of the criminal police officers for the maintenance of the present procedures. However I can not rule out that the police will have to change their practice on the basis of political decisions. That would mean absolutely for the police officers—and probably not just for them—causing a considerable threat to their safety. I cannot imagine that a politician who is also responsible for the police could make such a decision.

EIR: Is there an international information exchange among police on these questions?

Herrmann: An international exchange of information among police has not, as far as I know, in any case from the German side, been implemented.

EIR: Are you being adequately informed on the present state of probable and proven modes of transmission?

Herrmann: At the federal level and from state to state at different levels, there are circulars, information sheets, etc., which contain the regulations for dealing with risk groups. These regulations stem from recent years and therefore ought to be relatively up to date. The fact that such regulations are contained in the official writings of the police forces, speaks for the fact that the need for updated information on findings about the danger of contagion is foreseen in the future.

EIR: If you could draw up a "wish list," what demands would you like to make and to whom, in order to reasonably guarantee officers' safety in all areas of their activity?

Herrmann: The principal demand is that the present procedures should be continued and used where necessary. The opponents of the present procedures bring up the argument (among others) that the legal grounds for the procedures either are insufficient or in fact don't exist. The federal epidemics law is above all doubted as legal grounds. In case the conclusion is actually reached that there is no legal basis, then one should push for the fastest possible creation of a legal basis.

I also demand that, above all, where the police stations are not supplied, or not in sufficient quantity, with protective clothing, e.g., with leather or synthetic gloves, impermeable gloves, etc., the corresponding protective clothing and other protective gear should immediately be made available.

In general, care for the health of police officers by the service authorities, in light of the threat of AIDS infection, must be intensified.

EIR: You have the last word. What would you like to inscribe in the albums of the federal and state authorities?

Herrmann: The police in our democratic republic not only have to protect this state and above all its citizens. The police officers, who in any case are in a risky job, need the state's protection when it is a question of defending them from harm as far as possible.

Currency Rates

