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EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

Telephone (202) 362-6683
Email: swaziland@compuserve.com
FAX (202) 244-8059
Ref. No.

3400 International Drive, N.W.
Suite 3M
Washington, D.C. 20008-3006

June 29, 2000

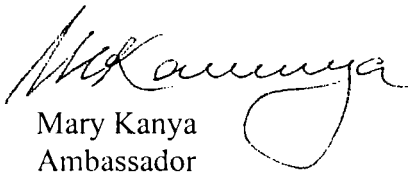
Mrs. Sandra Thurmon
Director
White House Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mrs. Thurmon:

I have been commanded by His Majesty King Mswati III to express his gratitude to you for taking the time to meet with him on June 23, 2000. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the AIDS crisis that confronts our planet, and to reaffirm His Majesty's commitment to lead the fight to stop the spread of the disease and help find a cure. Kindly extend our sincere thanks to Ms. Cheryl Bowery for her diligence and professionalism in preparing for the visit.

We look forward to working with you when His Majesty returns to the United States in September.

Sincerely,


Mary Kanya
Ambassador

cc: Honorable Congressmen Donald M. Payne



Acted

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JIM McDERMOTT
SEVENTH DISTRICT
WASHINGTON

June 16, 2000

The Honorable Sandra Thurman
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Sandy:

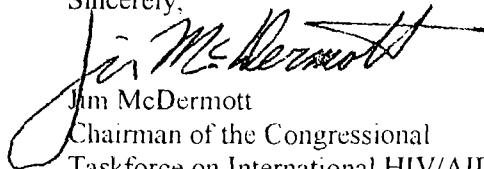
As you are fully aware, the African continent is being ravaged by the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Nowhere is the situation more drastic than in Southern Africa. Because of a confluence of traditions, politics and infrastructure, Southern Africa has been hit hard, with infection rates that hover in the range of 20-30%.

Swaziland, east of South Africa is a prime example of this, with 120,000 adults infected. This is over 25% of the adult population. Swaziland is the small, rural neighbor of South Africa where ancient traditions still hold fast. If a man dies, his wife marries his brother, dooming his brother and his brother's wife to become infected. Handshakes are made in blood to seal deals. A growing number of men believe sex with a young virgin will remove all physical ills, including HIV. Swaziland's leaders have seen the desperate need to bring down their nation's infection rates and provide the people of Swaziland with hope.

The king of Swaziland, Mswati III will be in Washington next week, and the Congressional Taskforce on International HIV/AIDS is hosting him for breakfast on June 22nd. We will have an informal roundtable discussion on the intricacies, problems and possibilities of the African AIDS epidemic, and how King Mswati can use his position as a traditional monarch to influence the spread of HIV/AIDS. I hope that you can join us at 8:30 in H-137 of the Capitol building.

I urge you to attend this important and hopefully interesting breakfast. Please contact Christopher Dumm at 202.225.3106 on my staff if you can attend.

Sincerely,


Jim McDermott
Chairman of the Congressional
Taskforce on International HIV/AIDS



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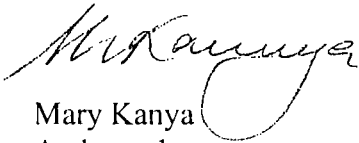
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