

Cancer could increase globally by 50 percent

By Emma Ross
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — The number of new cancer cases worldwide is expected to increase by 50 percent over the next 20 years, partly because poor nations are adopting unhealthy Western habits, the World Health Organization said Thursday.

The World Cancer Report is the first comprehensive examination of cancer around the globe, covering the current understanding of its causes, prevention and treatment.

"The overall message is that we can prevent a third of cancers," said one of the report's editors, Australian cancer specialist Bernard Stewart.

Worldwide, about 10 million people are diagnosed with cancer every year and 6 million people die from it. The report projects that the annual number of diagnoses will reach 15 million by 2020, based on current trends in smoking, diet and exercise.

Although one-third of the cases theoretically were preventable, that does not mean the coming increase realistically could be slashed by that amount, said WHO's cancer chief, Dr. Paul Kleihues.

"I think what we can do is slow down the increase. Anything more is not realistic," said Kleihues, director of WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Rich nations have more cancer than poor ones, mostly because of tumors tied to bad habits such as smoking and drinking, eating too much or the wrong kinds of foods, and lack of exercise.

"If we want to go back to a lifestyle associated with a low incidence of cancer, small changes to our lifestyles would not be sufficient. We would really have to go down to a very restricted diet, no overfeeding, starting in childhood. I don't think that's realistic expectation," Kleihues said.

From one angle, the task of stemming the impending rise in cancer is easier in poor countries, Kleihues said, because 23 percent of tumors there are due to infections that can be prevented now or soon.

"We already have a first-class vaccination against hepatitis B virus and there is no question that soon the rates of hepatitis B-induced liver cancer will come down in many countries," he said.

Eradication of the helicobacter pylori bug, which causes stomach cancer, also would help, as

would the advent of a vaccine against the human papillomavirus, which causes cervical cancer.

However, officials are especially concerned about the trend toward unhealthy lifestyles in the developing world, where early detection and treatment of cancer is not as good as in rich nations.

In developing countries, 80 percent of cancer patients die, compared with 50 percent in rich nations.

"It's quite disturbing. Many of them are taking up smoking and striving to get the Western lifestyle. That's very hard to stop. They will unfortunately miss this unique chance of maintaining a low cancer burden," Kleihues said.

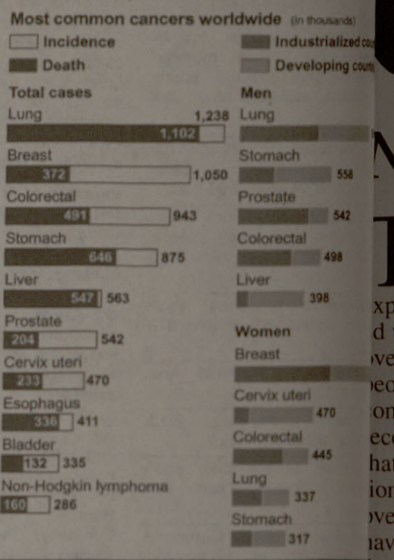
WHO plans to update the 350-page cancer report every few years.

The report attempts to condense the wealth of knowledge about cancer into one book, offering governments an important resource in their efforts to tackle the disease.

"This book has the advantage of putting between two relatively slim covers all of the facts that otherwise amount to a stack of textbooks about 5 feet tall," said Stewart, director of cancer services for the Southeastern Sydney area health service.

Cancer burdens all corners of the globe

Worldwide, about 10 million people are diagnosed with cancer each year and more than 6 million die from it. There are 22 million cancer patients in the world.



SOURCE: World Health Organization

No credible domestic terror threats in U.S. since war began

By Curt Anderson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — There have been no credible threats of domestic terrorist attacks since the war began, but federal law enforcement officials said Thursday there are no plans to reduce the terror alert status.

The nation will probably remain on

high alert for the duration of hostilities with Iraq even if no evidence surfaces of an impending terrorist attack, said law enforcement officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Authorities are convinced there exists a "hidden network of cold-blooded killers," as Attorney General John Ashcroft recently put it. But they acknowledge being pleasantly surprised that the war has not so far trig-

gered a response by terror groups or so-called "lone wolf" extremists.

The Bush administration raised the terror alert from yellow, or elevated, to orange, the second-highest level on a five-color scale. The move came on March 17 when President Bush completed his speech giving Saddam Hussein and his two sons 48 hours to leave Iraq or face a U.S.-led invasion.

Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden,

Iraqi officials and other Muslim extremists have sought to make the war a pretext for attacks on America, renewing calls for a jihad, or holy war.

But so far, no attacks on American soil have occurred and no evidence of plans to conduct terrorism have been uncovered. Still, law enforcement officials said it makes sense to keep government at a heightened state of vigilance while hostilities continue.

Efforts to identify and disarm who might try to harm America. As of Thursday, the FBI viewed more than 9,000 of the Iraqis living in the country. Officials believe recently traveled have some ties to the Iraqis. About 40 have been detained, all for visa violations. None arrested on criminal charges of suspected terrorists.

Worship Directory

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English - 11:00 am
Sabbath School - 9:45 am

Assembly of God

Bethel Temple Assembly of God
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776-4835
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Sunday School 9:00
www.betheltemplebcs.com

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Parkway Baptist Church
1501 Southwest Pkwy
(979) 693-4701
Sunday Worship 8:15 10:45 & 6PM
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Wednesday: Meal 5:30PM
College Bible Study Wed. 6:30PM
www.pbccs.org

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You are invited to a Bible Study especially for students.
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Wednesday night supper at 5:30, followed by Bible Study at 6:30
1228 W. Villa Maria
779-2297
For more information contact
Marcus Brewer: 731-1890
m-brewer@tamuc.edu
http://www.fellowshipfbw.org

First Baptist Church UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

2300 Welsh Ave. • College Station
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8:30 & 10:55-Worship Services
9:45-Bible Study
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7:00 p.m.-Bible Study
Ty Cope, University Minister
lycope@tca.net • 764-1353

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Robert D. Chandler, Minister

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Sunday Night: 5:45 p.m.
Mid-Week 7:00 p.m.

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696-1726
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Bush mourns with families

By Scott Lindner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — among a president's gr duties: meeting with relatives of soldiers killed in their country.

That was the task as President George W. Bush Thursday as the commander in chief was meeting the families of Marines from a Carolina base that has a large number of the U.S. casualties.

"I think as much as progress is being made, people have to be tempered, calibrated to the reality of the situation."

— Ari Fleischer, White House spokesman

At least 13 of the Marines killed in action since the started two weeks ago from Camp Lejeune, N.C., six more from the Marine base are missing.

Before seeing the survivors the afternoon, Bush was giving a speech honoring the commitment of those fighting for their country.

"Difficult times very may lie ahead," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "And so I think as much as progress is being made, people have to be tempered, calibrated to the reality of the situation on the ground and not go too one direction or another."

NEWS IN BRIEF

President wants justice for death of 16 people
Philippines (AP) — Philippine president Arroyo promised swift justice for the bombing that killed 16 people on Davao's bustling wharf, she warned that rising tensions can be contained only with effective vigilance.
Tensions ran high in Philippines after Wednesday's blast in the southern city. Thursday, gunmen lobbed grenades and strafed a mosque with automatic gunfire but there were no casualties. A hand grenade was found in a plastic bag in a Manila train station later Thursday.

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