

WHO Backs Life Over Gore

The World Health Organization (WHO) conference in Geneva on May 25 turned into a ten-hour “heated debate” (as reported in the *The Nation* of Bangkok) over compulsory licensing, with the vote going for life over the profits of the globalized pharmaceutical industry. Thailand and Brazil took the lead in getting a resolution passed by the 193 nations attending, which supports the right to such licensing, as permitted under the WTO rules, and which Thailand and Brazil have used to produce or purchase cheap generic drugs for treating HIV/AIDS patients. The United States led the opposition to the resolution, threatening sanctions against Thailand if it refused to rescind the compulsory licenses. Al Gore has offered his full support to the Bush Administration threats.