

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Assistant Secretary for Health

Daily AIDS Report: February 16, 1984

The Secretary

Through: US _____

ES _____

Today I discussed with CDC personnel the following important new information that may be an important development in finding the cause of AIDS. Scientists at L'Institut Pasteur in France have isolated a retrovirus known as the Lymphadenopathy Associated Virus (LAV) from some seven patients with AIDS. As you may recall, it was a retrovirus that was isolated from the primates with Simian AIDS; however, the LAV does not cross-react with that one, and so would appear to be different. The LAV isolated from human patients can be cultured only on human Helper T-cells and it destroys them. Furthermore, people with fully developed AIDS do not have antibodies to LAV consistent with the concept that destruction of their Helper T-cells leads to an inability to develop antibodies. The apparent importance of this virus is that it is the first one that is consistent with a plausible theory for the development of AIDS.

Since these findings must be tested further, we must not discuss them now. I will keep you informed.

/s/ Edward N. Brandt, Jr.

Edward N. Brandt, Jr., M.D.

Attachment

Prepared by: ASH/ENBrandt:np:2/17/84

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