

EXCERPT: 'JUST SAY YES, MR PRESIDENT': MBEKI AND AIDS

Dr Michael Gelfland's *The Sick African*, published in Cape Town in 1944 (Stewart Printing Co) ... :

Syphilis is a subject of paramount importance. The incidence is difficult to gauge, but it seems to be present in 20 per cent. or more of all Natives. Its recognition is important, not because the treatment given to the Native is in any way inadequate, but largely in order to prevent his spreading the infection by contact with the Europeans or his own people. This is accomplished by giving the syphilitic a short course of arsenical injections, to render him non-infectious. ... Of course, if ... the Native can be persuaded to attend for a longer course, better results will be obtained. ... Perhaps the solution to the problem may be found in the administration of arsenic in massive doses by intravenous injection continued over a few days. Reports from the Union of South Africa ... appear to be promising. This is certainly a form of therapy that should draw the attention of the public authorities. ... I am confident that the solution to syphilis in the Native lies in this form of treatment, but its potential danger must not be overlooked.

After this neurotoxic treat, the next bit follows naturally:

Certain doctors appear to believe that neuro-syphilis in the Native is rare. This is incorrect, for the disease is by no means uncommon. ... No difficulty should be experienced in recognising a case of general paralysis, providing the condition is remembered. It is characterised by gross mental disorders, such as depressive and maniacal states of dementia. The patient may be euphoric or may exhibit grandiose delusions and hallucinations. ... Voluntary power is impaired and incoordination marked. The gait may be unsteady. Epileptiform seizures occur in some of the cases, or an apoplectiform attack may set in, with resultant hemiplegia or aphasia. In the Native, G.P.I. ['general paralysis of the insane'] must be distinguished from other causes of psychosis. ... The G.P.I [case] should be certified and sent to an asylum for treatment.

With more mercury and arsenic.