

May die of AIDS before his trial

A Texas man suffering from AIDS is on remand in the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital and is so ill his lawyer fears he may die before he faces trial on drug importation charges.

Arnesia Daniel Latini, 43, of Pasadena, Texas, is charged with importing cocaine and possessing cocaine intended for supply while being concerned with another American, Marc Haslam, 20, of Houston.

Both were arrested on June 11 after arriving on the cruise ship *Horizon*. They have not yet been required to enter any plea.

Latini attempted to make a statement to *The Royal Gazette* yesterday as he was being led away from Magistrates' Court, but was prevented from doing so by Police.

Latini, who was making his second appearance in Magistrates' Court in one week, was gaurt, unshaven, and having difficulty standing for any extended period.

He rested his head in his hands as his lawyer, Mr. Charles Vaucrosson, attempted to impress on the Court the urgency of the case.

"If we don't get on with this, all we'll hear soon is another non-Bermudian had died in jail," Mr. Vaucrosson said.

"I cannot stress the urgency of this matter enough," he told Senior Magistrate the Wor. Will Francis.

However, Mr. Francis said he would have to hold the matter over until Friday while the normal legal procedures were carried out.

As Latini was led from the court he said "I want to make a statement" to a *The Royal Gazette* reporter, but was told to remain quiet by surrounding Police officers.

Mr. Vaucrosson later interviewed Latini in the presence of Police officers and asked if he wished to say anything to the Press.

Latini replied, "I'm still thinking about it," but made no further comment, Mr. Vaucrosson said.

Mr. Vaucrosson said Police had taken Latini to hospital for medical assistance yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Vaucrosson has asked for a medical report on Latini's condition, but said he could not reveal the nature of the man's illness.

However, it is known Latini is suffering from AIDS.

Prisons Commissioner Mr. Milton Pringle, said Latini would remain in hospital under guard as long as Latini's medical condition required.