

On 28 October 1999, after reading this debate, South African President Thabo Mbeki ordered an enquiry into the safety of the AIDS drug AZT. Now updated to reveal the President's remarkable personal involvement in the subsequent controversy, *Debating AZT* also takes a critical look at the roles of rape survivor Charlene Smith, Supreme Court of Appeal Judge Edwin Cameron, AIDS Law Project director Mark Heywood, and Democratic Alliance leader Tony Leon. Described by South Africa's top investigative journalist, Martin Welz, as "extraordinary", *Debating AZT* exposes the dereliction of the medical experts and journalists on whom the South African public has relied and provides the shocking facts.

"Riveting... [The] style is very funny; it's a shame the subject-matter is so serious... Perhaps, after all, Thabo Mbeki is a visionary, not the fiddling fool he's made out to be... [If you are] wondering what all the fuss is about, you will not find a more forceful or persuasive explanation...than in this book. ...meticulously referenced, *Debating AZT* rattles the not-so-dusty medical skeletons of Thalidomide, arsenic and mercury salts. It is a remorseless denunciation of the first and most widely used anti-HIV drug..."

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**Yes Vanderhaeghen, deputy editor, the *Natal Witness*.**

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ISBN 0 620 26177 3

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**MBEKI AND THE AIDS DRUG CONTROVERSY**

Anthony Brink

Foreword by Martin Welz