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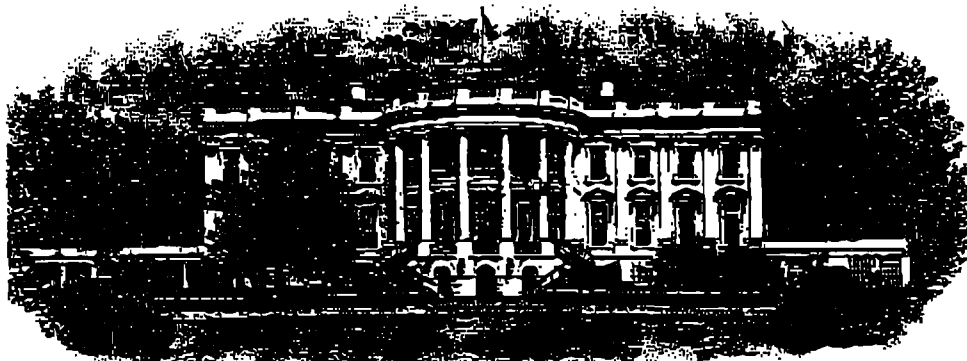
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Washington, D.C. 20504



AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE

phone: 202-456-9261; fax: 202-456-9260

Date: 3/23
Pages to follow 3

FROM: Gayle Smith

 X Nora Dempsey

 Cathy Byrne

TO:

PHONE NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

1. SANDY THURMAN
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

MESSAGE:

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Center for Medicinal Plant Farming & Traditional Medicine

*Forward to
Sandy Thurman*

March 20, 2000

The Honorable Nora Dempsey
Director of African Affairs for Central Africa, National Security Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500
By fax: (202) 456-9260

Dear Director Dempsey:

In the face of the enormity of the African AIDS orphan crisis, I am writing to you with encouraging news, and a request for your assistance. Since 1989, UKIMWI Orphans Assistance has demonstrated success in empowering African extended families in caring for, and raising their AIDS orphans at home. This kinship based self-help approach builds communities, sustainable food production and rural economy. It offers real hope for an entire generation of children left without parents, and a positive future for their families and communities.

Tanzanian-born sociologist, Dr. John Rutayuga, Ph.D, founded UKIMWI Orphans Assistance (UOA) to facilitate kinship-groups in providing orphans, infants to 21 years of age, with the basic necessities of life for normal growth, development, and self-reliance within their own cultural context. UKIMWI is a Swahili word for AIDS. Starting with six village groups caring for 380 orphans, Dr. Rutayuga, and his colleagues in Africa now facilitate a network of more than 90 Tanzanian, Ugandan, and Kenyan villages caring for approximately 6,000 orphans. The UOA self-help model creates self-reliant adults, food-security, family and community pride and prosperity, while building educational facilities and resources, and preserving traditional knowledge and habitats.

UOA's cooperative community work approach is rejuvenating orphans' inherited lands, restoring cultivation of basic staple and cash crop production of banana, sweet potato, and shade-grown coffee. Employing traditional diversified agriculture techniques, communities are reaching new levels of agricultural productivity. New schools, kindergartens, community centers and teacher housing are being built, community-based vocational training is under way, and houses untended since the death of parents are being restored. A UOA-inspired community health care network of experienced traditional doctors, nurses and midwives is providing weekly natural well care to communities not served by biomedical resources.

Three-quarters of the resources for this important work are provided by the kinship groups themselves. News of the program's success has spread and many more villages are requesting UOA assistance. One-quarter of the necessary resources must be provided by external support. Even with UOA's highly leveraged and cost-effective approach, substantial additional financial support is necessary to extend support to communities waiting to be facilitated.

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(301) 407-0486, (301) 407-0578 fax, biojourney@aol.com

UOA's field professional and volunteer staff: Mr. Celestine Mutakyahwa, (Chairman, UOA-Tanzania,) a successful businessman and former superintendent of parochial schools in Tanzania; Mr. Pancras Kamugisha, a retired public schools supervisor, social worker and registered nurse; Dr. Kusimba with the University of Nairobi; Ms. Jane Chokaa, a planning officer with the Ministry of Education in Kenya, and an impressive network of local professionals, artisans, farmers, merchants, elders, and neighbor volunteers are producing phenomenal results under exacting conditions. After ten years of voluntarism, UOA needs operational funds to continue its work, and, given the proportions of the AIDS pandemic, every day the need grows geometrically.

UOA is a 501(c)(3) international charitable organization coordinated from a borrowed desk, fax and phone line in a small basement office provided by a Lutheran Church in Washington, DC. It is a registered PVO with USAID with small subsidiary field offices in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya which are registered as NGO's with their respective country governments. Recognized by the Tanzanian Embassy; the UN New Agenda for Development of Africa for its contribution to Africa's Sustainable Development, (*The Emerging Role of NGO's in African Sustainable Development*, UN-NAD 1992-2001, Scott Chaplove and J. Patrick Madden, Eds., OM Publishing Consultants, 1996, pp. 98-106;) and by Congressman Jim McDermott for its leadership, UOA has been designated a Registered Project by Germany's EXPO 2000 for its demonstrated leadership in African sustainable development.

All of UOA's accomplishments over the last 11 years have been made possible for less than \$500,000 (representing private contributions of less than \$200,000, a four-year \$230,000 grant from U.S. Congressional funding through the Africa Development Fund, and \$30,000 from Food for All/Food Industry Crusade Against Hunger.) Over 90 percent of all monies raised have gone directly to village projects.

I am requesting your personal support for this important and effective humanitarian, peacemaking work. Beyond meeting Dr. Rutayuga, and the individual personal contacts you may be willing to assist him in making toward securing substantially increased funding, there are several new projects he wants to get underway which you may be interested in facilitating. These include well-planned, environmentally sound kinship-based projects for creating additional self-sustaining revenues, a kinship-based HIV/AIDS education and prevention project for adolescents and youth, a community radio education program, and a necessary formal research study to document the demonstrated results UKIMWI Orphans Assistance is producing.

Thank you in advance, Ms. Dempsey, for your interest and kind attention. Dr. John Rutayuga can be reached at the UOA office in Washington at (202) 723-7003. . If I can be of any assistance to you in this important matter, please feel free to contact me at (301) 407-0486.

Sincerely,

Claire G. Spector, Director
cgspector@aol.com

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