**Aids orphans in Zambia to increase**

**LUSAKA, Friday**

Zambia, where 500 people a day

catch the HIV virus that can cause

Aids, said today it expects the

disease will have orphaned some

600,000 children by the year

2000.

A Health Ministry spokesman

said 80,000 "to 100,000 Aids-related

deaths would be recorded

. annually over the next few years

in the southern African country of

nine million people.

"The steep rise in adult mortality

in specific age groups will

have in immense impact on the

situation of children," he said. From an assumed 70,000

Aids-orphaned children in 1993,

the prospect by the end of the decade

is that Zambia will have between

530,000 and 600,000 Aids

orphans." About half of the currently

orphaned children had lost

their fathers, a quarter their mothers

and a quarter had lost both parents

to Aids, an official study

showed.

Zambia is one of the countries

worst hit by Aids, with around 34

percent of the sexually active population

in urban areas HIV positive,

and 13 per cent in rural areas.

(Reuter)