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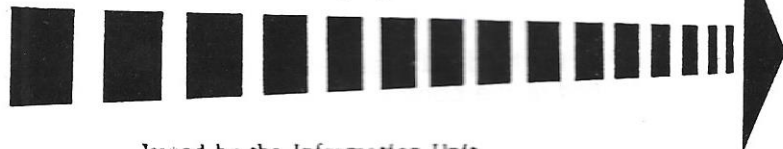
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WHO NEWS RELEASE

WHO GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION OF AIDS AND INFECTION WITH LAV/HTLV-III

- * AIDS, the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, has become an international health concern.
- * AIDS is caused by a virus, called LAV/HTLV-III.
- * AIDS can be prevented.
- * AIDS virus is spread from person-to-person in three ways:
 - (1) through sexual contact with an infected person;
 - (2) direct contact (inoculation) with infected blood or blood products;
 - (3) from infected mother to child before, during or shortly after birth.
- * To prevent sexual spread:
 - Limit the number of sexual partners.
 - Avoid sexual relations with persons at high risk and who have many different sexual partners.
 - Avoid anal intercourse.
 - Use a condom (shieith); it may help reduce the risks of spread during heterosexual or homosexual intercourse.
- * To prevent spread by contact with blood or blood products:
 - Test donations of blood for transfusion, whenever possible, for evidence of AIDS virus contamination, and do not use positive blood for patients.
 - Use blood transfusion only when medically necessary.
 - Treat special blood products (such as clotting factor for persons with haemophilia) to destroy AIDS virus.
 - Ensure that needles, syringes or other instruments that pierce the skin (for example, in sacrifice, blood-drawing, circumcision, tattooing, ear piercing) are clean and sterile. Special care must be taken for needles, syringes and other instruments that will be re-used, to make sure that they are properly cleaned and sterilized after each use.
- * To prevent spread from infected mothers to their children before, during, or shortly after birth:
 - Advise infected women about the possible risks for themselves and for their infants if they become pregnant.
- * AIDS is not spread through food, water, or air.
- * AIDS is not spread by causal contact, such as occurs when people work together.
- * AIDS is not spread among members of the same household, unless they have sexual contact or are born of an infected mother.
- * AIDS is not spread by mosquitos.
- * At this time, there is no effective treatment for AIDS and there is not yet a vaccine to prevent AIDS. Therefore, prevention of AIDS — through dissemination of accurate information — is most important.
- * Research on AIDS is progressing worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) will continue to disseminate new information on prevention as it becomes available.

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