

fact that 85 percent of Senegalese already rely on them.

For Dia, countries like Senegal, Ghana and Swaziland count one healer for every 1,000 to 1,200 residents. He said this should be seen as an asset provided the distinction is made "between healers and quacks".

According to Dia, even in a modern industrial nation like the United States, a third of the population has started consulting medical practitioners outside the mainstream circuit of traditional doctors and hospitals, while in Europe, 60 percent of residents in the Netherlands and Belgium are ready to pay more for traditional therapies.

Africa must avoid "losing something it already possesses, just at the moment when the West is showing the most interest in it", he said.

Cancer 1998

by Peter Barry Chowka

As I predicted in Natural HealthLine (12.21.97), the media, the medical Establishment, and politicians ignored the 26th anniversary of the Cancer War on December 23. Four days later, however, without mentioning the anniversary, President Bill Clinton announced new federal funding for expanding screening for cancer.

The forum was the President's weekly five minute radio address. He began by reviewing how last year's bipartisan budget agreement had "reaffirmed our commitment to preserving and strengthening Medicare." He then turned to the subject of cancer, the nation's number two killer: "As part of the balanced budget agreement, we're also implementing expanded Medicare benefits to provide greater protection to Americans in the fight against cancer. On New Year's Day [1998], we'll introduce a series of changes in Medicare that will make screening, prevention and detection of cancer more affordable and frequent. We're ringing in the new year resolved to take new steps in our battle against cancer, one of mankind's oldest foes."

From now on, Clinton continued, Medicare "will guarantee the option of annual mammograms for every woman over 40, and by waiving the deductible will make annual breast cancer screenings more affordable. . .By making mammograms more accessible and detecting cancer earlier," Clinton asserted, "we can significantly increase the likelihood of successful treatment for this disease." Medicare will now also pay for regular screening for cervical cancer, which Clinton deemed "lifesaving technology." Finally, the President, noted, "for the first time we'll now cover regular examinations for colon-rectal cancer."

As usual, Clinton attempted to score major political points with his announcement. "Nearly every American family has been touched by the shadow of cancer," he intoned. "My own mother passed away just about four years ago from cancer, and especially at this time of year I miss her a lot. So many other families have the same story. That's why these actions are so important. By detecting cancer early on we offer our loved ones one of the greatest gifts of all -- the gifts of life, health and many holidays to come."

The President's well-crafted and holiday themed address notwithstanding, the question remains, does the "lifesaving [early detection] technology" he referred to actually make a difference?

At his extensive Web site, Ralph Moss, editor of the Cancer Chronicles and