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[Meeting-Hans Moerkerk, International AIDS Coordinator, Netherlands Ministry of Health, 10/08/98]

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Friday, October 9
9:30 - 10 AM
Completed

BRIEFING MATERIAL

Netherlands

Mr. Hans Moerkerk,
International AIDS Coordinator
@ the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and @ the Netherlands Ministry of Health, Welfare, + Sport

Mr. Herbert Barnard
Counselor for Health + Welfare

OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY

~~ADDITIONAL~~
cont 7 - 10/98
Royal Netherlands Embassy

ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY
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Tel. 202-274-2732, Telefax 202-362-1859, E-mail vmwnl@aol.com
Homepage: www.netherlands-embassy.org/nl-envv.htm

TELEFAX

To: Mrs. Sarah Howinski
Office of National Aids Policy

Telefax nr: 202-456-2439

From: Herbert Barnard
Counselor for Health and Welfare

Pages: 1 (incl. cover page)

No: VMW/hb/300/980928

Date: September 28, 1998

Re: Visit of Mr. Hans Moerkerk

Dear Mrs. Howinski,

I would like to ask your assistance with setting up a meeting for Mr. Hans Moerkerk with Director Mrs. Sandra Thurman. Mr. Moerkerk is the International Aidscoordinator at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Netherlands Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport.
If possible with the schedule of Mrs. Thurman I would like to suggest a meeting on Thursday October 8 in the morning (for example 9:30 to 10:30 am?) Please let me know if this is feasible.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Herbert Barnard

Assessing the quality of needle-exchange programmes in the Netherlands.

Int Conf AIDS. 1991 Jun 16-21;7(2):382 (abstract no. W.C.3345). Unique Identifier : AIDSLINE ICA7/3334591
DeJong WM; National Committee on AIDS Control the Netherlands

Abstract OBJECTIVE: In more than 50 cities in the Netherlands approximately 130 needle-exchange programmes (nep's) have been implemented. Within the national AIDS policy a higher priority will be given to further the quality of nep's. It is aimed to make a rough assessment of the present functioning of nep's in the Netherlands. Therefore the supply of nep's is confronted with the injecting behaviours and related needs and demands of injecting drug users (idu's). METHODS: Analysis and interpretation of qualitative data, which was gathered from December 1989 to June 1990. Among others data is used from a qualitative study with participant observation and focussed interviews among 94 idu's in 16 nep's which are located in seven cities in the Netherlands. RESULTS: (1) The nep's have generally resulted in a substantial decrease of the scarcity of needles and syringes among idu's; (2) Many nep's are policy oriented and not idu oriented, which is indicated by numerous obstacles idu's meet in exchanging needles and syringes; (3) The relatively more marginalised idu's obtain their syringes and needles from nep's; (4) AIDS-related education of idu's within the programmes is often inadequate or lacking. DISCUSSION: For improving the quality of nep's the following measures should be considered: (1) Nep's have to be an integral part of a local and regional syringe distribution policy, which also includes syringe and needle distribution through pharmacies and vending machines; (2) The climate within nep's should facilitate oral AIDS-related education of idu's; (3) Based on knowledge of the demand of idu's, Nep's should offer extra services for idu's besides needle and syringe exchange.

Keywords: *Health Promotion Human HIV Infections/*PREVENTION & CONTROL/TRANSMISSION *Needles Netherlands Quality of Health Care *Syringes ABSTRACT

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[Analysis of the AIDS epidemic in The Netherlands, 1982-1993 (published errata appear in Ned Tijdschr Geneeskd 1994 Nov 5;138(45):2272 and 1994 Dec 31;138(53):2688)]

Ned Tijdschr Geneeskd. 1994 Sep 24;138(39):1954-9. Unique Identifier : AIDSLINE MED/95021877
Houweling H; Heisterkamp SH; van Wijngaarden JK; Wiessing LG; Coutinho RA; Jager JC; Centrum voor Infectieziekten Epidemiologie, Rijkinstituut voor; Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiene, Bilthoven.

Abstract OBJECTIVE. Description of the epidemiology and transmission categories of AIDS in the Netherlands. DESIGN. Descriptive. SETTING. The Netherlands. METHOD. Analysis of all registered AIDS patients until 31 December 1993. Trends in the composition of this population were studied with respect to age and sex, risk groups, geographic distribution across the country, heterosexual transmission, AIDS-defining diseases and reporting pattern. RESULTS. From the first patient in 1982 until December 31, 1993, a cumulative total of 2912 patients was diagnosed and reported in the Netherlands (2995 when corrected for reporting delay). The numbers of reported AIDS cases in the Netherlands are smaller than previously predicted by mathematical models. The proportion of homosexual men in the incidence of AIDS dropped from 89 to 73 per cent, the proportions of intravenous drug users and heterosexual transmission rose to 11 per cent each. Patients in the category of heterosexual transmission are mainly individuals from countries where heterosexual contact is the dominant mode of transmission and their sex partners, and to a lesser extent the sex partners of intravenous drug users (whether or not in relation to prostitution). The proportion of women is rising (229 patients or 8 per cent by December 1993), with most cases transmitted initially by intravenous drug use but later by heterosexual contact. CONCLUSION. The number of AIDS cases in all risk groups combined is levelling off. However, more detailed analysis shows that the numbers of cases of heterosexual transmission and those in young homosexual men are still rising. For a better quantitation of the quality of the AIDS data, specific research into underreporting and non-diagnosis of AIDS cases in the Netherlands is warranted.

Keywords: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome/*EPIDEMIOLOGY/TRANSMISSION Adolescence Adult Demography *Disease Outbreaks Disease Transmission, Horizontal Disease Transmission, Vertical English Abstract Female Homosexuality, Male Human Infant Infant, Newborn Male Middle Age Netherlands/EPIDEMIOLOGY Risk Factors Substance Abuse, Intravenous/COMPLICATIONS JOURNAL ARTICLE

SOURCE: National Library of Medicine.

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