

set up shop in Washington, where his obstinate refusal to compromise with his enemies has cost him support in the administration. Haiti's military is a problem, too. The White House knows that the army leaders and their "attachés" are little more than murderers, but still seems to think that they represent the only stable institution in Haiti—and so must be reckoned with one way or another. Finally, there's the potential refugee crisis. Clinton campaigned on a pledge to reverse George Bush's policy of forced repatriation at sea, and then embraced it even before he took office. Now the president has decided to reverse himself again—setting up centers outside Haiti to process the asylum claims of refugees.

'Killing fields': Clinton could probably afford to ignore Haiti altogether. There's little emphatic domestic pressure to resolve the festering situation. But friends of Aristide's—and others—have naggingly kept the issue alive. The Congressional Black Caucus has threatened to withhold support for key legislation unless the president takes a firmer stand. Randall Robinson, who pressured the Reagan administration to impose sanctions against South Africa, is starving himself to draw attention to the plight of refugees. Clinton, he says, "has set up a dragnet around Haiti to catch Haitians and return them to the killing fields." Even Lawrence Pezzullo—the recently ousted U.S. envoy to Haiti who will be replaced by United Negro College Fund president Bill Gray—refused to go quietly. In an op-ed piece, Pezzullo complained that the new White House policy "has no prospect of returning democracy or Aristide to Haiti."

The president apparently can't shake the impulse to do *something* to help relieve Haiti's misery. "I have heard him say

two or three times with real anger, 'They are cutting people's faces off,'" says a senior administration official. The Pentagon isn't eager to invade, but concedes that it could do the job swiftly. The Haitian military—a few thousand lightly armed, poorly trained soldiers and thugs—would buckle easily under an assault by the 82d Airborne paratroopers,

army rangers and navy SEAL commandos. The biggest headache comes later—turning the country over to a leader without political, judicial or military institutions. It's always easier to go in than to get out.

TOM POST with PETER KATEL in Miami and DOUGLAS WALLER and ELEANOR CLIFT in Washington



PETER KATEL—NEWSWEEK

Desperate: Delgado says he knowingly got infected

Choosing to Die

Cuba: Did some youths get AIDS—on purpose?

BY THE TIME HE WAS 20, LUIS ENRIQUE Delgado was fed up. The police had been harassing him for five years over his long hair, his crucifix earring and his contempt for the rules and rituals of Cuban society: military service, work brigades, May Day parades. He just wanted to listen to the heavy-metal band Metallica, hang out with his girlfriend and be left alone. Only one place in Cuba seemed to offer what he was looking for. So, he says, he left his farm town in 1990 to visit a friend at an AIDS sanitarium near Havana and had the friend extract some blood with a syringe. Another patient then injected the diseased blood into Delgado's vein, he says. Now starting to waste away, Delgado explains: "We gave ourselves AIDS to liberate ourselves from society and those laws about obligatory work, and live in our own world."

Delgado is one of a dozen young heavy-metal fans—known as *frikis* ("freaks") or "rockers"—who claim to have shot up infected blood. He and three others spoke to NEWSWEEK last month in Pinar del Río, 125 miles west of Havana. Six other patients at a sanitarium there appear with Delgado on a video recently smuggled out of Cuba, say-

ing that they, too, voluntarily received the AIDS virus. Vladimir Ceballos, one of two young film students now in Miami who shot the video for a documentary, says he has the names of 25 young people from Pinar del Río who injected HIV and knows of some 55 more from there, all now dead. According to those and other accounts widely known in Havana for four years, the self-injecting took place in 1989-91.

New slogan: Could the frikis have concocted their stories to try to make the government look bad? Perhaps. Plenty of Cubans get AIDS without trying. The country's Public Health Ministry reports 1,007 HIV-positive people for a country of 10.8 million, with 80 percent of the cases originating on the island. A former Cuban AIDS health worker says some of the frikis could have contracted AIDS from

drug injections. But he points to the rapid onset of full-blown AIDS among many of them as evidence that they're telling the truth: "There is no other explanation for someone dying in two years but a direct blood-to-blood injection." Mainliners may also have been injecting hepatitis or other infections, which would contribute to speeding up illness and death. The government does not deny the accounts. "There was anguish and desperation throughout the society in 1989-90: suicides, divorces," said a Havana official. "Radio Martí [a U.S. government broadcast] was saying that people would be eating in soup kitchens—but that only party members would be admitted." During the same period, Fidel Castro came up with a new slogan: "Socialism or death!"

Sanitarium life offers far more comforts than most Cubans ever see: three full meals a day, air conditioning, no power outages. The frikis also appreciate the absence of police. Juan Carlos Quintana, a curly-haired 21-year-old, says he gave himself his shot at 17, in October 1990, because he fell in love with an HIV-positive girl. A now modified policy confined everyone who tested positive to a sanitarium. "I wanted it to happen fast," Quintana says. Once he got the result he wanted, the couple got married in the sanitarium. Quintana's wife died last Nov. 6. So have the frikis' dreams that the syringe was a gateway to freedom. "We're locked up," says Juan Luis Pérez, 18, who says he injected HIV at 15. "They've got us under control." They lived as rebels, malcontents and outcasts. And that's how they'll die.

PETER KATEL in Pinar del Río



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