

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 028 - Folder 001

Health - Animal Antibiotics

... to the Is-
after the Jeru-
court ruled last year
... be extradited despite
... enship because he had not
... n Israel and had not main-
... ed close ties with Israel.

In today's ruling, the court said
"No further affinity with Israel is
required for the appellant to be con-
sidered an Israeli citizen."

Under a 1978 Israeli law, citizens
of Israel cannot be extradited to
stand trial abroad. The law reflected
the view that Jews should not be
handed over to gentile courts, where
they might face an unfair trial.

The State Department and Attor-
ney General Janet Reno expressed
disappointment with the ruling.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netan-
yahu defended the ruling, saying:
"Israel, as you know, is a state of
law, and in a state of law the inter-
preter of the law is the Supreme
Court, whose decision we must hon-
or. I'm sure that the United States,
which is also a state of law, under-
stands this."

Prosecutors in Maryland pressed
for the extradition of Mr. Sheinbein,
who was later indicted in Montgom-
ery County, Md. His suspected ac-
complice, Aaron Needle, 18, hanged
himself with a bedsheet in a Mary-
land jail last April.

Most European countries do not
extradite their citizens, but that is
not the practice in Britain and the
United States.

Writing the majority opinion, Jus-
tice Theodor Orr noted that the Is-
raeli law contradicted extradition

... other countries, and he urged that it
be amended. But he added that as
long as the law was in force, it must
be upheld. A bill to amend the law is
pending in Parliament.

Officials at the Israeli Justice Min-
istry said Mr. Sheinbein would be
indicted at the Tel Aviv District
Court for murder as early as next
week.

"Justice will be done because the

*Next 2/26 Bred/WA was made to
be on top of this PC*

Bacteria Resistant to Powerful Antibiotics Are Discovered in Chicken Feed

By DENISE GRADY

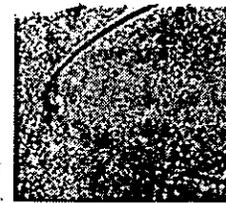
Bacteria that are resistant to the
most powerful antibiotics used to
treat infections in people have been
found in chicken feed, researchers
are reporting, a finding that is likely
to fuel concerns about the threat to
public health from widespread use of
antibiotics.

The researchers studied only a
small amount of feed. Still, they said,
finding such organisms on the
threshold of the human food supply
was an ominous sign. They said their
discovery might be the first report of
such contamination in the United
States. The scientists, from the Uni-
versity of Maryland, are reporting
their findings today in the British
medical journal The Lancet.

Although animal feed is not ex-
pected to be germ free and the bacte-
ria were not harmful to healthy peo-
ple, the organisms' ability to with-
stand potent antibiotics may pose a
threat to public health, the scientists

... lobby Congress for the extradition.

"I am very upset and disappointed
with the Israel Government and the
judiciary system," Ms. Ramos said.
"Each American should be very con-
cerned, outraged and angry at this
outcome. I personally will not rest in
peace with this decision. How can the
United States Government provide
billions of dollars to Israel if they do
not support the U.S. treaty?"



Samuel Sheinbein w
decided not to return

*Copied
Reed
VP
COS*



Agence Franco-Presse
yesterday, where judges
to face a murder charge.

Royal Caribbean
its two guilty pleas last
had falsified the books and lie
the bypass systems.
Justice Department lawyers said
Royal Caribbean's failure to turn
over its complete files on the earlier
incidents required bringing charges
in separate jurisdictions to discover
the full extent of the violations.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
3-4-99

said. If people who eat or handle
contaminated chicken become in-
fected, the harmless bacteria may
pass their genes for drug-resistance
to other, dangerous organisms. Or, in
patients with lowered immunity
from AIDS or treatments for cancer
or organ transplants, the once-harm-
less microbes may turn dangerous.

Illnesses caused by drug-resistant
bacteria can be fatal, or require
treatment with several drugs. Such
infections are increasing in the Uni-
ted States and Europe. Many scien-
tists attribute the growing strength
of microbes to the overuse of anti-
biotics, in people and in agriculture.
Nearly half the 50 million pounds of
antibiotics produced in the United
States are used in animals, mostly as
feed additives to promote growth.

In any population of bacteria,
some may naturally be more resist-
ant to antibiotics, and when infec-
tions are treated with the drugs, the
resistant microbes may survive and

multiply. Each time antibiotics are
given, they may be less effective
because more bacteria are resistant.

"Studies show that rather than a
single bad strain in a hospital, there
are hundreds, if not thousands," said
Dr. J. Glenn Morris Jr., head of hos-
pital epidemiology at the University
of Maryland in Baltimore, and an
author of the Lancet study, which
was published as "a research let-
ter," a report less comprehensive
than an article. "The more we look,
the more we find these multiresist-
ant organisms everywhere. Where
are they coming from?"

Dr. Morris said he and his col-
leagues, who had seen patients die
from drug-resistant infections,
thought the organisms might be
coming from different sources and
wondered if one might be food. They
knew that in Europe, use of a power-
ful antibiotic in animal feed had been
linked to resistant infections in both
livestock and in people who ate meat

from infected animals.

To find out whether some infec-
tions could come from what the ani-
mals ate, the researchers tested
commercial chicken feed they had
bought in a closed sack and opened
under sterile conditions. They did
not expect to find anything, Dr. Mor-
ris said, so they were shocked to find
bacteria known as enterococci, nor-
mal inhabitants of the intestine in
people and animals, that were resist-
ant to multiple antibiotics.

Most disturbing, Dr. Morris said,
the organisms were resistant to van-
comycin, a powerful drug that was
long considered the last line of de-
fense against dangerous infections.
But deadly infections resistant to the
drug began showing up in people in
the United States in the past few
years. The organisms have never
been detected in chickens in the Uni-
ted States, Dr. Morris said.

"If it's in feed," he added, "it may
subsequently show up in chickens

and serve as another mode of intro-
duction into human populations."

Dr. Morris would not name the
manufacturer of the feed and said he
had no explanation for how it might
have become contaminated, or how
the enterococci became resistant to
antibiotics. He said the feed did not
contain antibiotic additives.

The nation's largest chicken pro-
ducers use no bagged feed, said a
spokesman for one, Tyson Foods,
who said they make their feed.

Dr. Stephen F. Sundlof, director of
the Center for Veterinary Medicine
at the Food and Drug Administra-
tion, said he was puzzled by the re-
port, because feed pellets were nor-
mally produced under such high tem-
peratures and pressure that bacteria
would die. But, Dr. Sundlof said, "if
the feed is contaminated, and from
consuming that feed, our livestock
become reservoirs for vancomycin
resistant enterococci, then potential-
ly we could have a problem."

*Chris - And you thought I was the
only person obsessed with this issue.
Please do something for next week's
weekly. Thanks*

Ella