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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

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Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 13888

Scan ID: 311758 [INTERNATIONAL AIDS PANDEMIC]

Document Number:

Folder Title:
ME001

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Row:
79

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6

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July 20, 1999

Nils Daulaire and Colleagues
Global Health Council
Suite 600
1701 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1503

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your letter regarding my Administration's efforts to address the international AIDS pandemic. I very much appreciate you sharing your recommendations on ways in which we could improve our response to this deadly disease.

As you know, Vice President Gore and I have led a strong effort to expand our prevention and education efforts, care for those already infected, and support research for a cure.

During my Administration, the United States has led the international effort to find an AIDS vaccine. We are also the largest supporter of international AIDS relief efforts and of the United Nations Joint Program on AIDS. However, we know that more must be done.

The issues raised by the AIDS pandemic reflect the larger challenges of the developing world. Our response must be collaborative, bringing together governments, communities, international organizations, and affected individuals in a shared effort. We must expand our prevention and education efforts and find better ways to support the health infrastructure necessary to treat HIV and AIDS.

Our commitment to ending the tragedy of AIDS has never been stronger. Under the leadership of Sandra Thurman, my AIDS policy advisor, we are seeking new opportunities to bring hope to the millions of people who are threatened. Your continued efforts to work with us on this global effort are vital to our success.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/JHC/DDA/DC/pfs-bws (Corres. #4374853)
(7.daulaire.n)

cc: ✓Neal Sharma, 97 OEOB
✓John Corcoran, 97 OEOB
✓DWB/SPM, 94 OEOB

990720



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 15, 1999

Nils Daulaire and Colleagues
Global Health Council
Suite 600
1701 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1503

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your letter regarding my Administration's efforts to address the international AIDS pandemic. I very much appreciate you sharing your recommendations on ways in which we could improve our response to this deadly disease.

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Our commitment to ending the tragedy of AIDS has never been stronger. Under the leadership of Sandra Thurman, my AIDS policy advisor, we are seeking new opportunities to bring hope to the millions of people who are threatened. Your continued efforts to work with us on this global effort are vital to our success.

Sincerely,



11/11 20 1999

SS
7/20

July 2, 1999

Nils Daulaire and Colleagues

Global Health Council
Washington, D.C. 20006-1503 Suite 600
1701 K Street, N.W.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your letter ~~about my Administration's efforts to address the international AIDS pandemic.~~ I appreciate your recommendations on ways in which we could improve our response to ~~this deadly disease the international AIDS pandemic.~~

~~As you know, working for a cure for HIV and battling the effects of AIDS continues to be a priority of my Administration.~~ Vice President Gore and I, along with my AIDS policy advisor Sandra Thurman, have led a strong effort to expand our prevention and education efforts, care for those already infected, and support research for a cure.

We must build on recent advances in treatment of HIV which have led to longer and more fulfilling lives for those suffering from the disease. Our response to this global threat must be a collaborative one, bringing together governments and communities in a shared effort to expand prevention efforts, raise awareness among young people, increase access to lifesaving therapies, and ensure that those living with HIV and AIDS receive the care and services they need.

During my Administration, the United States has led the international effort to find an AIDS vaccine. We are the largest supporter of international AIDS relief efforts and of the United Nations Joint Program on AIDS (UNAIDS). As you are well aware, entire communities around the world are threatened by this pandemic, and AIDS hits hardest in areas where knowledge of the disease is scarce and poverty is high. I am confident that we can fight HIV/AIDS while protecting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens -- providing hope and comfort for those living with this terrible disease.

As we continue working together to find a cure, I am glad to know I can count on your help.

Sincerely,

BC/JHC/DDA/pfs (Corres. #4374853)
(7.daulaire.n)

cc: Neal Sharma, 97 OEOB
John Corcoran, 97 OEOB
DWB/SPM, 94 OEOB

SENT TO:
Global Health Council
c/o Dr. Nils Daulaire
President and Chief Executive Officer
Suite 600
1701 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1503



Todd A. Summers
06/30/99 12:43:03 PM

Support:
use
this draft:

Record Type: Record

To: John H. Corcoran III/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Global Health Council

try this as a draft:

Nils Daoulaire - Colleagues
Global Health Council

see
7/14

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your letter regarding my Administration's efforts to address the international AIDS pandemic. I very much appreciate you sharing your recommendations on ways in which we could improve our response to this deadly disease.

As you know, Vice President Gore and I have led a strong effort to ^{expand} further our prevention and education efforts, care for those already infected, and support research ^{for} into a cure.

^{During my Administration} Under our leadership, the United States has led the international effort to find an AIDS vaccine. We are also the largest supporter of international AIDS relief efforts and of the United Nations Joint Program on AIDS (UNAIDS). However, we know that more must be done.

The issues raised by the AIDS pandemic reflect the larger challenges of the developing world. Our response must be collaborative, bringing together governments, communities, international organizations, and affected individuals in a shared effort. We must expand our prevention and education efforts, find better ways to support the health infrastructure necessary to treat HIV and AIDS, and promote the political leadership that is so vital.

^{Star} Our commitment to ending the tragedy of AIDS has never been stronger. ^{Star} Under the leadership of Sandra Thurman, my AIDS policy advisor, we are seeking new opportunities to ^{of people who} build on the successes we have had together, and to bring hope to the millions that are threatened. Your continued efforts to work with us on this global effort are vital to our success.

The recent successes in treatment of HIV has led to longer and more fulfilling lives for those suffering from the disease, and we must build on ^{past} these successes.

~~I am grateful~~
I thank you for all that you have done, and am grateful for your continued efforts to work with us on the global effort.

DRAFT OF BC LETTER

INITIALS: BC / jhc /

DOCUMENT TITLE: /slr/p/ghc.jhc

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Jun 30 1999 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 4374853

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

CC: Neal Sharma, 97 OEOB
John Corcoran, 97 OEOB
DWB/SPM, 94 OEOB

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

Global Health Council
c/o Dr. Nils Daulaire, President and CEO
Suite 600
1701 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1503

APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIALINSTR:

7-2 DDA

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your letter ^{about} ~~regarding~~ my Administration's efforts to address the international AIDS pandemic. I ~~very much~~ appreciate your ~~sharing your~~ recommendations on ways in which we could improve our response to this deadly disease.

As you know, working for a cure for HIV and battling the effects of AIDS ^{continue to be a priority} ~~have been a vital focus~~ of my Administration. Vice President Gore and I, along with my AIDS policy advisor Sandra Thurman, have led a strong effort to expand our prevention and education efforts, care for those already infected, and support research for a cure.

We must build on recent advances in treatment of HIV which have led to longer and more fulfilling lives for those suffering from the disease. Our response to this global threat must be a collaborative one, bringing together governments and communities in a shared effort to expand prevention efforts, raise awareness among young people, increase access to lifesaving therapies, and ensure that those living with HIV and AIDS receive the care and services they need.

JUL -2 1999

Edit:
This is a combined
draft of my letter,
and Todd Summers.
I hope it worked.

During my Administration, the United States has led the international effort to find an AIDS vaccine. We are the largest supporter of international AIDS relief efforts and of the United Nations Joint Program on AIDS (UNAIDS). As you are well aware, entire communities around the world are threatened by this pandemic, and AIDS hits hardest in areas where knowledge of the disease is scarce and poverty is high. I am confident that we can fight HIV/AIDS while protecting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens - providing hope and comfort for those living with this terrible disease.

As we continue working together to find a cure, I am ~~grateful for all the work you have done and am~~ glad to know I can count on your help.

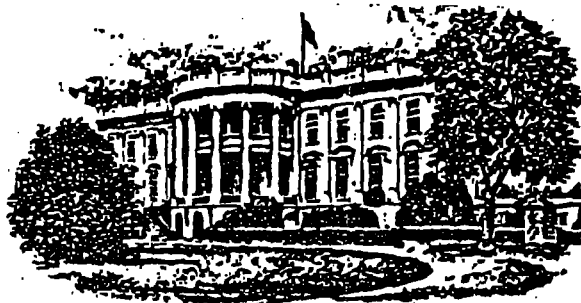
Sincerely,

BC

*** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO 2093
CONNECTION TEL 62438
CONNECTION ID AIDS Policy
ST. TIME 06/30 09:47
USAGE T 03'07
PGS. SENT 7
RESULT OK



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

FACSIMILE / MEMO FROM: John Corcoran
OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS AND MESSAGES
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 93

VOICE: (202) 456-5515

FAX: (202) 456-5426

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 7

DATE: 6/30/99

TO: Todd Summers

VOICE: _____

FAX: 62438



FOR YOUR ACTION



INCOMING LETTER(S) FROM: _____

RE: _____



FOR YOUR REVIEW / APPROVAL



PER MY E-MAIL OR VOICE-MAIL MESSAGE TO YOU

As you know, I declared recently that the increase in HIV/AIDS infections in minority communities is a severe and ongoing health care crisis. ~~As a result, my Administration is~~ in the process of unveiling a series of initiatives that will invest \$156 million to address this urgent problem. Working with the Congressional Black Caucus and many community members, we fought successfully in the recent budget negotiations to secure funding for these investments in prevention, care, and research. This special initiative builds on the great successes achieved in the Fiscal 1999 budget process. Again, working in partnership with members of Congress and community leaders, we were able to achieve historic increases in programs that fight this epidemic and care for those affected.

The rising incidence of HIV infection among those who use injected drugs, and among their partners and children, is a major factor in the continued growth of this epidemic. We fought diligently for removal of more restrictive measures in the District of Columbia appropriations bill and will continue to support retention of the HHS Secretary's authority on this

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around the world. I believe, however, that my budget when seen as a whole, addresses them. We have succeeded in providing an aggressive level of funding for HIV vaccine

=====

2

research. When the request for ongoing Department of Defense vaccine research is combine with the request for the new vaccine research center at NIH, the federal government's support for vaccine research has never been stronger.

You and all the members of the Advisory Council have my heartfelt thanks for your dedicated service.

Sincerely,

BC/TFS/SH/bws (Corres. #4286969)
(4.hitt.rs)

Press Exit when done

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I was glad to have the Advisory Council's input when we met in December, and I assure you that my Office of National AIDS Policy worked hard to incorporate your recommendations into the Administration's budget proposal. As you pointed out in your letter, we have made progress on several issues, including funding for HIV-related care programs, the minority AIDS Initiative, and the "Know-Your-Status" campaign.

In addition, I was pleased to recently announce that Dr. Gary Nabel will serve as the first director of the new vaccine research center at the National Institutes of Health. One of his first tasks will be to develop a vaccine for HIV. This has been a top priority of our AIDS research efforts and I am confident that Dr. Nabel's abilities will help us make important progress toward this critical goal within the decade.

I understand the Advisory Council's concerns about funding levels for other programs, both in the United States and around the world. I believe, however, that my budget when

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Thank you for your message about the AIDS epidemic. I'm glad you took the time to let me know your views.

[This past year has brought new reason for hope and optimism.]
New drugs are showing very promising results in halting the progress of HIV disease. But far too many of our friends and loved ones have died and are dying of this terrible disease -- a toll made poignantly clear by the NAMES Quilt, which Hillary and I visited in October when it was on display here in Washington. We still have a great deal of work to do. I am committed to continuing our efforts and strengthening our national leadership in the war against AIDS.

That is why I was so pleased to sign into law last September the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997. This new law includes substantial, across-the-board increases in funding for AIDS research, prevention, treatment, and housing. It increases funds for the Ryan White CARE Act by 31.5 percent and triples funding specifically set aside for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which helps thousands of people living with

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Antigua, Guatemala)

For Immediate Release

March 11, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am very pleased to join Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, National Institutes of Health Director Harold Varmus, and my AIDS policy office director Sandra Thurman in welcoming Dr. Gary Nabel as the first director of the new vaccine research center at the NIH. Dr. Nabel's long and distinguished career as a research scientist will be an incredible asset in our efforts to find preventative vaccines.

The first order of business for Dr. Nabel will be the effort to develop a vaccine for HIV. This is a top priority of our AIDS research efforts. Here in the United States, over 40,000 people are newly infected with HIV every year. Across the world, the rate is nearly 6 million people per year. These are lives in jeopardy. Though we have made remarkable progress in treating HIV and AIDS, there is still no cure. So our best hope of bringing an end to the AIDS pandemic is to find a safe and effective vaccine.

I have issued a challenge to the scientific community to find an AIDS vaccine within the decade. We are making important strides towards that critical goal and the leadership of Dr. Nabel will help us progress even more. Dr. Varmus and his team of expert researchers at the NIH, working in collaboration with scientists from across the globe, have produced remarkable results in reducing AIDS mortality here and in many other developed nations. Their improved understanding of how HIV works will be invaluable in the effort to find a vaccine to prevent infection in the first place.

The human tragedy of AIDS throughout the world must move all of us to action. The search for a vaccine for HIV must continue to be a global priority because millions of precious lives hang in the balance.

30-30-30

I am aware of the difficulties individuals with preexisting conditions face in finding affordable coverage, and I do not believe that people should be forced to choose between devoting their income to offsetting the costs of needed medication and leaving their jobs in order to become eligible for Medicaid.

As I pledged in my State of the Union address, I am working to address this situation and to strengthen and improve Medicare -- including reviewing options to redesign the program to include a prescription drug benefit for all Medicare recipients.

maybe

Be assured that my commitment to ending the AIDS epidemic -- and to responding the needs of those already living with HIV and AIDS -- remains firm. We must all work together to stop this deadly disease, and I will take all measures within my authority to achieve that end. As we continue working to ensure that our nation does not turn its back on the health and well-being of our citizens, I'm glad to know I can count on your help.

You have my best wishes.

Press Exit when done

(Use Cursor Keys for more text)

Finally, I am gratified that we were successful in preserving the Medicaid safety net. In 1995, when Congress passed a bill that would have taken away that guarantee of coverage, I vetoed it. More than 50 percent of Americans living with AIDS -- including more than 90 percent of children with AIDS -- rely on Medicaid as a lifeline of support.

In December, my Administration released the first-ever National AIDS Strategy, laying out a vital set of long-term goals to put an end to this epidemic and a series of short-term steps we will be taking in the months ahead to move us in the right direction. I am confident we can do this while protecting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens -- providing hope and comfort for those living with this terrible disease. I will certainly keep your special perspective in mind. In my fiscal 1998 budget, I've asked for across-the-board increases. Working together, we can defeat HIV and AIDS.

Press Exit when done

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Thank you very much for your letter on behalf of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. I'm sorry that I was unable to respond sooner. I appreciate having your insight on HIV/AIDS in the African American community, and I have shared your correspondence with my staff in the Office of National AIDS Policy.

As you know, I recently declared that the increase in HIV/AIDS infections in minority communities is a severe and ongoing health care crisis. As a result, my Administration unveiled an investment of \$156 million to address this urgent problem. Working with the Congressional Black Caucus and many community members, we fought successfully in the 1998 budget negotiations to secure funding for investments in prevention, care, and research, and this special initiative builds on the great success achieved in the fiscal 1999 budget process. Although this is a step in the right direction, there is still much to be done if we are to put an end to this terrible epidemic.

I am grateful for your personal involvement in this endeavor. You and Joyce have my best wishes.

Press Exit when done

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~~Dec 17~~

~~1998~~

Mar.
12,
'99

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 1, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

1:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Amy, for your magnificent remarks and the power of your example. Thank you, Cynthia, for coming to this big, scary crowd. (Laughter.) She was nervous. I said, well, look at the bright side -- at least you got out of school for a day. (Laughter.)

I thank the other children who are here with us. And I want to thank all the members of our administration who have helped so much in this cause -- Secretary Albright; Brian Atwood; Dr. Satcher; our AIDS Policy Director, Sandy Thurman; members of the Council on HIV and AIDS. We're glad to have Nafis Sadik here, the Director of the U.N. Population Fund. Richard Socaridies from the White House, I thank you and all the other members of the administration. And I, too, want to join in expressing my appreciation to the members of Congress who Brian mentioned for their support for AIDS funding.

But I especially want to thank Amy for being here and reminding us of what this is all about. When she was speaking my mind wandered back to an incident that occurred when I was running for President in 1992. Some of you have heard me say this before, but I was in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a place largely known for its enormous percentage of Czech and Slovak citizens. And there was in the crowd at this rally where I was speaking a woman who was either Czech or Slovak, probably, holding an African American baby. And I said, whose baby is this? She said, this is my baby. And I said, where is this baby from? She said, Florida, I got her from Florida. (Laughter.)

And it was October in Cedar Rapids and she should have been in Florida, probably. (Laughter.) She said, this baby was born with AIDS and abandoned and no one would take this baby. This woman had her marriage had dissolved, she was raising her own children alone. But because she heard about children like this wonderful little girl, she adopted this baby.

And every year since, about once a year, I see this young child. I've watched her grow up now and I'm happy to tell you that six years later she's still alive and doing pretty well. She comes to the NIH for regular check-ups and she comes by the White House to see her friend. And every time I see Jimiya I am reminded of what this whole thing is about.

And I think I should tell you one other thing. When Amy was standing up here with me and I was telling her what a fine job she did, she said, I'm so glad that Cynthia could be here, and that I could say Carla's name in your presence.

This is, I think, very important for people who have not been touched in some personal way -- who have never been at the bedside of a

dying friend, who have never looked into the eyes of a child orphaned by AIDS or infected with HIV -- to understand. And I believe, always, that if somehow we could reach to the heart of people, we would always do better in dealing with problems, for our mind always conjures a million excuses in dealing with any great difficulty.

Let me begin, even in this traumatic moment, to say we have a lot to celebrate on this AIDS Day. We celebrate the example of Amy and Cynthia. Just think, a decade ago people really believed that AIDS was unstoppable; the diagnosis was a virtual death sentence; there was an enormous amount of ignorance and prejudice and fear about HIV transmission. Most of us knew people who couldn't get into apartment houses or were being kicked out or otherwise -- their children couldn't be in school because of fears that people had about it.

Every day, for people who had HIV or AIDS and their families -- every day was a struggle a decade ago. A struggle for basic information, for treatment, for funding, and all too often, for simple compassion.

For six years, thanks to many of you, we have worked hard to change this picture -- and so have tens of thousands of other people across our country and across the globe. We've worked hard to draw attention to AIDS and to better direct our resources by creating the Office of National AIDS Policy and the President's Council on HIV and AIDS. We had the first ever White House conference on AIDS. We helped to ensure that people with HIV and AIDS cannot be denied health benefits for preexisting conditions. We accelerated the approval of more than a dozen new AIDS drugs, helping hundreds of thousands of people with AIDS to live longer and more productive lives.

Working together with members of both parties in the Congress, we increased our investment in AIDS research to an historic \$1.8 billion. This year we secured \$262 million in new funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, providing medical treatment, medication, even transportation to families coping with AIDS. This October we declared that AIDS had reached crisis proportions in the African American, Hispanic American and other minority communities, and fought for \$156 million initiative to address that. Today the Vice President is announcing \$200 million in new grants for communities around the country to provide housing for people with AIDS.

The results of these and other efforts have been remarkable. For the first time since the epidemic began, the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS has begun to decline. For the first time, deaths due to AIDS in the United States have declined. For the first time, therefore, there is hope that we can actually defeat AIDS.

But all around us there is, as we have heard from all the previous speakers, fresh evidence that the epidemic is far from over, our work is far from finished, that there are rising numbers of AIDS in countries like Zimbabwe, where 11 men, women, and children become infected every minute of every day. There are still too many children orphaned by AIDS, tens of thousands here in America, tens of millions in developing nations around the world.

And when so many people are suffering, and with HIV transmission disproportionately high, still, among our own young people here in America, it's all right to celebrate our progress, but we cannot rest until we have actually put a stop to AIDS. I believe we can do it -- by developing a vaccine, by increasing our investment in other forms of research, by improving our care for those who are infected and our support for their families.

Last year at Morgan State University, I declared that we should

redouble our efforts to develop an AIDS vaccine within a decade. Today I am pleased to announce a \$200 million investment in cutting edge research at the NIH to develop a vaccine. That's a 33 percent increase over last year. With this historic investment, we are one step closer to putting an end to the epidemic for all people.

I'm also pleased to say that there will be more than \$160 million for other new research critical to fighting AIDS around the world, from new strategies to prevent and treat AIDS in children, to new clinical trials to reduce transmission.

And as hard as we are working to stop the spread of AIDS we cannot forget our profound obligation for the heartbreaking youngest victims of the disease -- the orphaned children left in its wake. Around the world, as we have heard, millions of children have lost their parents. Their number is expected to rise to 40 million over the next 10 to 15 years. Some of them are free of AIDS, others are not. But sick or well, too many are left without parents to protect them, to teach them right from wrong, to guide them through life and make them believe that they can live their lives to the fullest.

We cannot restore to them all they have lost, but we can give them a future -- a foster family, enough food to eat, medical care, a chance to make the most of their lives by helping them to stay in school. Today, through Mr. Atwood's agency, we are committing another \$10 million in emergency relief that will, though seemingly a small amount, actually make a huge difference for many thousands of children in need around the world.

I'm also directing Sandy Thurman to lead a fact-finding mission to Africa, where 90 percent of the AIDS orphans live. Following the mission she will report back to me with recommendations on what more we can do to help these children and give them something not only to live for, but to hope for.

Eleven years ago, on the first World AIDS Day, we vowed to put an end to the AIDS epidemic. Eleven years from now, I hope we can say that the steps we took today made that end come about. If it happens, it will be in no small measure because of people like you in this room, by your unfailing, passionate devotion to this cause -- a cause we see most clearly expressed in the two people sitting right behind me.

Thank you all, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

1:26 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 1, 1998

WORLD AIDS DAY, 1998

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

As you know, since the start of my Admin
~~On World AIDS Day, we are heartened by the knowledge that our~~
unprecedented investments in AIDS research have resulted in new treatments that are prolonging the lives of many people living with the disease. Thousands of scientists, health care professionals, and patients themselves have joined together to advance our understanding of HIV and AIDS and improve treatment options. Because of the heroic efforts of these people, fewer and fewer Americans are losing their lives to AIDS, and for that we are immensely thankful.

But the AIDS epidemic is far from over. Within racial and ethnic minority communities, HIV and AIDS are a severe and ongoing crisis. While the number of deaths in our country attributed to AIDS has declined for 2 consecutive years, AIDS remains the leading killer of African American men aged 25-44 and the second leading killer of African American women in the same age group. African Americans, who comprise only 13 percent of the U.S. population, accounted for 43 percent of new AIDS cases in 1997 and 36 percent of all AIDS cases. Hispanic Americans represent just 10 percent of our population, but they account for more than 20 percent of new AIDS cases; and AIDS is also becoming a critical concern to Native American and Asian American communities. Young people of every racial and ethnic community are also disproportionately impacted by AIDS, both in the number of new AIDS cases and in the number of new HIV infections. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that approximately half of all new HIV infections in the United States occur in people under age 25 and that one-quarter occur in people under age 22.

Across the world, the situation is even more grim. As with other epidemics before it, AIDS hits hardest in areas where knowledge about the disease is scarce and poverty is high. Of the nearly 6 million people newly infected with HIV each year, more than 90 percent live in the poorest nations of the world. Entire communities are threatened by this epidemic, and the growing number of children who will lose parents to AIDS will have a devastating impact on these societies. By the year 2010, there may be as many as 40 million children who will have been orphaned by AIDS, and developing nations will have to struggle to deal with the overwhelming needs of a generation of young people left without parents.

This year's World AIDS Day theme, "Be A Force For Change," is a reminder that each of us has a role to play in bringing the AIDS epidemic to an end. Our response must be comprehensive and ongoing. It must also be a collaborative one, bringing together governments and communities in a shared effort to expand prevention efforts, raise awareness among young people of the risks of HIV infection and how to avoid it, increase access to lifesaving therapies, and ensure that those who are living with HIV and AIDS receive the care and services they need.

Developing a vaccine for HIV is perhaps our best hope of eradicating this terrible disease and stemming the tide of pain and desolation it has wrought. The global community has joined together in making the development of an HIV vaccine a top international priority. Within the next decade, we hope to have the means to stop this deadly virus, but until we reach that day we must remain strong in our crusade to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS and to care for those living with the disease. In this way we can best honor the memory of the many loved ones we have lost to AIDS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 1, 1998, as World AIDS Day. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of the other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to defeating HIV and AIDS. I encourage every American to participate in appropriate commemorative programs and ceremonies in workplaces, houses of worship, and other community centers and to reach out to protect and educate our children and to help and comfort all people who are living with HIV and AIDS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

30-30-30

GLOBAL HEALTH COUNCIL

5/26

May 24, 1999

Mr. Ar

5/25/99

Come in on our fax -

Send to Burkhardt?

JUN 23 1999

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500



Yes

No

Dear President Clinton:

C

We write to urge you to take bold action to **increase America's response to the global spread of HIV**. We do so upon learning that the breadth of this problem has recently been brought to your personal attention as a result of your national AIDS policy director's fact-finding trip to southern Africa.

It is our hope that you will act immediately in light of the significant global worsening of this pandemic since you took office.

- Since 1993, the number of people infected with HIV worldwide has grown 300% -- from 14,000,000 to over 47,000,000. *HIV now kills more people annually than any other infectious disease in the world.*
- Since 1993, Africa has been devastated by the spread of HIV. In the Republic of South Africa, for example, 4% of pregnant women were infected in 1993. Now nearly 20% of pregnant women are infected with HIV nationwide, and in some provinces the figure rises above 35%. In rural areas of East Africa, 40% of children under the age of 15 have been orphaned by HIV.
- Since 1993, Asia has undergone a devastating spread of HIV, with whole nations that previously had little virus now reporting millions of cases. For example, India (which had virtually no cases in 1993) now has between 5 to 10 million infected people, and in some states we are seeing that 2% of pregnant women infected.
- The number of HIV infections in Eastern Europe has increased nine-fold in just three years, growing from less than 30,000 HIV infections in 1995 to an estimated 270,000 infections by December 1998.

In short, Mr. President, since 1993, we have witnessed the greatest development disaster in modern history: the explosive growth of HIV around the world and the death of tens of millions of people from this disease.

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This emergency demands an aggressive response not only for humanitarian reasons, but also to protect our nation's goals for global economic growth and political stability. In 1995 alone, experts estimated that the global economy had already lost 500 billion dollars due to HIV. The onslaught is having a serious effect on the long-term economic viability of many countries, decimating a limited pool of skilled workers and devastating health systems.

We are deeply concerned that the administration has essentially straightlined funding for global AIDS programs in your budget proposal to Congress. In a time when HIV/AIDS is ravaging the world, eliminating entire communities, severely undermining economies and destabilizing militaries, **your administration's FY 2000 budget request included no increase for USAID health programs**, and chose not to continue a \$10 million emergency program for AIDS-affected children.

Mr. President, don't let this be your legacy on the global AIDS pandemic. We appeal to you to take bold action to strengthen our nation's response to AIDS. Specifically we urge you to:

- Increase funding for international AIDS and other health programs. We urge that you seek major increases for global AIDS programs immediately. These funds should be new money, not diverted from other development programs and they should be targeted to reach community groups in nations most at risk. These funds should be over and above the current level of funding in the 150 account. It does no good to rob Peter to pay Paul.
- Direct the Agency for International Development, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Defense to immediately prioritize AIDS and related health programs, and to identify new and bold actions they will undertake jointly to expand their program activity. Lack of funding makes it very difficult for agencies to prioritize areas that are of great importance to the epidemic at this time, such as effective preventive strategies, vaccine development, and care for those affected.
- Launch a major White House initiative on global AIDS by convening a high level international meeting on the pandemic. This could take the form of an "AIDS Summit," as was held in 1994 in Paris, an AIDS-specific meeting of the G-8, or other high visibility event. The purpose would be to inform other nations that the US is committed to addressing HIV as a top global security issue.

Mr. President, time is short. Within the next decade, the cumulative number of HIV infections is projected to exceed 100 million by 2007. AIDS orphans are projected to exceed 40 million children by the year 2010.

We greatly appreciate your past role as a great champion on domestic AIDS funding. We challenge you to champion global AIDS funding as well. There is still time to alter the horrific projections of the spread of HIV in the next century. **We implore you to act now and to act boldly.**

Sincerely,

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Angela Hadjipateras, Research and Policy Officer

The Alan Guttmacher Institute; Washington, DC
Susan A. Cohen, Assistant Director for Policy Development

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John Manzon-Santos, Executive Director

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Renate Koch, Executive Director

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Cc Sandy Thurman, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
Jack Lew, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Bruce Reed, Domestic Policy Council
John Podesta, Chief of Staff
Sean Maloney, Assistant to the President
Donna Shalala, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services
Madeleine Albright, Secretary, Department of State
Brian Atwood, Administrator, US Agency for International Development