

INTERVIEW (continued)

tions, or if they have an accident and need a certain amount of blood, and safe blood is not available.

S. G.: Does the Department plan to adopt special measures for employees and their families who are posted to high risk areas?

H. S.: Although we've sent the books on AIDS to everybody, we have concentrated the AIDS kits on countries which are considered high risk because of either (1) a high incidence of AIDS in the population and therefore in the blood supply; or (2) medical procedures which are not up to Canadian standards, and where, for example, they do not use disposable needles and their sterilization techniques are not dependable. These are the special measures for those countries and, of course, the whole matter of testing really has to do with people being sent to countries which are unhealthy, not just in terms of AIDS, but generally □

AIDS PREVENTION

At the request of the Department of Health and Welfare, we bring to you a mention of the text of the following telegram (ABDS-0179, 16 Nov. 87) on AIDS prevention. This telegram has already been dispatched to all posts.

"There has been a recent death from AIDS of a Canadian who had returned from an overseas assignment several months previously. This patient did not belong to any of the known high risk groups for that disease. Although we cannot be absolutely sure about the exact source of infection, circumstantial evidence tends to incriminate acupuncture procedure undertaken about 20 months before.

We would therefore like to warn Canadians serving or visiting overseas of the dangers of all skin-penetrating intervention such as acupuncture, ear piercing, electrolysis, tattooing, etc. All these, unless their sterility is assured by unquestionable medical supervision, should be regarded as suspect and avoided entirely" □

