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Lew, Jack

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O-Jack Lew

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM TO JACK LEW

From: Sandy Thurman 
cc: John Podesta
Date: December 3, 1999
Re: Global AIDS 2001

I returned earlier today from a very successful World AIDS Day Summit at the United Nations with the First Lady to discover that this memo had not been forwarded to you. I apologize. I realize that it is now *very* late in the budget process but I thought I should send it to you anyway.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM TO JACK LEW

From: Sandy Thurman 
cc: John Podesta
Date: November 23, 1999
Re: Global AIDS 2001

Thank you very much for your support in securing a \$100 million increase for our global AIDS effort in the final FY2000 budget. While the budget was working its way up and down Pennsylvania Avenue, we have been working closely with the agencies in the development of an extensive implementation plan to ensure that we maximize the effectiveness of these new resources. In addition, we had a very productive meeting with the British this past week. It seems clear that the impetus for their recently announced \$35 million initiative for AIDS in Africa was our effort, beginning with the conversation on HIV/AIDS that the President had with Prime Minister Tony Blair at the G7 meeting in Cologne.

FY2001: Given the magnitude of this crisis, and the level of visibility that it is now receiving, I believe that it is very important that we build on our initiative in the FY2001 budget. Now that that this is being called "a plague of biblical proportion" and the WHO has called it the "worst health disaster since the bubonic plague", our effort cannot be a one shot deal. While it is certainly true that the US cannot fight this battle alone, it is also clear that if we seek to remain the credible leader, much more remains to be done. I would like to propose that last year's funding become part of the base and that we again request a \$100 million increase for our multi-sectoral global AIDS effort. This would enable us to do two important things including: (1) doubling the USAID global AIDS program over two years (which would require an investment of an additional \$70 million); and (2) engaging additional agencies in this fight (DOD and HHS).

Interest in, and concern for, Africa is building. The global AIDS issue continues to be a very high priority for the Congressional Black Caucus, and popular with the Congress as a whole. This weekend, a bipartisan codel of 12 members leaves for Africa, and will be looking at HIV/AIDS in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. [Democratic members: Gephardt, Jefferson, Kilpatrick, Meeks, and Payne; Republican members: Castle, Dickey, Dunn, Houghton, and Kelly]. I did a luncheon briefing for the members and it is clear that this trip will only serve to strengthen their already active interest. I have attached a letter to the President from Gephardt and Pelosi asking that we "redouble our efforts" with a "significant increase above the final FY2000 appropriation".

As you know, Ron Dellums has been pushing for what he calls a "Marshall Plan for AIDS in Africa". He has seen the VP several times on this matter, and is scheduled to see him again soon. His "plan" is to create a new African AIDS Agency with an annual \$200 million appropriation. I join the NSC, AID, and State in believing that the creation of a new US agency designed to deal with HIV/AIDS in a vacuum is a bad idea. But Rep. Barbara Lee has introduced this legislation with the support of more than 50 co-sponsors, including almost the entire CBC.

I believe that if we ask for an additional \$100 million in FY2001, combined with the \$100 million we secured in FY2000, we can tell them that we are pushing for a \$200 million appropriation, without getting bogged down with the Congress over the creation of a new agency. I hear that the AIDS, African American, and international communities will all be writing to the President asking for a \$200 million increase for the global fight against AIDS in FY2001.

Threats to India and the New Soviet States are the next wave. While we seek to be responsive to the reality of the devastation already unfolding in Africa, we also need to pay attention to the danger that lurks in other parts of the world. While the epidemic in India is approximately a decade behind that of sub-Saharan Africa, there may still be time to turn the tide on current projections, and prevent a tragedy of African proportions. Senator Daschle is leading a codel to India in January, and we were asked to put together AIDS briefing materials for that delegation as well. India is slated to get some money under the FY2000 effort, but they are a long way from where they need to be.

Again, thank you very much for all of your help and support on this issue. I look forward to working with you.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Office of the Democratic Leader
Washington, DC 20515-6537

November 24, 1999

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

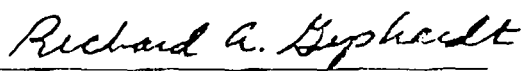
Thank you for your leadership on the global AIDS problem. We are very pleased that, working together with the Administration, we were able to secure the additional funds you requested to help fight this epidemic in Africa and around the world. We believe this was one of the most important victories in our negotiations on the final fiscal year 2000 budget.

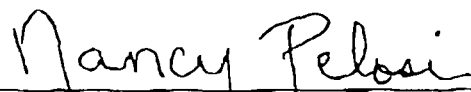
As important as this victory was, however, we cannot afford to rest. The dimensions of the problem remain daunting. In light of the disturbing trends not only in Africa and the Caribbean but in Asia and Eastern Europe, as well, we believe we must redouble our efforts if we are to make serious inroads in curbing the spread of HIV and treating those who have already contracted the virus or who are sick with AIDS.

Therefore, as you develop your final fiscal year 2001 budget, we strongly urge you to include a significant increase above the final fiscal year 2000 appropriation for global AIDS. We also strongly believe that this increase should be in addition to an increase in your budget request for our efforts to combat other infectious diseases. Building upon the success of this year's budget outcome will demonstrate to people in Africa and elsewhere around the world that our country is committed to doing its part to help bring an end to the terrible human suffering and death as a result of the global AIDS epidemic.

Again, thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,


Richard Gephardt, M.C.


Nancy Pelosi, M.C.

cc: John Podesta
Jack Lew

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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