

dergoing testing for HIV antibodies.

But according to HOMEROS' Borsos, "gays otherwise live relatively undisturbed in Bulgaria" and do not face any regular or systematic harassment.

Openly gay Canadian MP Svend Robinson plans to inquire officially about the mandatory HIV testing, in case HIV-positives face human rights abuses.

As with Rumania, the primary disagreement in Vienna on Bulgaria was between Hungarians and East Germans. Beuchel insisted that ILGA should "assist Bulgarian [gay] groups to develop from within," utilizing the Free German Youth Movement to access the Bulgarian National Youth Movement.

The Hungarians again argued that their East Bloc past combined with their Western-like present would allow them to make

the day, more economically, politically and socially. Czechoslovakia and East Germany--a less insular and repressive than Rumania or Bulgaria--have not embraced many glasnost or perestroika-inspired reforms.

Eastern Europe's new political map, ILGA delegates concluded, was reflected in the mindsets of the respective East Bloc ILGA representatives--the Hungarians going so far as to deny their country is "socialist," and the East Germans sincerely sharing communist thinking.

For the coming year, the reform-minded Hungarians seem determined to lead ILGA's East Bloc efforts. But the broader question of whether lapsed communists and non-communists can facilitate social change among good communists (or those who must pretend to be good communists) remains to be answered.

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registered under its initials and the authorities don't know what the 'H' stands for." The group offers medical and legal assistance, HIV and other medical testing, and operates an information center.

Chile was represented by "Lilian" of the lesbian-feminist group *Ayuquelen*. She said there are no gay male activists in Chile because men are afraid to come out of the closet.

"We work underground," Lilian said, "workshops on consciousness, lesbian sports clubs. Thanks to [money from] ILGA, our bulletin is almost ready to come out. It will be called *CORRIENTES DE AIRE* [AIR CURRENTS]."

There is no treatment available in Chile for persons with AIDS, according to *Ayuquelen*. "If they are among the few who have money, they go to a private hospital," Lilian said. "Otherwise, they go home."

Still, Lilian said AIDS at least offers hope of some organizing by gay men, "but only purely around medical issues."

Santiago has one gay bar that, at press time, had not yet been closed by authorities.

Representing Brazil was Antonio Luiz of the group *Atobá*. Although the organization is multi-faceted, Luiz said he was proudest of the group's distribution of condoms in gay male bars and "cruising places."

Brazil has more than 100 gay/lesbian organizations which hold an annual conference every January in Rio de Janeiro.

Finally, Argentina's *Comunidad Homosexual Argentina* [CHA] was represented by Emmanuel Valido. Although the socio-political climate for gays and lesbians is bad throughout Latin America, the horror stories told by Valido lead to the conference's only demonstration [see story].

According to activists, police regularly back paddy wagons up to the front doors of gay/lesbian bars and discos and arrest everyone inside, holding them in jail for up to 72 hours. Gay men are also routinely arrested on the street for allegedly "inviting a sexual act in public."

"All it takes is to be standing on the corner with your hands in your pockets," Valido said. "The police say you were playing with yourself through your pocket and inviting sex. Or, if you scratch your ear, they say it was a signal to another man."

CHA is months behind on its rent, electricity and taxes, and desperately needs condoms which, according to Valido, are so expensive that less than one percent of gay men can buy them.

For addresses, phone numbers or bank account numbers of any of the Latin American organizations, consult the SPARTACUS international gay guide, or write this newspaper.

Comunidad
Homosexual
Argentina