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9- Peace Corps

THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 30, 2000

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
White House Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. *Sandy* Thurman:

Thank you very much for joining us here on Tuesday for our Peace Corps HIV/AIDS Initiative announcement. The large turn out and favorable press were due in no small part to your presence and speech. Impressive as always!

The statistics that came out from the latest UNAIDS report are more than staggering, they are beyond comprehension. I am proud to be leading the Peace Corps in a direction to do more work in fighting this terrible disease and pandemic.

Looking forward to seeing you in Durban.

Sincerely,


Mark L. Schneider
Director

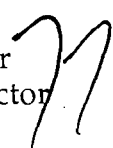
THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

O- Peace
corps

March 30, 2000

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Leon Fuerth
National Security Affairs Advisor to the Vice President

FROM: Mark L. Schneider 
Peace Corps Director

SUBJECT: Peace Corps' HIV/AIDS Initiative

I thought you would be interested in the expanded effort we are planning to help confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and elsewhere. I am hoping, as the attached memo to Sandra Thurman indicates, to make the announcement on **World Health Day, Friday, April 7**. If there is any chance of the Vice President being involved, it would be of great benefit to the Peace Corps' HIV/AIDS Initiative, as his presence would raise the visibility and impact of the announcement. The Vice President's speech at the United Nations Security Council and the President's address to the National Summit on Africa underscored the magnitude of the disease's detrimental impact on development and the urgency of expanded assistance. The doubling of United States assistance proposed in the FY2001 budget reflects that commitment.

I recently traveled to West Africa and saw the human face of the disease, in countries that have yet to undertake a truly national response. The Peace Corps is working there and in the Sub-Saharan countries which remain the hardest-hit. Forget the floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes, HIV/AIDS is the worst disaster that any of us has ever imagined, let alone witnessed.

When I met with Peace Corps Country Directors from Africa, there was agreement that HIV/AIDS constituted the single most compelling threat to family and society in Africa, a continent-wide challenge to present and future development, and a monumental humanitarian tragedy. In asking what the Peace Corps could do, we decided to attempt the following:

1. Every Peace Corps Volunteer going into Africa and those in Africa today will be trained, regardless of their sectoral assignment, to contribute to HIV/AIDS prevention and relief. By next year, we will be able to say that all 2,400 Volunteers are participating directly or indirectly in the fight against AIDS.

2. The Crisis Corps—which offers Returned Peace Corps Volunteers a chance to serve again for 2-6 months when disaster strikes their former country or region—will issue a call for returned Volunteers to take up the battle against HIV/AIDS. We hope to have 30 Crisis Corps Volunteers traveling to Africa as part of this initiative as early as June. By next year, we hope to have as many as 200.

Sandy is working to see if there is a desire to organize something at the White House with the President. I know the complexity of the Vice President's schedule makes it difficult, but it would be great to have him involved.

Attachment

cc: Sandra Thurman ✓
Stephanie Streett

THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

ANDY ILVES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 5, 2000

Mr. Mark L. Schneider, Director
Peace Corps
1111 20th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20526

Dear Director Schneider:

I want to thank you so much for making time last month to meet with me and our board President, Ed Gatta. We are very excited about implementing new initiatives in collaboration with the Peace Corps. The AIDS Memorial Quilt's board, staff, 49 domestic chapters, 39 international affiliates and thousands of volunteers are committed to confronting the AIDS crisis in Africa and have been working to greatly expand our efforts in partnership with our African brothers and sisters suffering the devastation of this disease.

I also want to again applaud and express my appreciation for your leadership around this issue. The Peace Corps is uniquely positioned to play a pivotal role in the work to address the African AIDS crisis. I look forward to seeing you soon in Durban and hope that you and your wife can join us there to read names at the AIDS Memorial Quilt ceremony. Quilt panels honoring the lives of South Africans lost to AIDS will be joined by panels from other parts of Africa and around the world, illustrating the growing and global toll of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, if there are initiatives to which our prevention curricula and other programs can contribute, please do not hesitate to call on me at (415) 882-5500 or by e-mail to ailves@aidsquilt.org. Again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your time and tremendous commitment to the struggle to end AIDS.

Sincerely,

Andy Ilves
Executive Director

cc. Sandra Thurman



THE NAMES PROJECT FOUNDATION

310 TOWNSEND STREET, SUITE 310 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94107

TELEPHONE: (415) 882-5500 FAX: (415) 882-6200 EMAIL: info@aidsquilt.org WEBSITE: <http://www.aidsquilt.org>

Past HIV/AIDS Peace Corps Programming

Since 1997, the Peace Corps has introduced HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programs into developing countries. They are now being used in each region of the world where Volunteers serve. Because of the high incidence rate of HIV/AIDS in Africa, most Peace Corps HIV/AIDS interventions are concentrated in this region. Peace Corps health projects in 15 African countries have HIV/AIDS prevention components. In 1999, approximately 84,000 Africans were reached by at least one Peace Corps sponsored HIV/AIDS intervention. In both the Europe and Asia HIV/AIDS-related programs are expanding rapidly with health projects in 20 countries. In addition, HIV/AIDS components are being integrated into at-risk youth, environment, and education projects, as well as radio programming and community awareness campaigns.

Peace Corps Work in Mauritania (Volunteers will be going to Mauritania)

Volunteers participate in efforts to improve agricultural and forestry practices. They are working to improve the production capacity of local farmers. Environmental education is an integral part of Peace Corps' agriculture projects. Business Volunteers work to strengthen entrepreneurs' skills in planning, financial management, marketing and profitability. Business Volunteers also contribute to the sustainability of projects in the health and agriculture sectors. Peace Corps health Volunteers strive to improve the overall health and well-being of rural people by working to reduce the incidence of waterborne and hygiene-related diseases. Volunteers also promote community health education in HIV/AIDS awareness, Guinea worm eradication, and nutrition. Intermittent droughts have forced a large percentage of the rural population of Mauritania to abandon a traditional nomadic way of life and move to the larger towns and cities. The urban areas are unable to cope economically or structurally with this influx, resulting in insufficient health and sanitation facilities, a reduction in agricultural productivity and high unemployment. The Government of Mauritania has requested Peace Corps assistance to: increase agricultural production and incomes, promote reforestation and dune stabilization, implement preventive health care with an emphasis on providing clean water, and develop the formal and informal business sectors.

The Initiative

We've received initial funding from the Gate and Packard foundation. Gates gave \$500,000 and we don't have a specific dollar amount on the Packard foundation. Partners can only pay for additional support costs. We have to pay for direct volunteer costs out of our budget--so partners will fund training, the training of trainers, or make contributions. We have interest from pharms and foundations. International NGOS could partner within country assignments. We haven't assigned a direct dollar amount to the initiative but estimate it will cost around 7 million. THIS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE RELEASED AT THE EVENT. We'd like to characterize it as more of a "call to action" to our volunteer corps, returned volunteers and foundations/NGOS.

file

ROUTING SLIP

DATE _____
 FROM _____
 Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Scheduling

File Regret

Comments _____

SUBJECT: Announcement of a new Peace Corps initiative to address
HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Kris Balderston	_____	Sean Maloney	_____
Lisa Berg	_____	Capricia Marshall	_____
Samuel Berger	_____	Thurgood Marshall Jr.	_____
Sidney Blumenthal	_____	Minyon Moore	_____
Chuck Brain	_____	Bob Nash	_____
Charles Burson	_____	Beth Nolan	_____
Mary Beth Cahill	_____	John Podesta	_____
Maria Echaveste	_____	Steve Ricchetti	_____
Terry Edmonds	_____	Bruce Reed	_____
George Frampton	_____	Dan Rosenthal	_____
Laura Graham	_____	Rozensky/Emrich	_____
Nancy Hernreich	_____	Dori Salcido	✓
Mickey Ibarra	_____	Patti Solis-Doyle	_____
Ben Johnson	_____	Doug Sosnik	_____
Joel Johnson	_____	Gene Sperling	✓
Neal Lane	_____	Carrie Street	✓
Ann Lewis	_____	Karen Tramontano	_____
Mark Lindsay	_____	Loretta Ucelli	✓
Bruce Lindsey	_____	Melanne Verveer	_____
Joe Lockhart	_____	Sandra Thurman	✓
Matthew Murguia	✓	Chris Tennings	✓

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

00 APR 11 AM 11:42

SCHEDULING PROPOSAL

Date: 4/10/00

☐ ACCEPT

☐ REJECT

☐ PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Scheduling

FROM: Sandra Thurman, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy

REQUEST: Announcement of a new Peace Corps initiative to address HIV/AIDS in Africa.

PURPOSE: The President would announce two new activities to be implemented by the Peace Corps to address the devastating impact that HIV/AIDS is having in Africa.

BACKGROUND: AIDS continues to devastate the African Continent. Several recent trips by Administration officials have highlighted the U.S. commitment to address AIDS at the local level. The President's FY 2001 budget request includes an additional \$100 million in requested funding for international AIDS activities.

The U.S. Peace Corps currently has Volunteers in most of the African countries being hardest hit by AIDS. Volunteers are key to helping share the message about HIV prevention and in reducing the stigma associated with AIDS.

This event would provide the President with the opportunity to highlight his continued commitment to addressing AIDS in Africa.

The Peace Corps plans on implementing two new initiatives:

- 1) Every Peace Corps Volunteer going into Africa and those already in Africa will be trained, regardless of their assignment, to contribute to HIV/AIDS prevention and

relief. By next year, Peace Corps would be able to say that all 2,400 Volunteers in Africa are participating directly or indirectly in the fight against AIDS in Africa.

- 2) The Crisis Corps – which offers Returned Peace Corps Volunteers a chance to serve again for 2 – 6 months when disaster strikes their former country or region – will issue a call for returned Volunteers to take up the battle against HIV/AIDS. Peace Corps anticipates 30 Crisis Corps Volunteers will travel to Africa as part of this initiative as early as June, and as many as 200 Crisis Corps Volunteers by next year.

**PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION:**

The President has participated in several events related to HIV/AIDS in Africa over the past year. Vice-President Gore recently chaired the United Nation's Security Council and highlighted HIV/AIDS as a major security concern for Africa.

DATE AND TIME:

TBD, prior to April 30 when both Ms. Thurman and Mr. Schneider will be in Africa on official travel.

DURATION:

Twenty minutes for the announcement plus a 30-minute reception afterwards with former Volunteers.

LOCATION:

Indian Treaty Room or Room 450.

PARTICIPANTS:

Tentative: POTUS, Mark Schneider, Sandra Thurman, Key Peace Corps officials, former Peace Corps Volunteers, members of Congress, and representatives from international health and AIDS groups.

**OUTLINE OF
EVENTS:**

Sandra Thurman would briefly discuss current efforts in Africa (5 minutes), then introduce Mr. Schneider who would briefly discuss the role of the Peace Corps in developing nations and how it is committed to addressing HIV/AIDS (5 minutes). Mr. Schneider would then introduce the President, who would make prepared remarks (10 minutes) focusing on HIV/AIDS as a global issue, and the U.S. commitment to addressing it. Participants would then be invited to a reception immediately following in the Indian Treaty Room.

REMARKS:

Draft from the Office of National AIDS Policy to be submitted to speechwriting for review and revision.

MEDIA: Open Event.

FIRST LADY: No.

VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, if possible.

SECOND LADY: No.

RECOMMENDED BY: Sandra Thurman

CONTACT: Matthew Murguia, Office of National AIDS Policy, 5-1449.