carriers, is a major reason for the rapidly increasing spread of AIDS in China." He continued, "we must change our traditional ideas, which link AIDS with morality and property. Only when the whole of society respects the rights of HIV carriers and AIDS patients can China slow down the rapid spread of AIDS." According to the five-year action plan on the control of HIV/AIDS adopted in 2001, AIDS patients should be able to apply for medical insurance, but rarely do AIDS patients come forward to claim the insurance benefits for fear of public discrimination. It stipulates that "seeking medical advice anonymously should be promoted all over the country" and "HIV carriers and AIDS patients should be treated sympathetically." Many experts believe that a system of patient privacy is essential for effective AIDS prevention.

—"Right to Privacy Key Factor in AIDS Prevention," Xinhua, 1 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021201000072.

2 December 2002

Xiong Xianjun, Chief of the Medical Insurance Division of China's Ministry of Labor and Social Security, said that China's basic medical insurance covers HIV/AIDS patients. "The medical insurance services are not classified into disease categories. Actually, all diseases, including AIDS, are included in the medical insurance system. Therefore, we haven't highlighted AIDS in any particular way," said Xiong. However, he noted that AIDS drugs, such as "cocktail therapy" drugs are not covered by the medical insurance system.

—"PRC Official Says China's Basic Medical Insurance Covers AIDS Patients," Xinhua, 2 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021202000031.

2 December 2002

A unnamed official with the State Administration of Industry and Commerce said that public advertisements of condoms would begin early next year. An Bohua, Manager of the State Family Commission's Medical Equipments Development Center said, "The ban should

have been lifted a long time ago because condoms are the most effective tools for not only avoiding pregnancy but also protecting people and their partners from sexually transmitted diseases." Last June, the National People's Congress (NPC) called on the central administration to lift the ban on public advertisements of condoms. The ban was put in place in 1989 by the State administration, "under which the media were banned from advertising any products related to sexual activity," reported *China Daily*.

—Zhang Feng, "Ban on Condom Ads Set to Go," *China Daily*, 2 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021202000020.

3 December 2002

Xinhua reported since the first AIDS case was reported in Yunnan province in 1989, the Yunnan provincial authorities have invested more than 100 million yuan (12 million USD) into HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs in more than 20 cities and counties. This includes assistance funds from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Joint United Nations Program on AIDS (UNAIDS), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and non-governmental organizations from Australia, Britain and other countries. To date, Yunnan has established a provincial venereal disease prevention and treatment center, 36 preliminary test labs, 49 AIDS monitoring stations and 29 venereal disease monitoring stations. In 1989, Yunnan officials reported 149 HIV carriers. In 1999, the number HIV carriers accounted for 43.6 percent of the national total. In September of last year, Yunnan had 70,000 estimated cases of HIV infections, with 11,957 registered cases of HIV, which represents 32 percent of the national total.

—"Yunnan Province Intensifies Anti-AIDS Drive," Xinhua, 3 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021203000101.

8 December 2002

The parents of a 10 year-old-boy are suing three hospitals and four blood supply facilities in Jiangsu province and the city of Shanghai for one million yuan (120,000 USD). The suit alleges the boy was infected with the AIDS virus through a blood transfusion while in the hospital. The boy tested positive for HIV last year and died in January.

—"Parents of 10 year old AIDS Victim Sue China Hospitals," Agence France Presse, 8 December 2002.

16 December 2002

China attended the [5th Asian-pacific Population Conference \(APPC\) in Bangkok, Thailand](#). The conference discussed emerging regional issues such as population, growth, migration, urbanization, women and healthcare, high infant mortality rates and the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS.

Also at the APPC, China signed separate bilateral agreements with Thailand and Indonesia. Xinhua reported the agreements "focus on the same terms, including enhancing bilateral exchange of related government offices and experience, organizing joint training courses for related officials and experts, conducting joint research and marketing campaigns for reproductive healthcare products and enhancing cooperation in addressing HIV/AIDS."

—"PRC Signs Population Agreements with Thailand, Indonesia," Xinhua, 16 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021216000102; "Asia-Pacific Nations Discuss Poverty, Population Issues," Xinhua, 16 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021216000082.

16 December 2002

During a televised address to the 16th National People's Congress (NPC) Li Lanqing, Vice-Premier and Director of the Central Committee for the Patriotic Public Health Campaign called on governments at all levels to improve public health. Xinhua reported he listed the following duties:

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- "Prevent and cure fatal diseases and control epidemic situations resulting from grave natural disasters."
- "Improve the public health environment by readjusting the patriotic public health campaign system. Let grassroots public health play an active role."
- "Introduce high technology into the public health campaigns."

He also suggested the prevention of HIV/AIDS in China could be increased by taking "comprehensive measures, including HIV prevention education, strengthening blood transfusion managements and interrupting the principle channels of infection."

—"CPC Official Calls for Attention to Public Health," *Xinhua*, 16 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021216000168.

17 December 2002

Wu Zunyou, a professor at the Beijing-based National Center for the Prevention and Control of AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases warned the incidences of HIV being transmitted by sexual intercourse will increase unless "effective preventive measures" are introduced immediately. According to a survey by Horizon & Horizonkey, only 60 percent of 800 prostitutes from Yunnan and Sichuan provinces use condoms with all their clients. About 17 percent said they insisted on using a condom when they had sex with their boyfriend or non-commercial sex partner. Of these women, fewer than 10 percent said they used condoms with their clients. The survey also polled 800 men aged between 25 and 45 who frequented prostitutes. About 40 percent said they had sex without using a condom. According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), there are estimated to be one million HIV carriers in China, of which about 10 percent are infected through sexual intercourse. The percentage of female HIV/AIDS victims has risen from 9 percent in the early 1990s to 25 percent last year.

—Zhang Feng, "AIDS Peril Spreads as Safe Sex is Shunned," *China Daily* (Internet), 17 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021217000018.

20 December 2002

China Daily reported that Konrapo, "a colorless, flavorless and transparent liquid gel developed by a Hong Kong company," which can prevent pregnancy and also "kill the HIV virus and other pathogens of sexually transmitted diseases is now available in China. The gel has been approved by the Institute of Virology under the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine and the Institute of Dermatological Diseases under the Chinese Academy of Medicine. "During sex, Konrapo can protect both the man and woman from HIV infection and can be controlled by the woman."

—Zong He, "Contraceptive Gel Arrives on Market," *China Daily*, 20 December 2002 in FBIS CPP20021220000028.

26 December 2002

Zhang Wenkang announced that the State Council has approved an additional 22 million yuan (about 2.7 million USD) per year in the 2002-04 period for medical treatment of AIDS patients in the "seriously-stricken areas." He said that AIDS victims will soon have access to Chinese made AIDS drugs beginning next year. Zhang acknowledged that 23 Chinese provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions were affected by illegal blood plasma collection in the 1990s. "In some villages, 10 to 20 percent and even as high as 60 percent of plasma sellers have been infected by the AIDS virus because of unhygienic practices during collections," *Xinhua* reported. According to Zhang, China invested 2.25 billion yuan (272 million USD) last year to establish or upgrade 459 blood banks and collection centers in southern and western China. He said China's rural healthcare system is in need of

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reform. "The gap between the urban and rural residents in terms of healthcare is widening," said Zhang

—"China Reports Increased Help to 'AIDS-Stricken' Areas," Xinhua, 26 December 2003 in FBIS CPP20021226000127.

2003

13 January 2003

It is reported that last month, Chinese Health Minister Zhang Wenkang acknowledged that the spread of HIV through illegal blood collected in the 1990s affected 23 Chinese provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

—"China's Full-Blown AIDS to Double to 200,000 in Five Years: Report," Agence France Presse, 13 January 2003; in Lexis-Nexus Academic Universe, 13 January 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 January 2003

President and CEO of US-based Project Hope, Dr. John Howe announced it "will continue to assist China in providing HIV/AIDS training for medical professionals." Howe said ten HIV/AIDS training centers will be established across China. Based on the principle "To teach people to teach others, to help people to help themselves," Project Hope trained 450 medical personnel in central China's Hubei province last June and September.

—"US Non-profit to Continue HIV/AIDS Education Project in China," Xinhua, 14 January 2003 in FBIS CPP20030114000188.

14 January 2003

The Xinhua News Agency profiled Shenyang's first HIV carrier. Known as "Mr. Shen," he first learned of having HIV when he returned from working abroad in 1993. Shen said since then he has been able to live a normal life because of the love and care from his family, friends, and doctors. He said, "My thanks should first go to my wife." Doctors from Shenyang's AIDS/HIV Control Center contact him often to follow his progress, and Professor Shang Hong, from the HIV/AIDS research cell at China Medical University provides him free medicine. "When Shen started a new job, his first day was touching. Several colleagues began to argue upon learning that he was an HIV carrier. At lunch time, one of them approached him with a bowl of soup, proposing that they share it."

—"Xinhua Feature: Shenyang's First Victim of HIV Enjoys Love," Xinhua, 14 January 2003 in FBIS CPP20030114000007.

15 January 2003

Official statistics show HIV cases in Shanghai increased from 166 in late 2000 to 685 by the end of 2002. Pan Xiaozhang, an AIDS expert at Hua Shan Hospital in Shanghai believes the actual number is closer to 3,000. He notes that "many of them are migrant workers that stream in and out of Shanghai from rural hometowns throughout the country, an ideal conduit for further infection." Pan says Shanghai is unprepared to deal with an increase in HIV and AIDS cases. Although Shanghai currently has over 400 hospitals, 75 of them state-owned, only two -- Hospital for Infectious Diseases and Hua Shan Hospital -- have been designated by city officials to treat HIV/AIDS cases. However, only the Hospital for Infectious Diseases has an AIDS ward containing 50 beds.

—Benjamin Morgan, "China Hospitals Turn Away AIDS Patients in Need of Care," Agence France Presse, 15 January 2003 in FBIS CPP20030115000027.

19 January 2003

A group of 43 hemophiliacs from Shanghai accused the state-owned Shanghai Biological Products Institute of infecting them with HIV by breaking the 1988 regulation entitled "Regulations on the Monitoring and Management of AIDS." The law states, "...enterprises, civil institutes and non-governmental organizations should co-operate with the sanitary

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administrative organs to take measure to stop the spread of AIDS." It also says, "All blood and blood products should be screened for AIDS." A spokesman from the company claims it produced the factor drugs for hemophiliacs with the approval of the Shanghai city government. Furthermore, it said the 1988 regulation was aimed at disease prevention centers, not at enterprises like the Shanghai Biological Products Institute. Wang Panshi, Director of the Division of Health Inspection at the Shanghai Municipal Health Bureau said, "There is no direct relation between the fact that hemophilia patients were contaminated with AIDS and the fact that the patients have ever used a medicine product by the company. If I went out and got a cold, who will shoulder the responsibility for my cold? For the government, it is more important to solve the current problems." The Shanghai City government has offered to provide HIV-infected hemophiliacs an antiretroviral medication free of cost.

—Benjamin Morgan, "Shanghai HIV/AIDS Victims Accuse PRC Government of Negligence," Agence France Presse, 19 January 2003 in FBIS CPP20030119000015.

23 January 2003

Officials from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimated the number of AIDS sufferers, currently estimated to be at 100,000, will double in the next five years. Qi Xiaqiu, a Health Ministry official in charge of disease control said, "The number of AIDS patients and deaths from AIDS is now rising rapidly." Official statistics estimate China having one million people infected with HIV, and the World Health Organization puts the number closer to 1.5 million. Xinhua reported that up to 80 percent of AIDS sufferers will not receive treatment because of limited health resources in the rural areas.

Qi announced the government "was exploring channels to improve patient care" in the rural areas. Such channels include "allocating special subsidies form the central budget, training medical staff and seeking international support." Last month the central government allocated 44 million yuan (5.4 million USD) over two years to treat AIDS patients in seriously affected areas of China. Also, the "Health Ministry has established 100 county level treatment areas in pilot project at offering comprehensive treatment to patients."

—"China's Full-Blown AIDS to Double to 200,000 in Five Years: Report," Agence France Presse, 13 January 2003; in Lexis-Nexus Academic Universe, 13 January 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "PRC Health Official Says AIDS-Related Infections, Deaths 'Rising Rapidly,'" Xinhua, 13 January 2003 in FBIS CPP20030113000133.

23 January 2003

Addressing the opening session of a national health conference, Chinese Health Minister Zhang Wenkang said the healthcare system in China will "have to handle new opportunities and challenges as it undergoes reform and development of building a well-off society in a all-around way." Zhang focused his comments on providing better quality of medical care for China's rural population. "China's more than 800 million rural residents make up about 70 percent of the total population, but only use about 30 percent of the country's medical resources." China's total healthcare expenditure in 2000 represented only 5.3 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). This is 0.3 percent higher than the minimum level recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). This year the Ministry of Health is starting a pilot program called "co-operative medical service" which is "expected to extricate rural residents from their present dilemma of often being dragged into great poverty by disease." The central government will put 10 yuan (1.20 USD) every year into the medical account for each rural resident in China's central and western region this beginning year. This fund will act as a type of social insurance that can cover partial medical cost. The

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system is expected to be in place throughout China by the year 2010.

—"PRC Health Minister: Care System to Face Chances, Challenges," *China Daily*, 23 January 2003 in FBIS CPP20030122000262.

27 January 2003

Citing data from the State Family Planning Commission, the *China Youth Daily* reported the sales of condoms in China are 2 billion a year. With a male population of 650 million, that works out to each male buying an average of three condoms a year. Furthermore, the paper said that "between 30 and 44 percent of all condoms on sale in China fail to meet industry standards." China is estimated to have between 1 million and 1.5 million HIV victims.

—"PRC Condom Use, Quality Remains Low as AIDS Threat Lingers," Agence France Presse, 27 January 2003 in FBIS CPP20030127000039.

28 January 2003

Shanghai Desano Bio-pharmaceutical Company Ltd. spokesperson Tian Hongya announced China's first batch of domestically manufactured AIDS medication has been shipped to central China. The drugs, Didanosine (DDI) and Stavudine (D4T) are used in cocktail therapies to treat HIV patients. According to Tian, the first batch, purchased by the State Economic and Trade Commission, can supply 3,000 AIDS patients for one year. The central government has also ordered further production for one year's supply for 2,000 AIDS patients. Zhang Junjie, Director of the AIDS drug project, said cocktail therapy using domestically made AIDS drugs cost around 5,000 yuan (602 USD) per patient a year, whereas foreign imported drugs will cost 100,000 yuan (12,000 USD) per patient a year.

—"Shanghai Firm Produces AIDS 'Cocktail Therapies' for Domestic Use," *China Daily*, 28 January 2003 in FBIS CPP20030128000043.

16 February 2003

During a meeting with Chinese Vice-Minister of Health Wang Delong, Tanzanian Health Minister Anna M. Abdallah "expressed hope to further cooperate with China in traditional Chinese medicine, especially in seeking ways to treat HIV/AIDS." She said, "Experts from the two countries should work together to find a way to cure HIV/AIDS." Hundreds of Tanzanian doctors have been trained in China and now form the "backbone of many Tanzanian hospitals." Currently, there are 17 Tanzanian doctors studying in China.

—"Tanzania Seeks Further Cooperation with China in Combating HIV/AIDS," Xinhua, 16 February 2003 in FBIS CPP20030216000043.

19 February 2003

The non-governmental China AIDS Network based in Beijing Union Medical College and Infoxchange, a non-profit Australian organization, launched the China AIDS Network Information Support Project website (<http://china.hivaidinfo.net>). Zhang Konglai, a professor with the Beijing Union Medical College, said "the website offered a sound platform for experts from home and abroad to exchange information and work together." The site includes news and events, on-line publications, research projects and links to other websites and organizations.

—"China, Australia Launch First HIV/AIDS Website," Xinhua, 19 February 2003 in FBIS CPP20030219000185.

21 February 2003

China's State Drug Administration approved the production of a new domestically made HIV/AIDS test which will give results in 30 minutes. According to scientists from Xiamen University and Beijing Wantai Biological Enterprise, which jointly developed the test, "the new product can give a result within 30 minutes while requiring no additional facilities, compared with conventional testing methods that take at least two weeks." The product is a card-like device "with the reagent that tells whether a person is HIV positive by showing

purplish lines when touched with drops of sample blood. A single line on the card indicated HIV negative, while two lines means that the person is HIV positive." The new product is on par with Western products, but less expensive. The test was designed for emergency tests in hospitals, blood donation centers in rural areas, and could conceivably be used by individuals. The Ministry of Health has reported 9,824 confirmed HIV positive people as of last year, with an estimated 1 million to 1.5 million HIV infections.

—"China Approves Production of HIV Testing Reagent," *Asia Pulse*, 24 February 2003, in Lexis-Nexus Academic Universe, 24 February 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Approves Production of Simpler HIV Test," Xinhua 21 February 2003 in FBIS CPP20030221000119.

21 February 2003

China's Ministry of Health said that incidents of reported infectious diseases last year were 5.74 percent lower than in 2001. Officials attribute this decline to "increased spending and enhanced measures" taken to lower cases of infectious diseases. In 2002, central government invested 800 million yuan (96 million USD) in health units based in western China, which is where most of China's infectious disease cases are reported. The Ministry of Health also reported a decreased rate of HIV infections in 2002. Last year, there were 9,824 confirmed cases of HIV, 19.5 percent more than 2001. This is lower than the 58 percent increase between 2000 and 2001. HIV/AIDS was responsible for 363 deaths last year. The central government has increased its HIV/AIDS prevention budget in 2001 from 15 million yuan (1.8 million USD) to 100 million yuan (12 million USD). Beginning in 2002, the Ministry of Health established "demonstration areas with counties as units for the comprehensive prevention and treatment of AIDS, with health education, behavioral intervention, medical treatment, counseling and care as content, in the key infected areas." The first 51 areas have been identified, and will increase to 100 counties within two years.

In 2002, the top eight infectious diseases (number of cases) were: viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, diarrhea, gonorrhea, measles, typhoid fever, epidemic hemorrhage and scarlatina. Illnesses transmitted through blood and sexual contact, including HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and syphilis, outpaced those transmitted through intestinal and respiratory tracts and insects. No cases of polio were reported.

—"Disease Control Advances," *Financial Times* (London), 22 February 2003; in Lexis-Nexus Academic Universe, 22 February 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Zhu Yu, "AIDS Epidemic Still on a Rising Trend in China Despite Decline in Growth Rate," Xinhua, 21 February 2003 in FBIS CPP20030221000110.

21 February 2003

The *Beijing Youth Daily* reported that the Beijing municipal government has put forward a three year plan aimed at keeping the number of HIV infected residents under 20,000.

According to the plan:

- "HIV patients will enjoy the same health insurance services as the rest of the population,"
- "The administration will continue to crack down on illegal blood banks and ensure the blood for medical use passes the HIV test,"
- "The administration pledged to educate 85 percent of its urban residents and 60 percent of rural residents about HIV/AIDS and treatment-related information,"
- "Beijing will take measures to ensure that, by 2005, those infected via blood transfusions account for less than 0.0005 percent of the total HIV positive population."

—"Beijing Vows to keep Number of HIV Infected Residents Under 20,000," Xinhua, 21 February 2003 in FBIS CPP20030221000093.

24 February 2003

Wu Zunyou, from the National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention said the Ministry of Health will soon set up pilot drug treatment centers in China's major cities to "provide clean needles to drug addicts in a bid to combat the rapid spread of AIDS," reported *China Daily*. The Ministry of Health will establish clinics throughout China within the next five years if the pilot program is seen effective. Currently, drug addicts are placed in "restrictive rehabilitation centers." However, these have proved not to be successful. "Drug addicts normally return to their bad habits after they leave the center, or fail to admit to the addiction for fear of being sent to such a center in the first place." According to official statistics, 70 percent of HIV cases in China are related to the sharing of contaminated needles. In Yunnan, Xinjiang and Guangxi provinces, "about 70 to 80 percent of drug addicts have been infected with the HIV virus which causes AIDS." The Ministry of Health reported as of June 2002, China had an estimated 1 million HIV/AIDS cases, with an annual increase of 30 percent.

—"AIDS Wary China to Provide Clean Needles for Drug Addicts," Agence France Presse, 24 February 2003, in Lexis-Nexus Academic Universe, 24 February 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Zhang Feng "Clinics to AID Anti-Drugs, AIDS Campaign," *China Daily*, 24 February 2003 in FBIS CPP20030224000026.

24 February 2003

The Beijing Association for HIV/AIDS Prevention, a public health organization, launched a website (<http://bjaidss.org>) to promote the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Guo Jiyong, Deputy Director of the Beijing Health Bureau said 428 people have tested positive for HIV in Beijing, of which 44 had full-blown AIDS (2 Beijing residents, 40 non-Beijingers and 2 foreigners). HIV/AIDS tests were conducted on 600,000 Beijing residents during 2002.

—"Beijing Launches HIV/AIDS Website," Xinhua, 24 February 2003 in FBIS CPP2003224000148.

25 February 2003

China's first domestically produced anti-HIV/AIDS medicine, called *immunicin tonic*, is made from traditional Chinese medicine and was approved for experimental clinical use only. Xinhua reports the medicine was developed by Cao Haoyang, an associate research fellow at the Xi'an branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Cao said, "Different from other AIDS drugs, *immunicin tonic* is designed to prevent the HIV virus from entering the human cells while increasing the quantity and quality of white blood cells and stimulating the immune system. It restrains viral activity by bringing the immune system back to normal." To date Cao has conducted clinical tests on 31 AIDS patients in Zhumadian Prefecture in central China's Henan province. Tests have shown an 80 percent success rate.

—"China Approves Nationwide Clinical Use of New Anti-AIDS Drug," Xinhua, 25 February 2003 in FBIS CPP20030225000156.

6 March 2003

Bai Jingfu, Deputy Director of the National Narcotic Control Commission (NNCC) reported the number of registered drug users rose to one million people at the end of 2002, up 11 percent from 2001. Of the 2,863 counties in China, 2,148 have reported drug abuse problems. "Drugs have entered China from various sources and internal trafficking activities have become increasingly widespread," said Bai. According to Ministry of Health Statistics, more than 70 percent of China HIV cases became infected through intravenous drug use.

—Fu Jing, "Authorities Step Up War Against Drug Abuse," *China Daily*, 6 March 2003 in FBIS CPP20030306000011.

7 March 2003

The 15,000 troops serving as part of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) will take

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part in a "groundbreaking initiative to disseminate information about HIV/AIDS throughout the community in hopes of slowing the spread of infection." During the first step, UN peacekeepers will receive training in HIV/AIDS prevention, gender awareness and women's rights. "This program represents a breakthrough because it acknowledges the critical role peacekeepers can play in preventing HIV infection and protecting women's rights," said Florence Butegwa, regional program director for the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). China currently contributes 11 observers to the Sierra Leone Mission.

—"UN Peacekeepers in Sierra Leone to Help Fight Disease," UN Wire, 7 March 2003 in http://www.unwire.org/UNWire/20030307/32471_story.asp; International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), *The Military Balance 2003/03*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), pg. 148.

10 March 2003

Hu Jia, Director of the Aizhixing Institute of Health Education, a non-governmental organization, delivered a 10-point action plan to the delegates of the National People's Congress (NPC) and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) to deal with the rising plight of children and orphans of AIDS and HIV victims. The plan calls upon the government to "take measures to provide better education and resources to those children affected by AIDS and HIV and says the public discrimination against them must be addressed." Hu said, "If we cannot make it this year to the NPC, we will try to propose the plan again next year." Hu focused his plan on children from the provinces of Henan, Anhui, Shaanxi and Hubei, which have witnessed an explosion in HIV cases because of the selling of blood to unsanitary clinics. According to Hu's estimates, there are over one million HIV cases in Henan alone. He added, "These AIDS patients' children are mostly healthy kids, except for a few which contracted HIV through maternal transmission. They should be given education and care, instead of being ignored and despised by the rest of society." Hu said while the government's attitude was changing for the better, overall AIDS awareness among the general public was poor.

—Christine Chan, "Ease the Plight of AIDS Orphans, Delegates Urged," *South China Morning Post*, 10 March 2003 in FBIS CPP20030310000190.

10 March 2003

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization signed an agreement which will "target high-risk behavior, trafficking in girls and women and drug abuse as factors contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS" in China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand. Furthermore, educational materials are to be developed at provincial resource centers, and about 8,000 young persons aged 13-24 are to be targeted in high-risk cross-border zones. The ADB will provide a 1 million USD grant for the 85 million USD project. The minister's organization will provide 431,000 USD, and UNESCO is adding 317,000 USD. The five affected countries are contributing 100,000 USD.

—"UNESCO, ADB, Back Asian Information Initiative to Combat Disease," UN Wire, 10 March 2003 in http://www.unwire.org/UNWire/20030310/32479_story.asp (1 July 2003).

12 March 2003

A recent study in the *Journal of American Medical Association* showed that "a significant number of Chinese adults are infected with Chlamydia." While Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted disease (STD) and can be treated with antibiotics, researchers warn that the rise in Chlamydia could pave the way for increased HIV/AIDS rates. Researcher Myron Cohen of the University of North Carolina said, "China is only now beginning to suffer the ravages of HIV, and the unexpected prevalence of Chlamydia and attendant high-risk behavior are critical and instructive warning signs." The study showed the Chlamydia rates as follows:

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- "overall, 2.1 percent of men and 2.6 percent of women - similar to developed countries"
- "14.6 percent of men who have sex with prostitutes, and 6 percent of those men's partners"
- "Incidence highest in the rapidly developing southern coastal region, affecting 16 percent of men and 9.9 percent of women."

Chris Beyer of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health concluded, "The African experience shows that once HIV is widely transmitted among reproductive-age adults, prevention becomes much more difficult."

—"China Faces Sex Disease Crisis," *BBC News*, 12 March 2003 in <http://news.bbc.co.uk> (3/13/2003).

12 March 2003

Chinese scientists at the Keju biomedical company in Tinjian have developed a new HIV test. The test, a reagent named HIV1+2, "could identify both the disease and its types in five minutes either before or after operations, in blood collecting, community medical services and physical examinations," the developers said. The new test has received a state patent and is now under production.

—"PRC Scientists Develop New Medicine to Diagnose AIDS in Five Minutes," Xinhua, 12 March 2003 in FBIS CPP20030312000159.

12 March 2003

China Vice-Minister of Science and Technology and South African counterpart Buylwa Sonjica signed a bilateral agreement that will begin technical and scientific cooperation in 10 major projects. These projects include the "peaceful use of nuclear energy, mini-satellite, remote sensing, mining, space, medicine and healthcare." Sonjica said, "We are confident that South Africa's scientific and technological collaboration with China will bring a cross-pollination of ideas that will assist our government in its efforts to combat poverty, crime, HIV/AIDS, etc., and to ensure that our country's economy is boosted by sustainable development."

—"China, South Africa Sign Protocol on Scientific Cooperation," Xinhua, 12 March 2003 in FBIS CPP20030312000266.

13 March 2003

China's Ministry of Education announced it will include courses on AIDS prevention, anti-drug awareness and environmental protection in China's elementary and middle schools starting in the spring semester. AIDS prevention and awareness will be offered from the first year of junior middle school to the first two years of senior middle school, five years total. Anti-drug education and prevention will begin from the fifth year of elementary school and continue until the second year of senior middle school. Environmental protection will begin at year one of elementary school. All material will be published by the Ministry of Education and sent to schools throughout the country. In China, junior middle school and senior middle school consist of three years each, primary or elementary, school consist of six years. [Note: The final year of senior middle school focuses primarily on preparing students for national college entrance exams.]

—"China to Begin AIDS, Drug Education in Schools," *Financial Times* (London), 14 March 2003, in Lexis-Nexus Academic Universe, 14 March 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

17 March 2003

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) along with the Chinese Ministry of Health (MOH), Justice and Public Security and the Center for disease Control launched the AIDS

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Prevention and Care Cooperation Project in Yinchuan, capital of China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Regions. (The Hui are a Muslim minority and are one of China's 55 recognized minority populations). The Project was developed "to spread awareness of AIDS among the young people in rural China." Dr. Christian Voumard, a UNICEF representative in China said although China's adult HIV infection prevalence rate was only 0.11 percent of the total population, the number of HIV carriers is increasing dramatically. According to UNICEF, "most of infected people live in the rural areas of China and over 50 percent of them are aged between 20 and 29." The provinces of Jilin, Henan, Guizhou, Jiangxi, Liaoning, Hunan, and the city of Chongqing have also joined the project.

—"Sino-UN AIDS Prevention Project Launched in Ningxia," Xinhua, 17 March 2003 in FBIS CPP20030317000197.

19 March 2003

The joint venture Qingdao London International Latex Co., Ltd. (maker of Durex condoms in China) announced it will participate in the Chinese Health Education Institute's program to increase the public's awareness of HIV/AIDS. The program will focus on "leading a healthy lifestyle, which includes the use of condoms," and consists of performances, public awareness programs, and information pamphlets. Li Ying, a Health Education Institute official said that public education is very important because most Chinese are still unaware about HIV/AIDS. He stated, "The general public, especially in the rural areas, know little about HIV/AIDS." A recent survey showed that 70 percent of Chinese have little or no knowledge about how to protect themselves from becoming infected. Qingdao London International Latex Co., Ltd. is a 5-year joint venture between SSL International based in Britain and the Shuangdie Group Company in Qingdao, Shandong province.

—"Condom Producer Joins China's Fight Against AIDS," Xinhua, 19 March 2003 in FBIS CPP20030319000199..

25 March 2003

Zhang Xiulan, consultant from the Division of Biological Products of the Department of Drug Registration of the State Drug Administration (SDA) announced that the SDA has not given permission to any domestic or foreign enterprise to test an AIDS vaccine on people in China. Zhang added that foreign research institutes are forbidden to test AIDS vaccines in China. However, both foreign and domestic research facilities may work in conjunction. If a breakthrough is made in developing an AIDS vaccine, then the domestic research facility can apply for human trails on behalf of both parities.

—"Restrictions Remain on AIDS Vaccine Test," *China Daily*, 25 March 2003 in FBIS CPP20030325000265.

26 March 2003

China Daily reported that more than 300,000 Chinese are estimated to become infected with HIV/AIDS during 2003, with a annual rate of more than 30 percent. Currently, health officials estimate there are one million cases of HIV infection and up to 100,000 cases of full-blown AIDS. This figure is expected to double over the next five years.

—"More Than 300,000 Chinese to Contract HIV During 2003: State Media," Agence France Presse, 26 March 2003; in Lexis-Nexus Academic Universe, 26 March 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

29 March 2003

A program called "121 United Project" was launched today in Beijing. Having support from the Chinese Foundation for Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and AIDS and the Ministry of Education, the "121 United Project" intends to bring together society's efforts in combating the AIDS virus, which by the end of 2002 has infected over one million Chinese. "The program will be vital in preventing and controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic,

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which needs a collective response from individuals and businesses as well as the government," said Vice Minister Ma Xiaowei. The "121 Unit" Project also consists of a "121 AIDS Center for Collecting Donations," which was set up to collect both domestic and foreign donations. Zeng Yi, Director of the Chinese Foundation for Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and AIDS notes that the donations will go towards emergency relief for HIV/AIDS victims who otherwise would go without medical treatment and to children who have been orphaned by AIDS. China's annual budget for HIV/AIDS prevention and control is 100 million yuan (12 million USD). The project also has the support of 30 government ministries, 48 community groups, more than 40 media outlets, and many international organizations including the World Health Organization.

—"Project Pools Social Sources to Fight AIDS," *China Daily*, 29 March 2003; in Lexis-Nexus Academic Universe, 29 March 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 April 2003

During a recent national conference on AIDS monitoring in the capital of Guizhou province, Lu fan, an official from China's AIDS and Venereal Disease (VD) Control Center reported that China will increase its "comprehensive monitoring of AIDS." The system will include AIDS and VD control, as well as biological monitoring and behavior monitoring. China established an AIDS monitoring system in 1986 based on a "case-based-report system," however, this method was too passive and inaccurate. Last year, the central government "issued a guideline for comprehensive AIDS and VD monitoring" system. In 1995, China had 42 monitoring stations in 23 provincial areas monitoring high risk groups. By the end of 2002, state-level monitoring stations increased to 158, with an additional 200-plus at the provincial level.

—"China to Intensify Integrated AIDS Monitoring," *Xinhua*, 1 April 2003 in FBIS CPP20030401000038.

1 April 2003

A black tie fundraiser was held by the Beijing's Rotary Club which raised up to 200,000 USD to help fight HIV/AIDS in China. Serge Dumont, President of the Rotary Club stated, "Experience elsewhere has proved that only by involving various members of society, including business leaders, can great progress be made in fighting AIDS." According to Xu Hua, an expert with the China Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and AIDS Foundation, China needs additional funds to help fight the AIDS epidemic. He noted that China's current AIDS budget is 100 million yuan (12 million USD), which is equal to 0.08 yuan (0.9 US cents) per person. The money collected at the event will be used to support HIV/AIDS programs in Shanxi province's Wenxi County where many farmers were infected after selling their blood in the 1990s. Also, a pilot program to distribute condoms in the Luyuan District of Changchun in Jilin province will benefit from the fund raiser.

Last year, the Ministry of Health applied for 90 million USD from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, but was denied because "China still has some problems with its HIV/AIDS control management systems."

—Zhang Feng, "Pushing for HIV/AIDS Funds," *China Daily*, 1 April 2003 in FBIS CPP20030401000020.

7 April 2003

Wang Longde, Vice Health Minister names HIV/AIDS along with unsafe drinking water and food, environmental pollution, passive smoke and accidents as the major health hazards to China's children. The rate of mother-to-infant transmission of HIV/AIDS is low in China, however the rate is expected to increase since more than one million Chinese are infected

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with the AIDS virus.

—"Vice Health Minister Urges Creation of Health Environment for Children," *Xinhua*, 7 April 2003 in FBIS CPP20030407000071.

9 April 2003

New China Life Insurance Co. Ltd. in Mundanjiang, Heilongjiang has begun offering AIDS insurance to healthcare workers who are at high risk of contracting HIV. "A medical worker, who pays 400 yuan for the insurance service, will receive 10,000 yuan from the company if they are infected with HIV at work." The AIDS insurance is said to be the first of its kind in China.

—"Heilongjiang Firm Launches HIV Insurance for Medical Workers," *Xinhua*, 9 April 2003 in FBIS CPP20030409000142.

16 April 2003

Yao Keqin, Director of the Ministry of Health's Statistics Center announced that the Ministry of Health Survey, conducted every five years, will allow respondents to express their opinion of the healthcare system for the first time. Usually the survey asks questions on the respondent's illnesses, but this year "it will also ask them about treatment and health services." Yao added the survey's aim is to record a pattern of illnesses, to identify the gap between a person's needs and the services being offered and to establish a link between illness and economic hardship. He stated, "We have to find out the demands of people, meaning how much they are willing to pay for their needs. Then we have to find out their accessibility to health services. Do they have no access because they cannot afford it or because they are not covered by medical insurance?" More than 2,000 interviewers will fan out across China and interview more than 57,000 randomly chosen households from June 15 to July 31, with 210,000 people expected to be interviewed. Yao noted that vulnerable social groups, such as migrant workers, will also be a focus of the survey. Preliminary results should be released by the end of the year. [Note: The survey may have been postponed because of the SARS outbreak.]

—Josephine Ma, "Ministry Seeks Views on Health System," *South China Morning Post*, 16 April 2003 in FBIS CPP20030416000079.

20 April 2003

Due to poor handling of the SARS epidemic, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) removed [Zhang Wenkang](#) as China's Health Minister and Meng Xuenong as Deputy Secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee. Gao Qiang was appointed as interim Health Minister.

—"Senior Ministerial, Local Party Officials Removed," *People's Daily*, 20 April 2002 in <http://english.peoplesdaily.com> (7/3/2003).

21 April 2003

China's news agency Xinhua reported that the Chinese government has negotiated with several multinational pharmaceutical companies to reduce the price of AIDS drugs. Simultaneously, the central government has "accelerated the nationalization of the HIV/AIDS drug production capacity." British drug company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and US Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD) have also expressed a willingness to provide more AIDS prevention and treatment services in China. "China's recognition of the importance of HIV prevention and treatment has increased our confidence to invest in the country," said Qu Wanwen, Chief Inspector of the Marketing Department of MSD China.

—"Pharmaceutical Giants Offer More AIDS Drugs, Medical Services in China," *Xinhua*, 21 April 2003 in FBIS CPP20030421000009.

26 April 2003

Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) appointed Vice-Minister [Wu Yi](#)

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as China's new Health Minister. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) approved her appointment with 137 in favor, one against and 10 abstentions. Wu replaces [Zhang Wenkang](#), who was removed as Health Minister on 20 April 2003 as a result of the SARS crisis.

—"Vice-premier Wu Yi Appointed Chinese Health Minister," *People's Daily*, 26 April 2002 in <http://english.peoplesdaily.com> (7/3/2003).

27 April 2003

The *Hong Kong Morning Post* reported that Beijing's You'an Hospital and Ditan Hospital has discharged its 200+ AIDS patients in preparation for expected SARS patients. Several non-governmental AIDS organizations have said the patients have been sent back to their home provinces. According to a senior doctor at Ditan Hospital, "The immune system of AIDS patients is so weak," he said. "We don't find it safe to keep them here as we are designated to treat SARS." Sources from around the country have said that other hospitals have already discharged their AIDS patients. The central government recently stated that they have earmarked two billion yuan (approx. 24.4 million USD) to stop the spread of SARS.

—Harry Doran, "AIDS Patients Moved out as Mainland Focuses on Outbreak," *Hong Kong Morning Post*, 27 April 2003, p. 3 in FBIS CPP20030428000042.

13 May 2003

The World Health Organization (WHO) sent a team to Henan province, one of China's most populated provinces, and home to an estimated one million people infected with the AIDS virus. "Some 800,000 migrant workers, who returned to their hometowns in Henan during the May Day Holiday and while the epidemic was raging in Beijing and Guangdong, are the chief concern." Ray Yip, head of AIDS prevention for the United Nation's Children's Fund China office said, "If SARS hits HIV areas, it will decimate all the people who are HIV positive right away. Any (illness) can be exaggerated in these people. It will kill them." Mangai Balasegaram, Spokesperson for the WHO said, "It's quite likely that SARS would be more severe in people that are HIV positive, but at this moment there is no real evidence of this."

—"WHO Begins SARS Inquiry in HIV-Hit Chinese Province," Agence France Presse, 14 May 2003 in FBIS CPP20030514000062.

15 May 2003

The Chinese Ministry of Health announced that the central government will invest more money and resources into the country's healthcare system, especially in rural areas because of SARS. Qi Xiaoqiu, Director of the Ministry of Health's Department of Disease Control said, "China is a country with a big population. It's also a vast developing country, so a problem of epidemics spreading is still very serious. Recently, we've asked various levels of government to step up prevention of other epidemics in addition to fighting SARS. This includes our prevention and control work in AIDS in China's countryside." Qi added, "Additional funding will be focused on healthcare work in rural areas." On 23 January 2003, Chinese Health Minister Zhang Wenkang announced a new rural medical insurance system in which the central government will put in 10 yuan (1.20 USD) per rural resident.

—"China to Invest in Rural Healthcare, Pay Greater Attention to AIDS," Agence France Presse, 15 May 2003; in Yahoo! News, 15 May 2003, <http://news.yahoo.com>.

18 May 2003

The *South China Morning Post* reported that as many as 100 HIV positive villagers in Henan's Wenlou village were denied seeing the visiting World Health Organization (WHO) and Ministry of Health (MOH) delegation. Most were held back 100 meters from the hospital where they were meeting, and one was reported beaten by police and held until the

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delegation left the village. Wenlou is one of 22 AIDS villages in Henan province. Officials put the number of HIV/AIDS victims in Wenlou at 306 people; some estimate twice as many are infected. One of the patients denied to visit the WHO delegation was a 37-year-old mother of two who sold blood in 1997 because "the local government was advertising it everywhere at the time, saying it was a good way to earn money," she said. She gave 800cc on three occasions, and was re-injected with 400cc of pooled blood. She was paid 45 yuan (about 5.00 USD) each time. "So I made 135 yuan (about 16.50 USD) in total, but I got AIDS."

—"SCMP Cites AIDS Patients Denied Access to Visiting WHO Team, Beaten by Police," *South China Morning Post* (Hong Kong), 3 June 2003 in FBIS CPP20030603000053.

30 May 2003

At a press conference sponsored by the Information Office of the State Council Vice-Minister of Health, Gao Qiang reported that the Ministry of Health is "determined to improve the nation's public healthcare system" by increasing funding and manpower so the system can better respond to future disease outbreaks like SARS. He added, within the next two years, the central government will allocate 2.9 billion yuan (350 million USD) to assist every province to establish a disease control and prevention center, while 1.7 billion yuan (200 million USD) has already been allocated to improve China's National Center for Disease Control and Prevention. As a result of SARS, the governments at various level in China have purchased more than 10 billion yuan (1.2 billion USD) worth of medical equipment to improve hospitals and clinics. Wang Lusheng, Vice-Director of the China National Health Economics Institute, acknowledged that China's healthcare system, especially in the countryside, is inadequate, and in the coming years the investment from the central government will reach into the billions of yuan.

—"Gao Qiang Says PRC to Boost healthcare to Prevent Future Outbreaks," *China Daily*, 30 May 2003 in FBIS CPP20030531000001.

30 May 2003

Vice-Minister of Health Gao Qiang announced that an AIDS patient from Shanxi province was diagnosed with SARS last Sunday at Beijing's You'an Hospital. According to Gao, the patient did not transmit SARS to others.

—"Health Ministry Confirms AIDS Patient from Shanxi Infected with SARS," *Xinhua*, 30 May 2003 in FBIS CPP20030530000077.

4 June 2003

Sun Xinhua, an official from the Ministry of Health Disease Control Bureau confirmed that no AIDS patient has been diagnosed with SARS. Referring to the announcement made on 30 May 2003, Sun said the AIDS patient from Shanxi was found to be negative for SARS. He said, "After taking antibiotics for a few days, the patient's lung infection improved, and he was ruled out (of having SARS)." Sun added, the patient suffered from pneumonia related to his immune deficiency disease.

—"PRC Ministry Official: No Reports of AIDS Patients Infected with SARS on Mainland," *Xinhua*, 4 June 2003 in FBIS CPP20030604000100.

6 June 2003

Russian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Viktor Maleyev, Chief of Infectious Disease of the Russian Health Ministry announced Russia and China will increase bilateral cooperation in fighting "heavy infectious diseases, such as atypical or mystery pneumonia (SARS), AIDS and hepatitis." Experts from Russia and China are planning to arrange and sign a program on cooperation, and establish a hotline with areas common border areas to coordinate efforts to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

—"Russia, Chin to Boost Cooperation in Fight Against SARS, AIDS," *ITAR-TASS* (Moscow), 6 June 2003 in FBIS CEp20030606000296.

8 June 2003

China's Ministry of Health (MOH) issued a directive addressed to all medical facilities around China to determine if AIDS patients are also infected with SARS. According to the Ministry of Health, all medical facilities should provide treatment to AIDS patients who have or are suspected to carry SARS. Xinhua reported that "designated atypical pneumonia hospitals will be severely punished if they refuse to accept AIDS patients who are infected with atypical pneumonia." The MOH issued the demand because some medical facilities were refusing to accept patients who are infected with both AIDS and SARS.

—"PRC Health Ministry Demands Proper Treatment of AIDS Patients Infected with SARS," Xinhua, 8 June 2003 in FBIS CPP20030608000023.

11 June 2003

A recent survey conducted by the Wuhan Jissbon Health Products Company, under the direction of the China STD/AIDS Prevention Association, noted that "more than half of residents don't know about AIDS prevention, or about the routes for transmission of the disease." The "Jissbon National HIV/AIDS Survey" was conducted in 19 major Chinese cities with 15,000 respondents. "The survey results indicated that, in terms of general HIV knowledge and understanding that condoms prevent pregnancy and can protect from HIV infection, Beijing and Shanghai were still the top cities. But it was also widespread for respondents to 'know but not use' condoms." Experts noted that the survey was conducted in China's largest 19 cities, but the majority of China's HIV/AIDS cases are in the countryside where residents historically are less educated.

—"Survey: More than Half of Chinese Do Not Understand AIDS Prevention," *Chinanews.com*, 11 June 2003 in <http://www.chinanews.com.cn>.

11 June 2003

China's official English-language newspaper, *China Daily*, issued an opinion piece entitled, "Learn from SARS to Fight AIDS." Through the op-ed, author Hua Hua said the Chinese people and government should be "cheered by our initial success in the fight against SARS." Now, Hua is calling on the nation to put forward that same effort to fight HIV/AIDS. "The cruel fact is that, in the past 17 years since that first HIV infection was detected in China, we have not succeeded in our battle to curb the fatal disease's spread." According to Hua, "timely and accurate release of information" through widespread education campaigns is what kept SARS from devastating the countryside. However, Hua notes that any such response towards HIV/AIDS has been "hampered by ideological shackles." He criticized local governments because some "tend to underreport or even hide HIV/AIDS cases to protect their region's image." SARS also laid bare China's healthcare system, especially in the rural areas. Hua hopes "such introspection will not end with SARS, but extend to the handling of other public health issues, such as HIV/AIDS." He concluded by writing: "We could justifiably be more optimistic about the outcome of this battle (SARS) if authorities adopt a similar publicity campaign for HIV/AIDS and were just as open about the disease."

—"China Daily 'Opinion' urges Extending 'Success' of SARS Fight to Treat AIDS," *China Daily*, 11 June 2003 in FBIS CPP20030611000007.

12 June 2003

China's official news agency Xinhua reports that Chinese modern society is becoming more tolerant of new changes and situations brought about by an opening society. The report cited a woman's 11-year struggle to win the Miss Universe crown. Another example is of unregistered students, usually the generation from the 1960s and 70s, auditing classes at major university in order to personally develop themselves. At the prestigious Beijing University they call themselves the "wanderers of Beida." And, in December 2002, a 23-year-old man was allowed to marry a woman 5 years older than he and HIV positive. Xiao Qin,

said, "Though I carry HIV and need to take medicine everyday, I am hungry for love and a happy marriage, just like other girls." She now gives lectures about AIDS prevention and awareness in her home province of Guizhou and lectured in Beijing in December 2002.

—"Xinhua Examines How Chinese Society Is Becoming More Tolerant," Xinhua, 12 June 2003 in FBIS CPP20030612000163.

16 June 2003

Song Ruilin, from the State Council's Legislative Affairs Office announced that the State Council will issue a regulation to track medical waste "from cradle to grave" in order to protect public health. Due to SARS, health officials have realized that "the reused medical apparatus and instruments, which most patients cannot distinguish from unused devices, may transmit many infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS," said Wang Yue, Vice-Director of Peking University's Health Science Law Department. Currently each medical facility, under the supervision of the local government, is responsible for the disposal (usually incineration) of their own medical waste, however, Wang notes that most facilities and governments do not have sufficient funds to properly dispose of medical waste. Wang suggests that all medical waste be disposed of at fixed locations, and that governments should be responsible for the destruction of medical waste, not its disposal. Wang also suggests that a process of public bidding be introduced with oversight by the local government to more effectively ensure the proper destruction of medical waste. Currently, the disposal of medical waste is governed only by "documents of instruction" from the Ministry of Health. [Note: The issuance of a regulation is usually a prelude to a passing of a law.]

—Meng Yan, "New Regulation to Tackle Medical Waste," *China Daily*, 16 June 2003 in FBIS CPP20030616000012.

18 June 2003

During a visit to Beijing, Thai Minister of Public Health, Sudarat Keyuraphan and Chinese acting Minister of Health [Wu Yi](#) agreed to increase cooperation in the fields of SARS control, food and water safety, and the application of traditional Chinese herbal medicines. Sudarat said the collaboration in the clinical treatment of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis was showing promising results. "Sudarat proposed expanding cooperation in standardizing the use of traditional Chinese herbal medicines, registering new drugs and the pharmaceutical treatment of drug addicts." Before returning to Thailand, Sudarat invited Wu Yi to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum on 28 June 2003.

—"China Thailand Broaden Cooperation in Health Issues," Xinhua, 18 June 2003 in FBIS CPP20030618000117.

21 June 2003

A recent study by the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California - San Francisco (UCSF) published in the 21 June 2003 issue of *The Lancet* showed that men who have sex with men (MSM) could act as a "sexual bridge" for HIV transmission between high-risk men and low-risk women. Three trained female health-care workers interviewed, and took oral mucosal transudate samples that were later test for HIV, from 481 MSMs in Beijing from September 2001 to January 2002. According to the study, fifteen of the men tested positive for HIV, 238 admitted to having unprotected sex with a man in the past six months and 107 reported having unprotected anal or vaginal sex with a woman during the same period. Also, the study showed the incidence of HIV infection was 4-5 times higher for men over 39 years old, than 39 and younger, "irrespective of the number of male sexual partners in their lifetime." Of the older men, 294 or 64 percent were married, compared to 53 or 11 percent of the younger respondents. The researchers note this pattern is similar to other Asian countries, especially India.

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—Kyung-Hee Choi, "Emerging HIV-1 Epidemic in China in Men Who Have Sex with Men," *The Lancet* Vol. 361, 21 June 2003; at <http://www.thelancet.com>.

22 June 2003

The Agence France Presse (AFP) reported that between 500 to 600 uniformed and plain clothes police "storm" the village of Xiongqiao in Shangcai county, Wulong township, Henan province. Xiongqiao is a Henan "AIDS Village" where 700 of the 3,000 residents were infected with HIV after selling their blood during the 1980s and 90s. About 400 of the village residents have developed full-blown AIDS. Police reported that 13 farmers and three others were arrested because of robbing and attacking township government and police offices and the county's Community Party office. A county police official said, "They beat up the Wulong township's police station director and deputy township director and the local family planning director." The arrests were broadcast on county television. One HIV positive farmer said, "They're using these farmers to send a message to other AIDS sufferers to not cause any trouble otherwise the same can happen to them."

—"Hundreds of Police Storm 'AIDS Village' in China, Arrest 13 Farmers," Agence France Presse, 3 July 2003 in FBIS CPP20030703000102.

23 June 2003

Xiong Wei from the Foreign Affairs Bureau, General Office of the National People's Congress Standing Committee wrote in a *China Daily* opinion piece, one lesson China had learned from the SARS crisis is "that non-traditional security threats deserve more attention." Xiong identified non-traditional security threats as including pollution, natural disasters, financial crises, terrorism, weapons proliferation, transnational crime, smuggling, drug trafficking, illegal immigration, piracy, money laundering and outbreaks of epidemics. SARS, he said was an example of a non-traditional security threat, and the battle against SARS was a "war without gunpowder." Xiong recognized these non-traditional threats are international threats, not contained by boundaries. He stated, "Many of these non-traditional threats are global rather than confined to a particular country, and threats that originate in one country may threaten other countries as well." In conclusion, Xiong wrote international cooperation is "crucial in the fight against non-traditional threats, and "on the other hand, we need to step up our efforts to readjust some current policies with a view to tackling non-traditional threats security threats."

—"China Daily 'Opinion' on Paying Attention to 'Non-Traditional Security Threats,'" *China Daily*, 23 June 2003 in FBIS CPP20030623000049.

27 June 2003

Phone hotlines staffed by gay volunteers and experts from China's medical and family planning community have emerged in 13 Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. These hotlines target homosexual men and provide psychological support and information on venereal diseases and AIDS to homosexual callers. Bai, a volunteer in Harbin, Heilongjiang province, recalled that a gay young man called seven times, each time hanging up. On the eighth call, Bai was able to hold an hour-long conversation with the man. During the discussion, the caller told Bai that he has been suffering from syphilis for a while, but was too ashamed to seek medical attention. Bai convinced the caller to seek medical attention. The man is now well, and is also a volunteer for the hotline. To date, the hotline in Harbin has received over 800 calls, said Zhang Jingdong, an official in charge of the hotline with the local epidemic prevention station. Professor Cong Zhong of Beijing University's Psychological Health Research Institute said the hotlines are also important to raise the public's "objective recognition" of this social minority.

—"Volunteer hotline for Homosexuals Emerges in China," *Xinhua*, 27 June 2003 in FBIS CPP20030627000168.

3 July 2003

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Julie Gerberding said that China and India are facing an AIDS "catastrophe." On a tour of Asian countries to assess regional infectious diseases, she said public health measures against infectious diseases such as AIDS have yet to take hold. "And the epidemic is really in that phase of scaling up very quickly. It looks like Africa did a decade or so ago," she said. However, she praised Thailand's efforts to control AIDS. According to the United Nations, China is estimated to have between 800,000 and 1.5 million people infected with the AIDS virus. Intravenous drug use and contaminated blood represent about 78 percent of infections. "However, experience in other countries has shown that the virus leaps out of narrow social categories and is quickly spread through sexual transmission" into the general population. This is the instance in societies where prostitution and especially homosexuality are marginalized.

—"China, India, Cambodia Facing AIDS 'catastrophe:' US Expert," Agence France Presse, 3 July 2003 in <http://sg.news.yahoo.com> (3 July 2003).

3 July 2003

The US Food and Drug Administration approved Gilead Sciences' new once-a-day AIDS drug. By combining Emtriva and Viread, Gilead Sciences' hopes to compete directly with GlaxoSmithKline's combination pill called Combivir. Gilead Sciences' AIDS drug is expected to be on the market by 2005 and is expected to cost about 250 USD a month. GlaxoSmithKline is currently working with the Chinese government to import AIDS medication at reduced prices to help reduce the suffering of China's growing HIV/AIDS population.

—Andrew Pollack, "US Approves New Once-a-Day AIDS Drug From Glaxo Rival," *New York Times*, 3 July 2003, in <http://www.nytimes.com>.

4 July 2003

Chinese Minister of Health, [Wu Yi](#), said that China would continue to work with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to fight against HIV/AIDS and other health problems. The UNDP and Health Ministry are currently working on "a report to address challenges in the field of AIDS control and to make recommendations."

—"Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi Meets UNDP Official," Xinhua, 4 July 2003 in FBIS CPP20030704000110.

11 July 2003

Wan Yanhai, the Director of the Beijing-based Aizhi Institute sent a letter to Chinese Health Minister [Wu Yi](#) to show the same transparency with AIDS as the government showed with the SARS crisis. More specifically, the letter urged the Ministry of Health to release the statistics detailing the number of victims that acquire AIDS through blood transfusions. The letter said, "What are the names of the provinces, the cities and districts?" Also, "How many people were contaminated in each area? What is the extent of the contamination among the donors and the received of blood in each place?" In December 2002, then Health Minister [Zhang Wenkang](#) revealed 23 of China's 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions had been affected though unsanitary blood collection.

—"AIDS Group Sends Letter to Wu Yi Urging Release of Statistics," Agence France Presse, 11 July 2003.

11 July 2003

China Daily reported the first sexual health web site targeting young people has been launched in China. Sang Qing, the site designer said the interactive site hopes to encourage young people to openly discuss love and matters pertaining to sex. "Most Chinese people have little access to reliable and accurate information on sex due to traditional sensitivities about the issue, but the growing prevalence of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases

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is worrying authorities," wrote *China Daily*. Liu Liqing, the China representative to the non-profit organization Marie Stopes International said, "In China, where there is a wider gap between puberty and marriage, sexual activity outside marriage has increased and this has increased young people's vulnerability to HIV and AIDS." The website is located at <http://www.youandme.net.cn/>

The Ministry of Health (MOH) reported up to one million people, most between the ages of 15 to 29, are infected with the AIDS virus. In 2002, 9,824 additional HIV cases were reported, a 19.5 percent increase, and 1,045 have full-blown AIDS, of which 363 people have died. "To cope with the severe situation, we must attach special attention to the education of sex and reproductive health of adolescents, help them better understand HIV and stay away from disease, drugs and pornography," said Zhang Weiqing, Minister of State Population and Family Planning Commission. China's first population and Family Planning law stipulates that all schools should conduct reproductive health classes. He reported by June, 50 percent of higher primary school students, 85 percent of junior middle school students and 80 percent of senior middle school students have had sexual health or reproductive health classes. Some 83 percent of urban schools in China's 30,000 urban communities, and 76 percent in China's 50,000 rural villages had conducted similar classes. Of China's 200 million adolescents, about 130 million have taken the classes —"China Launches First Ever Sex Health Website," Agence France Presse, 11 July 2003 in <http://sg.news.yahoo.com>; "Beijing Conducts HIV Education Programs at People's University," Xinhua, 10 July 2003; "Sixty Percent of Chinese HIV Carriers are Young People, Focus on Sex Education," Xinhua, 11 June 2003.

14 July 2003

Hundreds of HIV patients who contracted AIDS through unsanitary blood collection have begun to drop out of the program that supplies them with free antiretroviral medication supplied by the Chinese government. Three months ago, Beijing began a program to produce and supply domestically made versions of AIDS drugs, including AZT, DDI, D4T and MVT, along with imported medication - Stocrin and Combivir. So far the program distributed the medication to an estimated 200 people in Anhui province, 420 in Hubei, and 61 in Sichuan. In Henan's Shangcai county, 2,550 people are receiving medication, 200 in Xincai county and 120 in Queshan county.

However, in Shangcai county, 327 out of the 2,550 people have dropped out of the program because of the side effects, Zhang Fujie, Head of China's Center for Disease Control said. An un-named US-based aid worker said that the medication being distributed is the older antiretroviral drugs, which are "not as effective and...have side effects...so serious that a lot of people are dropping out." Some side effects include vomiting and diarrhea. Another reason is the lack of suitable doctors to administer the medication. "We have enough drugs but we don't have enough doctors who can administer the drugs. Even in the biggest cities in China, there are only a few hospitals with doctors who can administer the drugs," said Zhang. He estimated China currently has around 100 qualified doctors. China has applied for a Global Fund grant to help train more qualified medical personal.

—"China Starts Offering Free AIDS Drugs but Lacks Doctors to Administer them," Agence France Presse, 16 July 2003; in <http://news.yahoo.com> (7/16/2003).

28 July 2003

Several of the villagers taken into custody during a police raid on 22 June 2003 have been formally arrested, while others have been released, said an official from the Shangcai

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detention center. "There are still seven to eight people in jail," reported a man from Xiongqiao village. China's State Council stated the raid took place after local farmers damaged government offices on June 11 and 12. "They said the farmers were protesting because police had detained a man and a women who were trying to cheat authorities to get government subsidies for HIV/AIDS sufferers," wrote Agence France Presse (AFP). However, the farmers claim they were only trying to get local authorities to build a much-needed clinic in their village.

—"Several Villagers Detained in China AIDS Raid Formally Arrested," Agence France Press, 28 July 2003.

30 July 2003

More than 40 Chinese and foreign researchers and scientists from Germany, Britain, the United States and Spain meet in Shanghai to participate in a four day conference on infectious disease control. Such topics included measures to control and prevent the spread of such diseases as hepatitis B, hemorrhagic fever, malaria, HIV/AIDS and SARS. Citing SARS as a successful example, participants called on the international community to work together to control infectious diseases.

—"Chinese, Foreign Scientists Discuss Infectious Diseases Control in Shanghai," Xinhua, 30 July 2003.

30 July 2003

[Gao Yao Jie](#), a retired gynecologist from China is one of seven recipients of this year's Roman Magsaysay Award which is regarded as the Asian equivalent of the Noble Peace Prize. The award is given out yearly to honor individuals and groups for contributions in their respective fields. Gao is noted for her work among Henan province's AIDS villages. The official ceremony will be held on 31 August 2003 in Manila, Philippines.

—"2 Japanese Among 7 Magsaysay Awards Recipients," Kyodo World Service (Tokyo), 30 July 2003.

30 July 2003

Following the Second International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment held in Paris earlier this month, two Chinese AIDS experts describe China's barriers in the fight against HIV/AIDS:

- *Treatment* - Dai Zhicheng, Deputy Director of the Chinese Association of STD and AIDS Prevention and Control, a non-governmental organization, said, "Although it's still impossible for AIDS patients to fully recover from AIDS after treatment, their quality of life could be boosted." The patients that are being treated are also informed how not to transmit HIV on to family members, and if health, encouraged to take up employment.

Also, the Chinese government has initiated a treatment program which will provide up to 100 counties with high rates of infection free AIDS medication. Wu Zunyou, a research scientist and Director of the Division of Health Education & Behavioral Intervention under the National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention said, "The present resources mainly cover the group of people infected through plasma donations around the min-90s, particularly in Henan and Anhui provinces." He added, "Extending the treatment to other AIDS groups will be the next step of our work."

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- *High Risk Groups* - According to Dai and Wu, China highest risk group are intravenous drug users (IDUs) in Southwest China. "When the disease was first identified in the southwestern corner of our country, people in other regions never imagined that one day they would also be exposed of its scourge," said Wu. However, in five years, the AIDS virus spread throughout all China's 31 provinces. According to Dai more than 40 percent of all IDUs share needles.

Sex workers are listed as China's second highest risk group. Between 1985 and 2001, China's sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have increased "more than 100-fold." Dai said he believes HIV transmission through sexual intercourse will become the primary channel for infection. Dai said, "STD patients are most likely to acquire or transmit HIV, with the risk increased three to five time as high as those of other people. Containing STDs is of vital importance for curbing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in China." Condom use is seen as an effective method to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, but according to a recent survey of sex workers in several regions, condom use was as low as 9.1 percent. In another survey, Wu said the HIV infection rate among sex workers in an unnamed city was as high as six percent.

Homosexuals are the third highest risk group. In a survey of gay groups conducted by the Chinese Association of STD and AIDS Prevention and Control in China's northern cities of Harbin, Shenyang and Dalian showed one to three percent of respondents tested positive for HIV.

China's "floating population" is not considered a traditional high risk group, however this group has limited or no access to healthcare, and has limited access to television or radio. Therefore, health education has not been reaching this group. "Public Health programs have yet to work out ways to include this part of the population," admitted Dai.

- *Responses* - Both Dai and Wu believe China needs more effective methods of preventing and controlling HIV/AIDS. To date, any attempt to promote condom use and clean needle distribution among China's high risk groups has resulted in debates between AIDS prevention workers and the public and government officials. "Extending the use of clean needles among the drug using community and the use of condoms among possible sex workers remains a controversial issue, both in law and in traditional modes of thought," said Wu. Many believe publicizing condom use and clean needle distribution will encourage prostitution and illegal drug use. Both Dai and Wu believe China should study the effective measures taken in other developing countries. "According to the HIV/AIDS epidemiological study, the measures and strategies of containing the epidemic tent to be similar and mature," said Wu.

—"China Fights AIDS," *China Daily*, 30 July 2003; in China Internet Information Center, 18 August 2003, <http://www.china.org.cn/>.

1 August 2003

The Ministry of Health (MOH) announced it will invest about 10 billion yuan (about USD 1.2 billion) over the next three years to develop an emergency public health response system at the national, provincial and local levels. Seen by experts as a result of SARS,

the emergency response system will include disease-control centers, emergency response training and ensure that every county has at least one hospital that specializes in infectious diseases. Professor Zhang Deyaun of Anhui University said, "The development of an emergency response system is welcome but it does not diminish the need for a general health-care system." He added, "We still need basic medical facilities and an effective public health insurance system."

MOH officials also announced they are drawing up a program that will "reinforce the medical infrastructure in rural areas," reported the *South China Morning Post*. Under the new program, Henan province, the province worst hit by tainted blood donations, will receive about 240 million yuan (about USD 30 million). These funds will be allocated to build 600 township and county hospitals in three years, Xinhua reported. "The funding of funds for this project is still under discussion," a MOH official said. "We have made a proposal to the Ministry of Finance (MOF), but due to other competing demands the ultimate allocation may fall short of expectations."

—Vivien Cui, "9B Drive Boosts Public Health," *South China Morning Post*, 1 August 2003; in South China Morning Post Internet, 1 August 2003, <http://http://www.scmp.com>.

3 August 2003

The *Beijing Morning Post* reported that the first HIV positive couple has married in Gongmin village, Sichuan province. Cao Xuiliang, 37, and Wang Daiying, 34, were married in a ceremony attended by several hundred people. "The new couple and the guests were very happy, like any other normal wedding," said Xiao Wei, an aid worker with the Sino-British AIDS Prevention Project. "Local villagers didn't mind sharing a meal with them," he said. Under the previous Maternal and Infantile Health Law established in 1995, the couple would have not been allowed to marry. However, earlier this year, the law was eased.

—Juliana Liu, "HIV-Positive Couple Make History in China," Reuters, 4 August 2003; in Yahoo News, 4 August 2003, <http://news.yahoo.com>; "China Allows First Marriage Between HIV Positive Couples," Agence France Presse, 3 August 2003.

4 August 2003

Chinese government officials appear to be modifying their position on AIDS following the SARS epidemic. "Activist cite a growing recognition among Chinese officials that the same factors that initially fueled the spread of SARS -- official denial, the lack of access to affordable healthcare and a strong social stigma -- characterize China's AIDS situation as well," reported the *Wall Street Journal*. For example, acting Health Minister [Wu Yi](#) described the fight against AIDS as the "long-term war," and the Health Ministry has requested that its current AIDS budget of 12.5 million USD be doubled. Beijing is also continuing with a pilot program aimed at AIDS treatment and prevention to over 100 counties in central China.

The program has the following goals:

- to provide domestically made anti-viral drugs to people with AIDS;
- to establish an education and awareness program among China's high-risk population groups;
- to offer counseling, testing and other forms of assistance for people living with HIV; and
- to train 360 provincial-level and 200 county-level doctors to care for the victims with AIDS.

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The program will be run in 56 counties in the provinces of Anhui, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Shanxi and Shandong. The Ministry of Health (MOH) plans to increase the number of participating counties to 100, and in time nation-wide. "All over China we've seen little good projects, but little good projects don't stop an epidemic. What you need to do is take these projects to scale, and that takes top-level leadership," said Billy Stewart, head of a British government funded project to direct AIDS programs in two Chinese provinces.

—Leslie Chang, "China May Apply Lessons From SARS to Fight AIDS," *Wall Street Journal*, 4 August 2003; in Wall Street Journal Online, 4 August 2003, <http://online.wsj.com>.

9 August 2003

Harbin's "Friends' Hotline," China's first gay health information resource center, and the Harbin Sanitation and Epidemic Prevention center organized a series of lectures in Yinchun and other smaller cities in Heilongjiang province. The lecture in Yinchun attracted more than 60 local people and presented issues such as safe sex, prevention of venereal diseases (VD) and HIV/AIDS, and support for groups exposed to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). A primary school teacher who attended the lecture said she is often to embarrassed to discuss sex with her students. "After learning about the proper way of communication during the lecture, I'm confident of conducting healthy and helpful communication with the kids in the future," she added. In 2002, China reported 9,824 new cases of HIV, up 19.5 percent from 2001. Of the 9,824 HIV cases, some 1,045 were full-blown AIDS patients and 363 died.

—"Chinese Attitude Toward Sex maturing," Xinhua, 9 August 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 9 August 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

11 August 2003

Small Steps (China) (www.smallstepsinchina.com), a wholly owned foreign enterprise (WFOE) in China with a domicile in London, England, has organized a "Positive Art Workshop" in Beijing's You'an Hospital's AIDS unit. It is believed to be the first time in China for AIDS patients to use art as a form of therapy to release psychological stress. "Most patients are under a lot of mental pressure, but they either don't want to talk about it or lack the language skills to express exactly what they are feeling," said Song Pengfei, an HIV patient and workshop coordinator. "But art transcends the language barrier, and through their paintings, they can release everything they have not been able to say. Song Pengfei was the first person in China to openly announce he was HIV positive.

—Chua Chin Hon, "Chinese AIDS Patients Say it Through Art," *The Straits Times* (Singapore), 11 August 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 11 August 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

15 August 2003

Mao Qunan, Deputy Director of the Chinese Health Ministry's Department of General Administration, revealed that the Ministry of Health (MOH) will soon submit a draft of new regulations regarding the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients to the State Council for approval. These new rules will help clarify the "legal responsibility of local authorities to treat (AIDS) patients and prevent officials from covering up the spread of the disease," wrote the *Financial Times*. Mao presented the recent incident in Henan province, Xiongqiao village as an example of the difficulties of making sure that local authorities react appropriately to the AIDS situation in their areas. He said, "We need to make clear the responsibility of each level of government for preventing and treating AIDS. We are stressing that it might be a better choice to handle things through law...just making spoken appeals [to local government officials] may not resolve the problems."

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Mao also noted that the program to provide AIDS victims in rural areas of Central China with free domestically-made, anti-AIDS drugs has proven to be "more complex" than expected. However, Mao said, "We need to expand it as quickly as possible, because the patients' needs are very urgent."

—Mure Dickie, "Stringent New Rules on AIDS Policy Proposed by China," *Financial Times* (London), 15 August 2003.

16 August 2003

With funding provided by the Australia Agency for International Development (AUSAID), Vietnam's northern province of Quang Ninh and its neighboring Chinese province of Guangxi have implemented a cross-border HIV/AIDS program. Health officials from the two provinces recently met in Quang Ninh to review the progress of the program over the past year. The program organized HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness seminars at the Mong Cai / Dongxing border crossing, published 30,000 HIV/AIDS awareness brochures in Chinese and Vietnamese, trained peers who are HIV positive, drug users, bar-girls, and motorbike-drivers, provided healthcare advice to 256 HIV/AIDS victims and provided AIDS awareness training to 22,800 high-risk people.

—"Vietnamese, Chinese Provinces Cooperate in Fighting HIV/AIDS," Hanoi VNA, 16 August 2003; in Hanoi VNA, WWW, 16 August 2003.

17 August 2003

During a report to the State Council, Ding Yuanzhu, Director of the Macroeconomic Research Institute, warned that the rapidly rising number of AIDS cases would not only have a great impact on China's social stability, but would also negatively affect its economy and investment environment. The document, compiled by the State Development and Reform Commission (SDERC), argued China should not compromise social development in favor of economic development. The *China Business Report* wrote the report was an important consultation for China's 11th Five-year plan (2005-2010), and included other political and social factors which could lead to an economic or social crisis in the coming years. The SDERC was established during the National People's Congress last March when the State Developing Planning Commission and the State Council Office for Reform of Economic Systems combined to form one policy think-tank.

—Verna Yu, "Think-tank Warns of Policy Crisis," *Sunday Morning Post* (Hong Kong), 17 August 2003, p. 6; Laurence Braham, "A Wake-up Call for China's New Leaders," *South China Morning Post* (Hong Kong), 30 August 2003.

19 August 2003

Henan province health officials reported Ma Shiwen, Deputy Director of the Henan Center for Disease Control (CDC) was taken into custody on suspicion of leaking state secrets. "It is possible that the secrets leaked concerned official documents that were anonymously sent to Aizhi Action Group on August 24 last year and which revealed the extent of the AIDS outbreak in Henan," said Wan Yanhai. "As far as I know, Ma Shiwen has not been formally sacked, he is still deputy director of the section, he has just disappeared," a unnamed CDC colleague told Agence France Presse (AFP).

—"PRC Health Official Arrested for Leaking AIDS Secrets," Agence France Presse, 19 August 2003; in Yahoo News, 20 August 2003, <http://sg.news.yahoo.com/>

21 August 2003

The World Health Organization (WHO) will train thousands of Chinese medical workers in order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through hospitals. The program will begin in Beijing and eventually spread through out China.

[NOTE: While the training mainly focuses on SARS, increased training will also aid in the fight against HIV/AIDS.]

—"WHO to train thousands of Chinese medical workers as SARS fears linger," Agence France Presse, 21 August 2003, in Yahoo News, 21 August 2003, <http://sg.news.yahoo.com/>

25 August 2003

The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region's Red Cross reported a total of 7,593 people have become infected with the AIDS virus as of June 2003. Xinjiang now has the second largest HIV population after Yunnan province. The majority of the Xinjiang's HIV cases are in the 20 to 40 age group, and 98 percent contracted the virus through intravenous drug use. The Red Cross has monitoring stations in Yili, Hami, Changji and Urumqi to monitor the spread of AIDS and to spread awareness. Xinjiang reported its first AIDS case in 1995.

—"Nearly 7,600 People Contracted AIDS in Xinjiang," Xinhua, 25 August 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 August 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 August 2003

While reporting on China's efforts to combat infectious diseases to the Standing Committee of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC), Gao Qiang, Vice-Minister of Health said, "China is facing a tough challenge in the prevention and control of major epidemic disease, which endanger people's health and lives and influence economic development and social stability." More specifically he added, "We should not relax our efforts to prevent SARS from coming back, which remains a challenging task." Although China has made tremendous strides in eradicating smallpox and polio, it still faces challenges in combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, the plague and schistosomiasis. At more than 40,000 reported cases, China's HIV population ranks second in Asia, behind India. In 2002 more than 740,000 cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were reported. China also reported 580,000 tuberculosis patients accounting for one-fourth of the world's total.

Vice-Minister Gao listed six deficiencies in the country's current epidemic control network:

- Inadequacies in awareness of the severity and threat of major epidemics;
- Lack of quick response mechanisms;
- Lack of prevention and control capabilities;
- Lack of legislative backing;
- Lack of rural infrastructure; and
- Lack of government financing.

Gao also added that epidemic control has been added to China's national economic and social development plan. "China has established over 1,000 disease alert and response stations, and a relatively complete disease outbreak reporting network," reported Xinhua. In 2002, the central government allocated 800 million yuan (about 96.4 million USD), and a total of 2.12 billion yuan (about 255.4 million USD) will invested in western China's public healthcare system in 2003.

—"Controlling Epidemics Remains Tough Task: Official," Xinhua, 25 August 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 August 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Gao Vows to Defend Nation's Health," *China Daily*, 26 August 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 26 August 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Opening Up Health Info to the Public," *Business Daily*, 27 August, 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 27 August 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

30 August 2003

During a two-day AIDS prevention conference in Beijing, the China Family Planning Association asked its 94 million members to raise their respective community's awareness of HIV/AIDS. Liu Yongfeng, Deputy Director of the Association's International Co-operation Department said the main objectives of the campaign was to "mobilize its mass network in all levels of society, including the impoverished," reported the *South China Morning Post*. "Our major challenges are inadequate resources and the lack of community

participation," he said. During the conference the Association established an action plan which included cooperating with government AIDS control programs. It will also help raise awareness, establish care programs for those already infected with HIV, AIDS patient and AIDS orphans, encourage the use and sale of condoms, and raise funds for AIDS awareness and prevention. Liu said, "At the moment we're still very inexperienced, especially in caring for AIDS sufferers. We want to overcome discrimination in the community and to minimize the loneliness felt by sufferers." The China Family Planning Association is China's largest non-governmental organization (NGO).

—Verna Yu, "Mobilizing Millions...", *South China Morning Post*, 30 August 2003, p. 4.

31 August 2003

Dr. [Gao Yao Jie](#), one of the seven recipients of the 2003 Ramon Magsaysay Award, was unable to personally accept the award because she was denied a Chinese passport to travel abroad. In 2001 she was also unable to travel to the United States and personally receive the Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health and Human Rights for the same reason. There has been no official response from Chinese health authorities on her being awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service. Gao will receive 50,000 USD from the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation.

—Antoaneta Bezlova, "China: Beijing Silent on Award for AIDS Activist," Inter Press Service (New Delhi), 28 August 2003, Ma. Ceres P. Doyo, "Magsaysay Awardee Absent But Not Silent," *Philippine Daily Inquirer* (Manila), 1 September 2003.

31 August 2003

Dr. [Gao Yao Jie](#), from Hunan province, is being sued for slander by Li Demin from neighboring Hubei province. Li alleged Gao harmed his reputation by writing in her newsletter that "there were unscrupulous people trying to cash in on the outbreak (of AIDS) by selling patients useless medicine," reported Agence France Presse (AFP). Gao denies the charge. She said, "I don't think the court should take up the case. I didn't reveal any names in my article and besides, he's not a doctor and has no medical background. He shouldn't be making medicine and claiming it can treat AIDS." Gao published the newsletter in April 2002, and Li filed the case in Zhengzhou city in March of this year. The court date is set for September 16th.

—"Prominent Chinese AIDS Campaigner Faces Defamation Lawsuit," Agence France Presse, 31 August 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 31 August 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

1 September 2003

While speaking at the 59th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand, Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang said the Asia-Pacific Region should work together with all parties to control HIV/AIDS, reduce the epidemic's impact and upgrade the public healthcare systems. "The raging of HIV/AIDS is not only a challenge to human life, but also a serious threat to the economic and social development of all countries," Shen added. "Our fight against SARS in the region earlier this year has given full exposition to the interaction between economic and social development and to the importance of promoting a balanced development," Shen said. "We have incorporated the prevention and the (HIV/AIDS) epidemic into the national overall development," he continued.

—"China Calls for Coordinate Regional Economic, Social Development," Xinhua, 1 September 2003, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 1 September 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "China Ready to Work with All Parties to Offset HIV/AIDS Impact," Xinhua, 2 September 2003, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 5 September 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

3 September 2003

China called a recent report released by the New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) as "inappropriate." The report named "[Locked Doors: The Human Rights of People Living with HIV/AIDS in China.](#)" said the Chinese government is "fueling" the spread of HIV/AIDS by its handling of disease and refusing treatment. According to the report, some HIV/AIDS patients have limited access to healthcare and there are government restrictions on "gathering and spreading" of HIV/AIDS related information. The report also called on Beijing to launch an official investigation into the blood-selling activities in Henan and other provinces.

In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Kong Quan said, "On this issue, it should be said that the overall cooperation between the Chinese government and the international community has been effective and we will continue it.

[\[Press Statement\]](#)

—Margaret Wong, "Group: China Denying AIDS Makes It Worse," *Washington Post*, 3 September 2003, in Washington Post.com, 3 September 2003, <http://www.washingtonpost.com>; "China Defends AIDS Policy After Critical Report," Reuters Health, 4 September 2003, Reuters Health, 4 September 2003, <http://www.reutershealth.com>.

11 September 2003

The Nanjing Branch of the Taiping Insurance Company has become the first domestic insurance company to offer HIV/AIDS health insurance. "According to a principal for the company named Feng, the insurance policies are mainly for HIV/AIDS patients infected during blood transfusions. Insurants who meet the following three conditions can get compensation: there is evidence proving that they were infected with HIV/AIDS during a transfusion involving medical accidents; they are not hemophilia patents; and HIV/AIDS is threatening their lives and cannot be cured, or the disease is not in a latent period," reported *China Daily*. If a healthy person pays 290 yuan (35 USD) per year up to the age of 60, would be entitled to 10,000 yuan (1,208 USD) if he catches HIV/AIDS.

—Feng Yikun, "Insurance Covering HIV/AIDS," *China Daily*, 11 September 2003; in <http://www.china.org.cn/>

20 September 2003

The first comprehensive study of China's sex trade showed that the majority of prostitutes in Yunnan and Sichuan know nothing about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and the risks of contracting AIDS. The study, conducted by England's health marketing company the Future's Group and the Beijing-based marketing company Horizon, found that two in five of the 800 respondents have never had a health check, and more than half do see a qualified physician when they contract a STD. Some 42 percent of prostitutes say they ask clients to wear condoms. The deciding factor of using a condom was left up to the male client.

A similar study was conducted among 800 men aged between 25 - 45 in Yunnan and Sichuan. "Many said they would be willing to pay more for unprotected sex, and a significant number believed condoms were ineffective in preventing HIV," reported the *South China Morning Post*.

Furthermore, results showed fewer than one in five prostitute practice safe sex with their boyfriends or husbands, and only 38 percent had completed junior high school. The World Health Organization estimates there are six million prostitutes in China.

—Josephine Ma, "Survey Exposes Deadly Ignorance of Sex Workers," *South China Morning Post*, 20 September 2003, p. 4.

22 September 2003

While addressing the HIV/AIDS High-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, Executive Vice-Minister of Health Gao Qiang stated the "Chinese government has attached great importance to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and has treated it as a strategic issue for social stability, economic development, national prosperity and security, making it a first priority of the government work." The importance China places on the AIDS issue can be seen in the statements by Chinese President Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council. President Hu stated, "HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment is a major issue pertinent to the quality and prosperity of the Chinese nation." Premier Wen has repeatedly given directives to all departments concerned to improve HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment "dealing with HIV/AIDS as an urgent and major issue, which is related to the fundamental interest of the whole Chinese nation."

Gao added that the Chinese central and local governments provided more than 6.8 billion yuan (822 million USD) to improve its infectious disease prevention and control systems. More than 200 million yuan (24 million USD) is spent annually on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care. Also, the central government and local governments invested more than 2.25 billion yuan (272 million USD) to clean-up the nation's blood collection stations in China's central and western regions. The Chinese government is also involved the acquisition of generic anti-AIDS drugs to provide free of cost to HIV/AIDS victims in "high-priority areas." Gao reported China has 840,000 people now living with HIV and 80,000 people who are symptomatic for AIDS. These numbers were the result of a new surveillance system conducted jointly between the Ministry of Health (MOH), UNAIDS and the World Health Organization (WHO).

China is "fully aware of the fact that the HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in China is still faces with arduous tasks," Gao stated. He named three areas which have prevented China to effectively control HIV/AIDS:

- Large income gaps among regions and the lack of economic and social development in rural areas;
- Illegal activities such as smuggling, drug trafficking, and prostitution have not been eliminated;
- In some areas HIV/AIDS has not been addressed and funded.

Faced with the arduous tasks of reversing the rise of HIV/AIDS, Gao named five areas where China will increase its efforts:

- To "clarify targets, identify responsibilities and improve evaluation, supervision and monitoring;"
- To invest more than 10 billion yuan (1.2 billion USD) to provide free anti-AIDS drugs to all patients in rural areas and poor urban victims, and train health care workers to act in a professional manner in prevention and treatment;

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- To improve laws regarding illegal activities such as prostitution, drug use and trafficking and illegal blood collection and supply. Public awareness will also be promoted to encourage the population to live a healthy life style and remain drug-free;
- To protect the rights of HIV/AIDS patients and their families and provide economic assistance to patients living in poverty. Children will be provided education at no cost;
- To become more active in the international fight against HIV/AIDS. China will continue to accept the technical and financial assistance of foreign governments and organizations. China will also contribute 10 million USD to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to support the efforts of the international community in developing countries

[\[Full Text\]](#)

—Gao Qiang, Speech at the HIV/AIDS High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly, 22 September 2003 at <http://un.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/56493.html>.

4 October 2003

Wan Xinlun, the Director of the Public Education Center of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, announced China recorded 840,000 HIV infections, a rise of 20 percent, by the end of last month. The number of people being treated for AIDS rose to 80,000 people, which represents a 140 percent increase in the first six months of 2003. To date 220,000 AIDS patients have died reported *Beijing Youth Daily*. The United Nations (UN) estimates there are up to 1.5 million HIV/AIDS cases in China.

Wan also stated the current comprehensive AIDS treatment program, which began last March in 54 "demonstration zones" in 11 provinces, will be expanded to 100 counties by the end of 2003. "It said the authorities would provide free treatment to HIV carriers and AIDS patients in these zones if they had contacted the disease through blood transfusion," reported the *South China Morning Post*. China also gave the approval for two Chinese pharmaceutical companies to manufacture AIDS drugs.

—"HIV Infections Rise Sharply in China, Pass 1 Million," Deutsche-Press-Agentur, 4 October 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 4 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Mainland AIDS Death Rate Reaches 20pc," South China Morning Post, 5 October 2003, p. 5.

6 October 2003

Ma Shiwen, Deputy Director of the Henan Center for Disease Control, who was arrested in August 2003 for revealing "state secrets" was reportedly sentenced to a 10 year prison term. "The newspapers haven't reported it, but it's true. I heard it from several Henan health department officials," Gao Yaojie said. Wan Yanhai, Director of Aizhi Action Group also confirmed the sentencing of Ma. However, Ma Shiwen's wife denied her husband was sentenced. "He hasn't been sentenced. It's under investigation. They have no evidence he did it," she said. "He was very dedicated to his work dealing with the AIDS situation. He put in very long hours. He did whatever the government wanted him to do. He definitely would not leak a document."

—"Chinese Health Official Sentenced to Prison for Leaking AIDS 'Secrets.'" Agence France Presse, 6 October 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Wife of Jailed AIDS Official Denies Jail Sentence," Agence France Presse, 6 October 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 6 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

8 October 2003

Responding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) report, Gu BaoChang, Deputy Director of the China Family Planning Association, reported 9.5 percent of China's HIV carriers are less than 19 years-old. "As China has been seeing fast social changes with its reform and opening up policy in the past two decades, premarital sex began to be accepted by more and more people. However, the traditional view of sex prevented young people, especially adolescents, from adequate knowledge. Sex without proper sexual knowledge has become a big threat to adolescents' health in China," wrote Xinhua.

In China's hospitals, out-of-wedlock abortions make up 60 percent of total abortions. Beijing's Maternity Hospital reported up to 50 percent of abortions were performed on unmarried women, and 14 percent were under the age of 20. According to a survey of Beijing undergraduate university students, 15 percent of male students and 13 percent of female student reported having sex, but only 42.2 percent used birth control when engaging in sex for the first time. The rate for medical students was 47.8 percent.

—Zaho Xiaohui, "Lack of Sex Education Threatens Chinese Adolescents' Health," Xinhua, 8 October 2003, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 8 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

10 October 2003

The Chinese Family Planning Association released statistics of premarital physical examinations showing an increase in premarital sex. The ratio of premarital sex varied by region, ranging from 44 percent to 90.75 percent. The national average is between 60 to 70 percent. Associations statistics also show up to one third of young Chinese believe sex is a private affair and "has nothing to do with other people or society," writes Xinhua. Gu Baochang, Deputy Director of the Association stated, "Knowledge, attitudes, capability and behavior of the unwed towards sex is still outside the national survey of population and health. This isn't good for making policies and launching programs on sexual health."

—"Research Shows Premarital Sex Prevalent in China," Xinhua, 10 October 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 10 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

13 October 2003

The Chinese government released China's European Union (EU) Policy Paper detailing the objectives of China's EU policy on bilateral cooperation within the next five years. In the area of health and medical care cooperation, the policy paper stated:

"Cooperation in the health sector should be strengthened, particularly in sharing experience of prevention and control of SARS, HIV/AIDS and other serious diseases. Efforts should be made to develop exchanges in clinical diagnosis and treatment, epidemiological investigation, analysis and surveillance, laboratory testing, R&D for medicines and vaccines, and training of medical personnel. Exploratory endeavor should be made for the establishment of a mechanism to keep each other informed and provide technical support in case of emergent public health hazards."

—"China's EU Policy Paper," Xinhua, 13 October 2003 in FBIS CPP20031013000064.

15 October 2003

China's Health Minister and Vice Premier Wu Yi and UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy stated that China and UNICEF will increase their cooperation in promoting the welfare of children in China, especially in the area of AIDS prevention and awareness.

—"Chinese Vice Premier Meets UNICEF Guests," Xinhua, 15 October 2003, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 15 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

15 October 2003

The United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported the establishment of a field office in China at the request of Chinese Ministry of Health. China is the latest of 25 countries where the CDC has established HIV/AIDS field offices under the Global AIDS Program. The China office will have an annual budget of three million USD. Ray Yi, from the CDC Atlanta will head the China office. According to Yi, China has a opportunity to prevent an AIDS catastrophe. He said, "The window to avert a catastrophic situation like in the African countries is still within grasp. But this opportunity won't last forever."

—Julie Chao, "AIDS Fighters: CDC Helps Curb Spread of Deadly Disease," *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 15 October 2003; in <http://www.ajc.com>.

17 October 2003

Dai Zhicheng, Vice President of the China Association for HIV/AIDS and Venereal Disease Prevention reported that China has an estimated 1.04 million HIV cases. According to the 2002 China HIV/AIDS Report, China had 40,560 confirmed HIV cases by the end of 2002. Blood transmission is the major source of HIV infections with 63.7 percent of blood transmission cases through intravenous drug use (IDU), and 8.1 percent infections are through sexual intercourse. Chinese in the 20 - 29 age group account for 53.6 percent of HIV cases. Yunnan province, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region have the highest HIV populations. "The HIV carriers in the west (western China) are mainly drug users, in the central area mainly blood donors and in the west or coastal areas mainly prostitute and venereal diseases sufferers," reported *China Daily*.

—"China has Over One Million HIV Carriers," *China Daily*, 17 October 2003; in China Daily Online, <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn> (10/17/2003).

19 October 2003

United States Health Secretary Tommy Thompson officially announced the opening of the 36 million USD HIV/AIDS office in Beijing to be administered by the US Center for Disease Control (CDC). The cooperative program will provide an additional 15 million USD to AIDS prevention and treatment programs within the next five years. After speaking with Chinese Vice Health Minister Gao Qiang, Thompson stated, "In the discussion with Minister Gao...I was impressed by his candor and forthrightness on this particular subject, we had, I wouldn't say heated, but a very direct exchange on this subject." He added, "The best thing I believe the Chinese government can do is to publicize (AIDS prevention and education) and at the highest echelons of the Chinese government talk more prevention, treatment and control of HIV/AIDS." Julie Greenberg, Director of the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention said the cooperative project aims to increase HIV/AIDS prevention, care for those already infected, and contain localized HIV/AIDS epidemics by preventing secondary transmission from primary populations to the general public.

On China's current AIDS situation, Li Liming, Director of the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said, "The biggest challenge we're facing is how to prevent the disease from transmitting to the general public from high-risk people such as prostitutes." Furthermore, inadequate recognition by central and local authorities, intense AIDS-related discrimination among the general population, and absence of testing, treatment and care services are also looming problems. However, Huang Jiefu, Vice-Minister of Health added China would "honor its commitment to take transparent and open-minded measures" to address these problems, and engage in international cooperation. "China has learned many lessons from the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak, and one of them is international cooperation," he said. According to Li, intravenous drug users account for

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63.7 percent of China HIV/AIDS cases, while blood donors makeup 9.3 percent and people infected through sexual transmission is 8.1 percent.

Secretary Thompson also congratulated Chinese health officials for receiving a 21 million USD, two-year grant from the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria last week. This marks the first grant China has received from the Fund to fight HIV/AIDS. "We are ready and willing to do more with China in its fight against HIV/AIDS, but true success will only be achieved when all members of the community are welcome to take an active role in the nation's efforts. That includes protecting the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and treating them with dignity and respect," said Thompson.

—"China, US Launch Cooperation in Fighting AIDS," Xinhua, 20 October 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "US Seeks Coordinated Health Strategy with China on AIDS, SARS," Agence France Presse, 19 October 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 19 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; "Secretary Pleases Cooperation with China, Urges Openness; HSS Assist China with AIDS, SARS Prevention, Surveillance, Treatment," *Health and Human Services Press Release*, 19 October 2003; in <http://www.hhs.gov/news>; "Int'l AIDS Group Opens Beijing Office," Financial Times Information, Business Daily Update, 21 October 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 21 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

20 October 2003

Ma Shiwen, Deputy Director for Disease Control at the Henan Provincial Health Department was released from custody. He was originally arrested in August 2003 for allegedly leaking a state document regarding Henan's AIDS crisis. Ma was released several days before US Health Secretary Tommy Thompson was scheduled to arrive in Beijing.

—Mure Dickie, "China Frees AIDS Official," *Financial Times* (London), 20 October 2003, p.5; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 20 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

23 October 2003

Some 22 prestigious Chinese scientists warned AIDS will become a "nationwide scourge" in 10 years unless immediate and effective measures are taken. Zeng Yi, an AIDS expert with the Ministry of Health said both the central government and the general population still underestimate the serious nature of AIDS in China. "The society as a whole was not fully aware of the importance and urgency of AIDS prevention and control and there remained a lot to be done in terms of policy making, extensive publicity and scientific researchers," Zeng acknowledged. The scientists also see the vital role business and industry now holds in China's modern society, and hoped to receive their financial support for increasing AIDS awareness and prevention programs in China.

—"Chinese Scientists Warn AIDS to Become 'Nationwide Scourge' in 10 Years," Xinhua, 23 October 2003, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 23 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

24 October 2003

The China (Liaoning province) Red Cross AIDS Prevention and Control Program launched the first Training Course for Core Directors of China AIDS Prevention and Control Youth and Adolescence Peer Education in Shenyang, Liaoning province. The program "will develop AIDS prevention and control peer education activities among youth and adolescents in colleges and university in the province," reported the *Shenyang Liaoning Ribao*. The program was established with help from the Netherlands Red Cross to support China's AIDS control capacity building. The Netherlands Red Cross provided 100,000 Euros for the creation of the Liaoning Red Cross.

—Zhu Qin, "China (Liaoning) Red Cross AIDS Prevention and Control Project Starts," *Shenyang Liaoning Ribao*, 24 October 2003.

24 October 2003

Thailand's Minister of Health Sudarat Keyuraphan announced he will visit China's state-

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enterprise pharmaceutical company named World Base Company in November. Keyuraphan will invite China to form a joint-venture on the production of raw materials for anti-AIDS drugs. He stated, "The Ministry of Public Health (Thailand) wants to invite World Base Company to join in a joint venture project in Thailand on the production of raw materials for anti-AIDS medicines. The project, if successful, will enable Thailand to not only have sufficient medical supply to serve local HIV/AIDS patients, but also export the anti-AIDS medicines to other countries, including such neighboring countries as Cambodia and Indonesia, and such far-away counties as those in Africa."

—"Ministry of Public Health to Seek Chinese Investment on anti-AIDS Project," Thai Press Reports, 24 October 2003, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 24 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

25 October 2003

A youth sexual health center and phone hotline opened in Qingdao, Shandong province with the support of Marie Stopes International (MSI). The center called "You and Me" provides free consultations on sexual health, and also provides emergency contraception. Xu Jin, the center's leader stated, "We hope our center can help youngsters raise their awareness of reproductive health and establish an appropriate attitude towards love and sex." He added, "Most of the clients we received in the first several working days are young men under 25, who are usually too shy to speak about their sexual problems and ignorance." Currently, the center averages about 20 phone calls a day. Marie Stopes International China intends to establish other centers throughout China. Chinese between the ages of 10 - 24 account for 26 percent of China population, or 327 million people according to Chinese 2000 census report.

—"Sexual Health Center for Young People Open in E China," Xinhua, 25 October 2003, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 25 October 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

28 October 2003

During a state visit to New Zealand, Chinese President Hu Jintao promoted the increased exchanged between Chinese and New Zealand bio-tech firms. Hu toured the Auckland-based biotech firm Virionyx, which is involved in AIDS, SARS and dengue fever research. Hu stated, "Such bio-engineering efforts constitute new attempts by our people to conquer the disease of AIDS and that is very meaningful for mankind." He continued, "You know some institutions in China are engaged in similar research - I would be very happy to see more collaboration between us." Virionyx Chairman Peter Sullivan expects to have close "consultations with Chinese authorities as its remedies are developed to the clinical states," reported the *New Zealand Herald*. Last week at the APEC meet in Bangkok, President Hu said China "felt guilty for the whole world" when SARS' global death toll began to rise.

—Fran O'Sullivan, "Chinese Favor Shared Research," *The New Zealand Herald*, 28 October 2003.

3 November 2003

A court in Zhengzhou, Henan province dismissed the libel lawsuit against [Gao Yaojie](#). She was sued by Li Demin, a construction worker from Henan, because of an article Gao wrote entitled "Don't You Feel Ashamed to Cheat AIDS Patients Out of Their Money." While not named in the article, Li believed his reputation had been ruined by Gao's article. Li claimed his herbal anti-AIDS drug as 100 percent effective in curing AIDS. Li was ordered by the court to pay 910 yuan in court cost.

—"AIDS Activist Wins Libel Claim Battle," *South China Morning Post*, 3 November 2003.

5 November 2003

As a part of the "121 Joint Action Plan" for AIDS prevention and control, Zeng Yi, head of

the Chinese Foundation for Prevention of STD and AIDS, and an academician with the Chinese Academy of Science announced November has been established as "Red Ribbon Month." The "121 Joint Action Plan" was originally launched in March 2003. In November, the Chinese Foundation for Prevention of STD and AIDS will publicize AIDS prevention and control in the media, sponsor university lectures and distribute free condoms and informational pamphlets.

Zeng Yi also stated he hopes Chinese enterprises will become involved in the national effort to control AIDS. He said, "The Chinese government has already made remarkable achievements in AIDS Prevention and control. However, the work required sufficient funds, and it is not possible for the government to solely fund the work." He feels promoting and funding AIDS prevention is one way enterprises can benefit society. On Wednesday, Chinese government officials along with Harvard University held an all-day forum to promote public-private partnerships to research and treat AIDS. Some 75 representative from international pharmaceutical firms and corporations such as Ford and BP attended. —"November Features AIDS Prevention, Control Activities in China," Xinhua, 5 November 2003; "China Plans Month of AIDS Awareness Activities," Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 5 November 2003.

5 November 2003

Harvard University, the World Economic Forum and UNAIDS hosted the first ever meeting of business, government and civil society in China. The conference was to increase awareness of the economic implications of HIV/AIDS, as well as call upon business leaders to increase their support in a national comprehensive response to AIDS.

Shen Jie, Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in China stated, "AIDS has become a serious social and public health issue and requires immediate, strong action from all sectors of society. Chinese leaders regard AIDS as a national strategic issue that has significant impact on peoples' welfare, social stability and economic development. The Chinese government also recognizes that AIDS control is an issue that only can be effectively tackled with coordinated efforts by all sectors of society - government, non-governmental organizations and private business sectors, as well as the local community. As the world's most populous country, China's experiences and lessons in AIDS prevention and control should have significant implications for the rest of the world."

Peter Piot, Executive Director, Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), believes business can play a positive role in reducing the social stigma attached to AIDS. He stated, "We must address the stigma faced by people living with HIV. If we do not, all others efforts will be severely undermined. Business can play a big role in breaking the silence and reducing stigma. He added, "In the past, the (Chinese) government denied that HIV was a problem. If business as usual is continued, millions and millions of people will have to be treated, and it will mean business and political instability down the road. Its not only drug users and prostitutes who are prone, but quite often it is the most entrepreneurial people. Many entrepreneurs are active people who have multiple sex partners and they, too, are vulnerable.

—UNAIDS, "Business Initiates Dialogue with Chinese Government and Other Stakeholders to Address HIV/AIDS in China," UNAIDS Press Release, 5 November 2003; available at <http://www.unaids.org> (11/7/2003); Allen T. Cheng and Josephine Ma, "Mainland is Warned Over AIDS Explosion," *South China Morning Post*, 7 November 2003, p.6.

7 November 2003

Gao Qiang, China's Executive Deputy Minister of Health, announced at the that up to 5,000 HIV carriers and AIDS patients will receive free AIDS medication and treatment by the end of the year. These 5,000 HIV/AIDS beneficiaries are made up of China's rural residents and urban residents who can not afford the cost of medication. "HIV/AIDS in China has not been controlled and prevention and treatment in China is still faced with arduous tasks," said Gao. The Chinese central government has invested 6.8 billion yuan (850 million USD) to improve prevention and control mechanisms at the provincial level. Central and local government will so allocate 2.25 billion yuan (272 million USD) to strengthen China's blood testing centers in the central and western regions.

—"'Cheaper 'Cocktail' Therapeutics Expected to Reach Chinese AIDS Patients," Xinhua, 7 November 2003.

10 November 2003

Legal experts attending the Qinghua University AIDS and SARS Summit agreed that China needs to improve its current laws to provide a positive social environment rather than foster discrimination and restrict HIV/AIDS sufferers activities.

- Professor Li Dun, Executive Director of the Qinghua Social Policy Research Institute said the existing laws focus only on detection and control. Li said "laws should focus on issues such as discrimination against AIDS sufferers in health, education and employment, the examination of blood before transfusions and the confidentiality of AIDS suffers," reported Xinhua.
- Professor Xia Guomei, from Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences called upon lawmakers to "seek the applicable and symbolic legal force for the effective control of the dissemination of AIDS while not contradicting other policies."
- Professor Qiu Renzong, a leading AIDS expert, said there are too few existing law which only effectively stop or remedy discrimination against AIDS sufferers. He also pointed out "that conflicts existed between law enforcement and AIDS prevention and care activities," wrote Xinhua. "China AIDS prevention and control laws should be enacted in compliance with international human rights norms and the interest of China's sustainable development," said Qiu.

—"Experts Give Legal Suggestions on China's AIDS Problem," Xinhua, 10 November 2003.

11 November 2003

During the recent AIDS conference in Beijing, Gao Yaojie asked to meet with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. She wanted to appeal to the Chinese premier to replace the Henan officials who were involved in the blood scandal and urge the central government to find foster homes for children whose parents have died of AIDS.

—Josephine Ma, "AIDS Doctor Seeks Premier's Help," *South China Morning Post*, 11 November 2003, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 11 November 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

11 November 2003

While addressing the recent AIDS conference at Beijing's prestigious Qinghua University, former President Bill Clinton said while China has made tremendous economic and social gains in the past 20 years, AIDS can erode all these accomplishments. He stated, "China has come too far to see the future of millions of its people derailed over this. You need leadership and resolve." Fujie Zhang, Treatment Division Director with China's National Center for the Control and Prevention of AIDS and STDs said China has taken several new

steps in its fight against AIDS: cutting import duties on AIDS medications, exempting promising drugs from clinical trials, and subsidizing rural health clinics.

—Mark Magnier, "Clinton Warns China on AIDS," *LA Times*, 11 November 2003; available in <http://www.latime.com> (11/11/2003).

11 November 2003

Zeng Yi, a senior HIV/AIDS official from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention wants China to establish a HIV/AIDS headquarters with "real powers," reported *China Daily*. Zeng stated, "We should tell our people the true situation and take effective measures. We should try our best to find all HIV carriers and AIDS patients and give them care and support." A national headquarters, similar to that of SARS, would not only effectively improve epidemic surveillance and public awareness, but also mobilize local governments, Zeng argued. Many international and Chinese HIV/AIDS experts also called on China to reform its existing HIV/AIDS laws which prioritize the detention and control of carriers themselves. "Laws should instead focus on preventing discrimination in health, education and employment and ensuring the blood used in transfusions was safe," experts said.

—"Chinese Experts, Rights Groups Tell Government to Come Clean on AIDS," Agence France Presse, 11 November 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 11 November 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

12 November 2003

Former President Clinton toured China's newest AIDS research center located at the Beijing Union Medical College and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. Clinton said that the "establishment of the center, as an important step in the process of enforcing AIDS prevention, control and research, would enhance the international cooperation in this field," reported Xinhua.

—"Former US President Clinton Inspects China's New AIDS Research Center," Xinhua, 12 November 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 November 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

12 November 2003

According to Vice-Minister of Education, Zhang Xincheng, most of China's one million HIV carriers are in the 15 - 19 year-old age group. He did not disclose the exact number of young people infected. China began compulsory courses on AIDS prevention and awareness and the risks of drug abuse in primary and middle school in March 2003.

—"Chinese Youth Faced with Threat of HIV Virus," Xinhua, 12 November 2003, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 12 November 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

13 November 2003

The Chinese Ministry of Finance and State Administration of Taxation announced AIDS drugs importers and distributed will be exempt from paying value-added taxes from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2006. Xinhua also reported domestically produced AIDS drugs will have value-added taxes for designated produces and distributor waived from 1 July 2003 to 31 December 2003.

—"China to Exempt AIDS Drugs from Value-Added Tax by the end 2005- Xinhua," AFX News, 13 November 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 13 November 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>.

14 November 2003

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria awarded China a 98 million USD grant. The Ministry of Health stated the money will be used to provide relief for HIV/AIDS victims who live in poverty in urban areas and HIV/AIDS victims who reside in the country side. The money will also be used to establish and maintain 124 HIV/AIDS

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care centers in the most devastated areas. According to *China Daily*, the central government has increased its annual AIDS funding to more than 15 million USD annually.

—"China Wins 95 million dollar Global Fund Grant to Tackle AIDS Crisis," Agence France Presse, 14 November 2003; in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, 14 November 2003, <http://www.lexisnexis.com>; Zhang Peng, "UN Grants US \$95m to Help Nation Fight AIDS," *China Daily*, 11 November 2003; available at <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn>. (11/14/2003).

Notes:

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