

FOIA MARKER

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 18, 2001

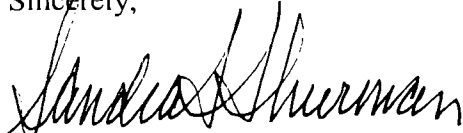
Dear Mr./Madame Ambassador:

As you know, AIDS is a plague of biblical proportion. To date, more than 50 million men, women and children have become infected with HIV, and more than 20 million have already died of AIDS. Yet, the pandemic rages on, with 16,000 people becoming infected each and every day. In many countries, infant mortality is doubling, child mortality is tripling, and life expectancy is plummeting by 20 years or more. In some cases, national economies are literally being pushed to the brink, and security and stability are being threatened.

The United States Government is a leader in the global battle against AIDS. In many communities around the world, we have worked in partnership with governments and NGOs to design and implement programs that have stemmed the rising tide of new infection and cared for those who are sick. But more, much more, remains to be done, and you are a key player in this fight. To assist you in this effort, USG agencies have compiled essential information on HIV/AIDS as well as background information on USG programs which we are making available in this briefing book. In addition, they have included contact information for government agencies and private sector partners, as well as a host of internet resources. While this document is still in draft form, we hope that it will prove useful to you and your staff.

Thank you for your time, your commitment, and your willingness to join forces with your host government in the battle against AIDS. You can make a difference. Your actions and your efforts can literally save lives and build healthy futures for the world's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra L. Thurman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sandra L. Thurman

Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation

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DRAFT



Meeting the HIV/AIDS Challenge
A Handbook of Resources
and Information

White House Office of
National AIDS Policy



January 18, 2001

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