

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

Series/Staff Member:

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19408

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Honduras NEAC [National Episcopalian AIDS Coalition]

Stack:

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Row:

66

Section:

6

Shelf:

8

Position:

3

Data Entry Form

Letter ID	Writer First Name	Writer Last Name	Received Date	Subject
11250				

☐ Response Required?

Response Type	Response Date	Responder ID	Responder Name	Action Promised

Action Completed	Action Date	Addressed To
		Sandy

Notes

Sender's Organization	Sender's Street1	Sender's Street2
National Episcopal AIDS Coali	1925 K Street, NW	
Sender's City	Sender's State	Sender's Zip
Washington	DC	20006

INT-Countries-
HONDURAS
(NETC)

X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2232.9)

X-MS-Embedded-Report:

Content-Type: text/plain

Added to Immediate

Since NEAC is paying for all flights for our Jan meeting in Miami, we have arranged with one airline (the group is too small for more than one to participate) for discount fares. DEPENDING ON THE SEAT AVAILABILITY AT THE DEEP DISCOUNT rate, we should be getting flights less than \$300 and more in the \$200 range. BECAUSE THESE SEATS GO FASTEST, IS IT URGENT THAT YOU CALL TODAY TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS. Please use your credit cards and NEAC will reimburse you. (More on the Hotel later today or tomorrow morning.)

Call l'arc en Ciel (travel agency) and ask for Diane Biddington – 1-800-523-7287 TODAY! between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST. Mention to Diane you are with National Episcopal AIDS Coalition meeting going to Miami. Friday, I called and was able to get a round trip from Philly for \$189.00.

Carlos has set up the schedule to be – Meetings start of Friday (Jan 15th) MORNING and will finish the end of Saturday, Jan 16th. I am hoping everyone will be able to stay over Sat. night. As of Friday there were enough flights leaving for most of our cities on Sunday.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO E-MAIL ME THAT YOUR HAVE COMPLETED THIS TASK SO I CAN TRACK EVERYONE'S COMPLETION OF IT.

PLEASE DO THIS TODAY! OR WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SAVE \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.

THANK YOU!

IARRY

—_=_NextPart_002_01BE2200.CC86DD4C—

Headers

Return-Path: <>

Received: from relay20.mx.aol.com (relay20.mail.aol.com [172.31.106.66]) by air15.mail.aol.com (v53.20) with SMTP; Mon, 07 Dec 1998 11:52:06 1900

Received: from andy.ehshouston.org ([207.80.60.249])
by relay20.mx.aol.com (8.8.8/8.8.5/AOL-4.0.0)
with ESMTP id LAA03248 for <Planwrks@aol.com>;
Mon, 7 Dec 1998 11:52:04 -0500 (EST)

Received: by ANDY with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2232.9)
id <YHV8XQJ2>; Mon, 7 Dec 1998 10:44:04 -0600

Message-ID: <E502353A1068D011B5420060972CE05E01166D81@ANDY>

From: System Administrator <postmaster@EHSHOUSTON.ORG>

To: Planwrks@aol.com

Subject: Undeliverable: Fwd: Miami Flight Reservations - URGENT ATTENTION

Date: Mon, 7 Dec 1998 10:44:03 -0600

MIME-Version: 1.0

X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2232.9)

Content-Type: multipart/mixed;

boundary="—_=_NextPart_000_01BE2200.CC86DD4C"

NEAC JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Schedule - Friday, January 15, 1999 -

9 a.m. to Noon - NEAC Board meeting at Trinity Cathedral (check-in/Forward in Faith Conf.)

Noon - Lunch at the Marriott with the Bishop

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Commission AIDS hearings (site to be determined)

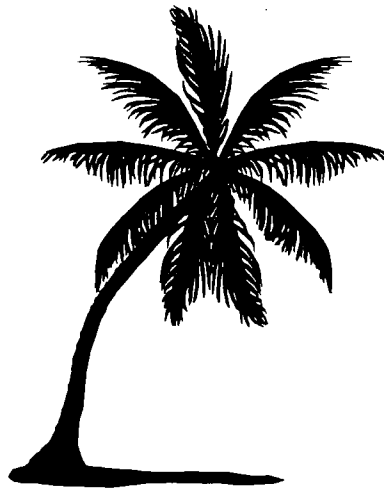
6 p.m. - Cocktail party with Episcopal AIDS Ministry

? p.m. - Group Dinner (restaurant to be determined)

Schedule - Saturday, January 16, 1999 -

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - NEAC Board meeting at Trinity Cathedral

(Dinner not planned)



Please bring your time sheets for the remainder of 1998!

NEAC JANUARY BOARD MEETING

MAIL FORM TO NEAC OFFICE OR FAX IT TO 202-872-1511

Name: _____

I plan to attend the NEAC Board meeting in Miami ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, please mail back this form along with your time sheets for 1998.

Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____

Departure Date: _____ Time: _____

Hotel Reservations needed: ☐ Yes ☐ No (Planning Works will make these reservations for you.)

Check in date: ____/____/____ Check-out date: ____/____/____

We will be staying at the ***renovated*** Days Inn, 1050 NW 14th St., Miami
Phone: 305.243.4105 (I will send instructions on how to get from the airport to the hotel
-- there is a van.)

I am planning to attend the following scheduled meals:

Friday lunch ☐ Yes ☐ No

Friday cocktail party ☐ Yes ☐ No (Group dinner to follow)

Saturday lunch
(Saturday dinner is on our own)

2

Signature _____ Date _____

Year

 %

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

[illegible]

Total Hours

11 12 13 14 15 16

RESEARCH DESIGN

NEAC Contact List		Revised 12/9/98							
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* Conference 2000 Reference									
neac.lst.xls									

Subj: [AEGIS] AIDS TAKING GRIM TOLL IN POVERTY STRICKEN HONDURAS AS PATIENTS TRY TO ORGANIZE
Date: 98-11-11 08:17:37 EST
From: mary.elizabeth@aegis.com
Sender: AIDS-owner@mail.global.org
To: AIDS@mail.global.org

AIDS TAKING GRIM TOLL IN POVERTY STRICKEN HONDURAS AS PATIENTS TRY TO ORGANIZE

Article by By Richard Stern
e-mail: rastem@sol.racsa.co.cr

A recent visit to Honduras has revealed hospital wards filled with people dying from AIDS-related opportunistic infections when medical supplies run out. Hondurans with AIDS have virtually no hope of receiving anti-retroviral (ARV) medications.

At the state run "Hospital del Thorax" in Tegucigalpa, I visited a 26 bed AIDS unit where patients lack medications that could combat their opportunistic infections. Maria Elena, who appears to weigh less than 80 pounds, lay in the women's ward and said she gets no medication at all. She said she has stopped eating and doesn't care any more what happens to her, adding "this is a mortal illness and I have to accept Gods will." Her three children will become orphans as her common law husband died three years ago. When I gave Maria Elena a copy of POZ magazine in Spanish, she indicated it was the first time she had heard of anti-retroviral medications.

The so-called "cocktail" of retroviral medications consists of a combination of three medications that have a significant impact on the damaged immune systems of most patients with AIDS, enabling them to return to a relatively productive and normal lifestyle. About 20 percent of patients do not tolerate the new medications well, and other experimental combinations are now being tried with this group. The cost of a triple therapy cocktail would be about \$800 per month if purchased individually, although pharmaceutical companies provide significant discounts when governments buy large quantities of the drugs. In Europe and North America, it is estimated that 90 percent of AIDS patients have access to these medication through a variety of public and private insurance plans.

Maria Elena's attending physician, infectologist Milton Gonzales, indicated that he has run out of the medication to treat opportunistic illnesses such as severe diarrhea and cryptococcus. "It's only July and we have used up all of the medication that was to have been for the entire year," he said. When a neurological illness is suspected, he and his team have to guess the diagnosis because there is no neurological testing available and no neurologist on staff. Gonzales indicated that he has little hope that the Health Ministry will supply the necessary medications and would like to receive donations from the international community.

No one is quite sure exactly why Honduras, with just 17 percent Central America's population, has over half of the 20,000 reported cases of AIDS in the region. Honduras, with 5.4 million people has more than 11,000 officially diagnosed cases. Costa Rica, with 3.4 million people has 1,400 cases, and Nicaragua with 4 million has just over 300, according to official figures. One theory is that the

epidemic began with prostitutes serving the US military community based in Comayagua and spread rapidly as a result of lack of prevention strategies and extreme promiscuity. The epidemic is about 85 percent heterosexual in Honduras. One Doctor estimated that 35 percent of country's 20,000 or more prostitutes are HIV+ and that, ironically, clients pay extra to have sex without a condom.

Additional factors contributing to the spread of AIDS include extreme poverty, lack of access to health clinics and lack of knowledge about methods of prevention. Women, abandoned by their husbands and heading impoverished households are vulnerable to the sexual whims of their often promiscuous male partners. Per capita yearly income in Honduras is under \$1,500 per year.

On the hillsides that tower over downtown Tegucigalpa the tenements of clay and brick appear deceptively scenic from the city below until one gets close and sees that they are really makeshift hovels built over unpaved streets without sewer systems or running water. Women descend to the polluted river that runs through town to wash clothes. These tenements teem with children and although AIDS is rampant, tuberculosis, dengue fever and cholera may pose even greater threats.

Two Non-governmental organizations funded by the Dutch government in Honduras are now beginning to focus more attention on the problem of access to medications and rampant discrimination against people who live with AIDS.

"Solidaridad and Vida," (Solidarity and Life) directed by a young physician named Enoch Padilla, provides medical services to several hundred patients each month in Tegucigalpa. Padilla recognizes the need for the patients themselves to begin to organize, but pointed out that the death of several of the more activist patients during the past year dealt a severe setback to the group.

Some of Padilla's patients are in a study conducted by the pharmaceutical company Merck, Sharp and Dohme, and they have access to ARVs as well as viral load testing. Padilla tries to help patients find sources to obtain medications for opportunistic infections and has been quite successful in obtaining donated medications from international sources.

While Tegucigalpa nurses its wounded in a temperate pleasant climate, San Pedro Sula, 150 miles to the North is a sweltering city of half a million people carved out of the surrounding jungle. Average daily high temperatures are in the mid 90's.

In San Pedro Sula, the "Fraternidad San Pedrana de Lucha Contra el SIDA" (San Pedro Brotherhood against AIDS) has five years of work in the community, and is also funded by the Dutch. There is an established Association of People Living with AIDS and there are about 50 members in the group. However, of the 50, only about five are currently receiving ARVs. Carlos Lopez is the Director of Fraternidad and Alan Dunaway is President of the Association of AIDS patients.

Dunaway, his wife Rosa and daughter Emilia all have AIDS. The San Pedrana patient Association has been allowed to participate in the government's National AIDS commission and also are lobbying legislators

for the approval of a bill to curb discrimination against people with AIDS. However, the bill has been "in discussion" for four years and has yet to be approved. According to Carlos Lopez, "many of the congressman are owners of or benefit from the large cheap labor factory market known as "maquila." Says Lopez: "they have no interest in supporting this bill because they don't want have to pay sick days or face other problems. Maximizing profits is their main consideration and fair employment practices are not conducive to more profits."

Also in San Pedro Sula I spoke to Guillermo a 30 year old ex-transvestite sex worker who is now the janitor at San Pedro Sula's gay community organization known as "Comunidad Gay San Pedrana."

Guillermo has had bouts of AIDS related infections for several years but has survived. He knew about ARV medications, and expressed frustration at their impossibly high cost. Guillermo gets one meal a day at the gay community center and sleeps in a \$25 a month rented room that has no electricity. He says his family in Tegucigalpa is wealthy but will have nothing to do with him. He left Tegucigalpa in 1996, to try to work in the factories of San Pedro Sula, but illnesses made this impossible. However, he is pleased that he has received support and work in the gay center, and has not had to return to prostitution. He is open about his HIV+ status with the young gays he sees at the center. "But some of them just don't pay attention," he says. They don't think it will happen to them."

Jonathon Castro, AIDS educator in the gay/lesbian Association in Tegucigalpa called "Collectiva Violeta" told me about his friend Rafael who died at the age of 20 on the sidewalk near the downtown area. "They asked him to leave the hospital because they said they couldn't treat his infections anyway. So he just went outside and found a place to lie down and died." Full blown AIDS in persons as young as 18-22 is quite common in Honduras, as apparently many very young adolescents are quite sexually active.

Casa Alianza is the Central American branch of New York city's Covenant House and operates a center for homeless children in Tegucigalpa. Several thousand receive medical and residential services each year. Alvaro Conte, Casa Alianza Director, told me that a study done last year revealed that 3 percent of these children are HIV+.

Subject to constant sexual abuse, these young AIDS patients also have no access to ARV medications, although Casa Alianza tries to educate them about prevention strategies. But many of these children must perform sexual acts just to be able to eat.

It is estimated that only about 60 of an estimated 5,000 People who live with AIDS in Honduras have access to the triple therapy combination, perhaps 25 who can pay for them with their own means and the rest who are in studies run by the pharmaceutical companies.

The hopelessness of the situation of most people with AIDS seems tragic when one considers that AIDS has now become a relatively treatable illness. In Costa Rica, more than 360 AIDS patients are now receiving ARV medications as a result of a Supreme Court decision handed down last September. Guillermo Murillo, President of the Costa Rican Association of People with AIDS called the Honduran situation

"an unnecessary tragedy" and called on international organizations such as UNAIDS to "seek a solution to enable our brothers and sisters in Honduras to survive."

ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH AIDS IN HONDURAS

Medicos Sin Fronteras Dr Germaine Hanquet Apartado Postal 3669
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504-232-8342 e-mail: prisma@sdnhon.org.hn

Dr. Jorge Alberto Fernandez Consulting Specialist in AIDS Ministry of
Health Apartado 3966 Tegucigalpa Tel: 504-237-4343 Fax: 504-238-3270

Collectivo Violeta Apartado 4053 Tegucigalpa, Honduras Tel:
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Solidaridad y Vida Dr. Enoch Padilla Apartado 2492 Tegucigalpa,
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Comunidad Gay San Pedrana Dereck Raickov Apartado 4317 San Pedro Sula
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Casa Alianza Alvaro Conte 504-237-3623

For help in using the AEGIS mailing list, or to unsubscribe --

- * Go here on the worldwide web: <http://www.aegis.com/todaysnews/list.asp>
- * Or send email to LISTSERV@MAIL.GLOBAL.ORG with the words HELP AIDS in the body of the message.
- * Reply to this message and entering the word REMOVE by itself on the subject line.

Headers

Return-Path: <AIDS-owner@mail.global.org>

Received: from rly-zc01.mx.aol.com (rly-zc01.mail.aol.com [172.31.33.1]) by air-zc04.mail.aol.com (v51.16) with SMTP;
Wed, 11 Nov 1998 08:17:37 -0500

Received: from mail.global.org (cust-199-34-23-133.teleteam.net [199.34.23.133])
by rly-zc01.mx.aol.com (8.8.8/8.8.5/AOL-4.0.0)
with SMTP id IAA03788;
Wed, 11 Nov 1998 08:17:27 -0500 (EST)

Message-Id: <199811111317.IAA03788@rly-zc01.mx.aol.com>

Received: from NINJA [199.34.23.133] by ninja.divanet.com
(SMTPD32-4.06) id AE396D802A0; Wed, 11 Nov 1998 07:16:41 CDT

Date: 11 Nov 1998 07:16:41 -0600

From: mary.elizabeth@aegis.com

Subject: [AEGIS] AIDS TAKING GRIM TOLL IN POVERTY STRICKEN HONDURAS AS PATIENTS TRY TO ORGANIZE

To: AIDS@mail.global.org

Precedence: bulk

Sender: AIDS-owner@mail.global.org