Scientist **challenged over claims on** Aids

By NATION Correspondent

An American political scientist

was yesterday taken to task over

his claims to the effect that African

countries were trying to minimise the true extent of Aids in a bid to avoid discouraging tourism.

Dr Richard Friedland of the

University of Indiana's, Indianapolis, Department of Political

Science, was asked to compare

the extent of Aids in Africa to the

United States before blaming Africa for increased HIV infection.

"He was also challenged to explain

what his country had done

to develop a cure for the disease

considering the fact that he had

brushed aside the Kenyan anti- .

Aids drug Kemron as just one

more "of the so many drugs that

have proved ineffective even after

so much money has been spent

on them.

Dr Friedland was also challenged for declaring that African herbalists were unable to combat

Aids,

Prof Osaka Odak of the Institute of African Studies at the

University of Nairobi, accused

the visiting scientist of "feeding

people with prejudiced remarks,

that are intended to a shame

Africa"

Prof Odaka told the American

"I did not like your prejudiced paper. We expected you to compare the Aids situation in Africa to that of the US and not to feed us with prejudiced data on the extent of Aids in Africa,"

The US scientist was presenting a paper entitled *Aids in* *Africa: A Political Overview,* at

the second Pan-African Association

of Anthropologists Conference

taking place at the PanAfric Hotel, Nairobi.

The conference was officially

opened on Monday by the

Minister for Education, Mr Oloo Aringo.