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World AIDS Day [1999 and 2000]

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U.S. Agency for International Development

Bureau for Africa
Office of Sustainable Development
1325 G St., NW Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Date:

To:

Sandy Thurman

Phone:

Fax:

From:

Alex

Phone:

Fax:

Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet

Message

Sandy, The paper re World AIDS Day - we can get comments back to @ UNAIDS (Jim Cunningham in NYC) by Friday.
Alex

Draft 10/11/99

CALL FOR ACTION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS

1. Background

The latest UNAIDS and WHO estimates.....million adults andmillion children will be living with HIV by the end of 1999. Since the late 1970s the cumulative total of children who have lost their mother or both parents to AIDS ismillion. Ninety percent per cent of these orphans are in sub-Saharan Africa. However in the next decade it is expected that the orphan problem will be on an even larger scale in Asia and the former Soviet countries of Eastern Europe.

As we approach the new millennium we are confronted with the most serious human disaster unprecedented in recent history. By selectively affecting those in the reproductive age group, HIV is generating orphans at a rate that makes it difficult to sustain traditional community coping mechanisms. This is particularly so in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, which are also characterised by the lack of adequate national social security systems. The nature of the orphan problem and the lack of an adequate response, are responsible for orphans having to experience long term social, psychological, developmental and economic deprivation. The girl child is even more disadvantaged as she may have to care for the other siblings and in many cases this implies not being able to complete her education.

The absence of parental protection and care and HIV related illness contributes significantly to the increase in under-five mortality, which in turn has undermined the capacities of governments, communities and households in the worst affected countries to achieve the goals for survival and development of children as agreed at 1990 World Summit for Children.

Specific needs of HIV/AIDS affected children and families

Studies have shown that AIDS has a profound impact on the ability of the family to provide for the basic needs of its members. In most sub-Saharan African countries where over 50% of the population lives below the poverty line, many families are now heavily constrained in caring for orphans as the child dependency ratio soars in the midst of low household incomes. With these financial constraints the onset of AIDS usually heralds the beginning of a transition from poverty to complete destitution.

The household coping strategies are usually targeted towards improving food security, raising and supplementing income so as to maintain household expenditure patterns and alleviating the loss of labour.

For children the effects of HIV/AIDS start long before their parents die. The problems they experience include; the psychological stress of watching sick and dying parents or siblings; the grief experienced on the loss of their family and identity; increased malnutrition; loss of health care; increased demands for labour; reduced opportunities for schooling and education; the loss of inheritance; forced migration; homelessness; stigma discrimination, physical abuse and sexual abuse which exposes children to HIV infection.

In response to this problem, many communities especially in the rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa have developed innovative programs to care and provide support to orphans and HIV affected families. However, the sheer numbers of orphans is overwhelming these programs and the emergence of child headed households is heralding the collapse of the traditional support mechanisms. Programs set up by NGOs and CBOs tend to have an urban focus with low coverage. The predicted scenarios of grandmothers caring for orphans are becoming a reality in many sub-Saharan countries.

2 Purpose

The massive numbers of orphans and the absence of a well-defined response in the majority of African countries, demands urgent intervention and accelerated action at all levels of society. Therefore, this document is a call for action for communities, local and international governments and civil society to recognise the plight of children who are affected by the AIDS epidemic. A set of actions has been proposed to address the needs of the most vulnerable children and families in the world.

3 The Agenda for Action.

Taking cognisance of the fact that 191 states have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and that as many are State Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) thereby agreeing to be accountable for actions taken to ensure the realisation of children's and women's rights, this document proposes an agenda that outlines specific actions at different levels that will address the needs and rights of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

3.1 Household and Community level

Studies in many developing countries reveal that the critical level for orphan support is the household and community. In the last 15 years of international and national response to HIV/AIDS, innovative community based initiatives providing care and support to children and families affected by HIV/AIDS have been developed. The lessons emerging from these initiatives indicate that the following actions are required to strengthen communities' capacity to cope;

- 3.1.1 Fostering the active participation of the community in the identification and implementation of context specific actions.
- 3.1.2 Improving the household economic earning capacities, as in many of these countries the burden of care falls on poor women with little or no access to economic resources. There is a need to facilitate their accessing resources either through micro-credit facilities, income generating activities or land. In many cases such a proposal would require changes in the regulatory framework on property ownership in the country.
- 3.1.3 Ensuring access to health services and education, through targeted subsidies, exemptions and alternative educational facilities.
- 3.1.4 Targeting social assistance to the most needy based on the direct poverty indicators not just on the presence of AIDS in the household as poor households not facing AIDS also need the same type of assistance. This will ensure equity and encourage the reduction of stigma and discrimination of orphans.
- 3.1.5 Building and improving basic infrastructure in order to reduce the demands on women's labour. For example improving access to water, fuel for heating and cooking will go along way in increasing the time for the girl child in particular to participate in education and other social events important for child development.
- 3.1.6 Responding to the psychosocial needs of orphans through well articulated counseling services that are particularly targeted to children in need. This service could be provided through school counselling services and home based care. Emphasis should also be placed on ensuring that children are allowed to play and develop a sense of belonging within their communities.
- 3.1.7 Encouraging community leaders to protect women's and children's property and inheritance from being taken by the family of the deceased spouse to reduce their economic vulnerability.

- 3.1.8 Encouraging communities to support the socialisation of children through locally appropriate mechanisms.

3.2 Government

The success of government efforts will depend largely on the extent to which they make it easier for children, families and communities to cope with the impact of HIV/AIDS. This can be achieved through the following actions;

- 3.2.1 Building political, public and donor support through advocacy and social mobilisation in order to raise public awareness of the nature of the crisis and mobilise resources locally and internationally.
- 3.2.2 Creating an enabling environment in which it becomes easier for children and families to cope through; policy, legal, health and educational reform.
- 3.2.3 Educational reforms should encompass the provision of life skills which will equip children with information and psychosocial skills to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. Such reforms should revisit the traditional definition of 'schools' to better meet the needs of the students and their communities. For government this will mean investing in teachers as a central and key strategy for the support to orphans.
- 3.2.3 Providing the leadership in the co-ordination of the multi-sectoral response to maximise the use of limited available resources. Mechanisms should be developed that link government, religious organisations, NGOs, the private sector and communities in the actions aimed at improving the community based responses.
- 3.2.4 To continue to monitor the impact of HIV/AIDS on children and families, with a view of developing appropriate policies and strategies to mitigate the impact.
- 3.2.5 Identify and resolve the constraints associated with increasing access to quality basic social services; education, health and social welfare for children and families affected.
- 3.2.6 Identify innovative and successful community initiatives with a view of increasing the national coverage.
- 3.2.7 Encourage the participation of communities in the development of policies, strategies and actions at all levels. This particularly important that people living with AIDS are involved at every level of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of interventions, so as to give a "human face to HIV/AIDS"

- 3.2.8 Developing national mechanisms that would facilitate NGOs and CBOs to access new technical and financial resources. This would enable NGOs and CBOs to strengthen and expand their programs.**

3.3 Regional

To accelerate the process of learning and exchange of information regarding support and protection for children and families affected, the regional initiatives and organisations should focus on the following actions:

- 3.3.1 Mobilise political commitment to ensure that the orphan issue is high on the agenda of regional political and economic organisations such as OAU, SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS, ECA and ASEAN.**
- 3.3.2 To identify, document and disseminate in liaison with national authorities best practice for care and support to affected children and families.**
- 3.3.3 Encourage the development of regional resource networks that would facilitate the sharing of human, technical and financial resources across the region. For example in areas of program design, monitoring, evaluation and coordination of services provided to children and families affected.**

3.4 Global Community

The global community can support the national and regional efforts by focusing on the following actions;

- 3.4.1 Keep Africa high on the development assistance agenda**
- 3.4.2 Ensure the allocation of needed resources to countries commensurate with the size of the crisis. Resources are need to ensure that the response to HIV/AIDS allows countries to do more than stave off increased poverty and social service deterioration.**
- 3.4.3 Accelerate debt relief, as an alternative funding strategy for activities.**
- 3.4.2 Provide financial support for long term human development projects**

- 3.4.3 Provide financial support for targeted interventions for orphans that will improve the economic earning capacities of communities and households.
- 3.4.4 Promote and advocate for human rights of children and women as articulated in the CRC and CEDAW.
- 3.4.5 Encourage the development of resource networks that would facilitate the sharing of human, technical and financial resources amongst the continents.

4 Conclusion

Even if the rate of new infections declines in the near future, the proportion of children orphaned by the HIV epidemic will continue to increase. Therefore the recommended actions at various levels will need to be sustained for a very long time in order to produce the required results. This in itself requires a new vision for solidarity and partnership at all levels of society.

The orphan crisis has again reinforced the multifaceted nature of the HIV/AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa. Governments alone cannot achieve the basic well being of the entire national population. This calls for, meaningful partnership, co-ordinated and well integrated sectoral actions, increased resources, policy development, legal review, social mobilisation and programmatic interventions by the public sector, private sector and civil society.

It is important to remember that the interventions put in place to deal with this issue should not be at the expense of compromising the capacity of the households and communities to this unfolding human tragedy. The family remains the most important and primary safety net for proper socialisation of children.

To Todd
 Date 11/25 Time 11:11

WHILE YOU WERE OUT
 M Brenda Costello
 of 1st lady's
 Phone 62131

Area Code	Number	Extension
TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL ☒
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN
WANTS TO SEE YOU		URGENT

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL

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BRIEFING PAPER FOR WORLD AIDS DAY EVENTS

State of the Epidemic - United States

- New infections per year = 40,000 to 60,000
- New treatments and better care resulted in a 23% decline in AIDS deaths in 1996
- Fewer deaths means more people living with HIV and AIDS
- HIV is moving rapidly among African-Americans, Latinos, women, and young people
- Total AIDS cases to date = 612,000 (of which 237,000 are still alive)
- Total HIV positive = 600,000 to 900,000 (conservatively)

State of the Epidemic - Global

- New infections = 5.8 million per year (just announced by World Health Organization)
- New estimate by UNAIDS of children orphaned by AIDS = 40 million by 2010
- Total living with HIV/AIDS = 31 million
- Total deaths to date = 12 million (2.3 million in 1997)
- 90% of new infections occur in developing world
- Majority of new infections among 15-24 year olds

Pediatric AIDS

- 2,000 babies are born HIV infected in the U.S. each year - 5 per day
- perinatal transmission dropped 43% in US between 1992 and 1996 - treatment with AZT
- More than 75% of all pediatric AIDS cases are among people of color

Youth and AIDS

- Half of all new HIV infections in US are among youth under 25
- AIDS is 6th leading cause of death among 15-24 year old Americans

People of Color and AIDS

- In 1996, 62% of all persons with AIDS and 79% of women with AIDS were minorities
- The incidence of AIDS is 7 times higher among African-Americans and 3 times higher among Latinos than among white Americans

Women and AIDS

- African-American women are 17 times more likely and Latinas are 6 times more likely to get AIDS than their white counterparts
- women account for 42% of adults living with AIDS worldwide, and 20% in US

Domestic Funding

- Discretionary AIDS funding increased over 60% since start of term
- AIDS research funding increased by over 50% in four years
- AIDS Drug Assistance Program funding up 450% since 1996
- Tripled funding for the Ryan White CARE Act
- Prevention funding to Centers for Disease Control up 27%

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

A STATISTICAL PORTRAIT OF THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY

GLOBAL PICTURE:

- UNAIDS estimates that there are 30.6 million persons living with HIV/AIDS
- Since the epidemic's onset, 11.7 million adults and children have died of AIDS; 2.3 million will die in 1997
- 1997 will witness a total of 5.8 million new HIV infections, equivalent to 16,000 per day
- The majority of new infections is among 15-24 year olds
- 75-85% of new infections are due to unprotected sexual intercourse (70-75% heterosexual, 5-10% male-male), 5-10% are due to intravenous drug use, and 3-5% result from blood transfusions
- 90% of all HIV+ persons live in developing countries, where access to medical care is severely limited

ACROSS THE NATION:

- Over 600,000 AIDS cases have been reported to the CDC through June, 1997
- CDC estimates that between 650,000 and 900,000 Americans are currently living with HIV, with between 40,000 and 60,000 new infections occurring each year
- Over half of new HIV infections are due to sexual intercourse, one quarter result from intravenous drug use
- AIDS incidence declined for the first time in 1996 by 6%; however, incidence rose by 9% among persons infected heterosexually, and the number of new HIV infections continues to increase
- AIDS related deaths declined by 23% in 1996, due largely to access to effective combination drug therapy
- Number of people living with AIDS rose by 11% in 1996
- AIDS is the second leading cause of death among adults ages 25-44
- AIDS is the leading cause of death among all federal & state prisoners

STATUS OF WOMEN:

- Women account for 42% of adults living with AIDS, 20% in the United States
- Major mode of HIV transmission to women is unprotected heterosexual intercourse
- In 1996 AIDS incidence rose 2% among U.S. women even though it declined 8% among men
- The total domestic increase in AIDS incidence among women since 1991 is 70%, leaving women the fastest growing group with AIDS in the U.S.

AMERICAN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR:

- In 1996, 62% of all persons with AIDS (reported) and over 79% of women with AIDS cases were minorities
- AIDS incidence is 3 times higher among Latinos and 7 times higher among blacks than whites
- Incidence is 6 times higher among Latino women and 17 times higher among black women than white women
- More than three quarters of all pediatric AIDS cases are in racial and ethnic populations

PERINATAL TRANSMISSION OF HIV:

- 2000 babies are born HIV+ in the United States each year, equivalent to 5 per day
- There is a 25% probability that an HIV+ woman will transmit the virus to her unborn child
- Treatment with AZT reduces the likelihood of perinatal transmission to 5%
- Perinatal transmission dropped 43% in the U.S. between 1992 and 1996 due to increased use of AZT

AIDS AMONG CHILDREN & YOUTH:

- 1.1 million children under the age of 15 are living with HIV/AIDS around the world
- Since the epidemic's onset, 2.7 million children have died of AIDS; 460,000 will die in 1997, 1200 per day
- 1997 will witness a total of 590,000 new HIV infections among children, equivalent to 1600 per day
- If the spread of this virus is not contained, 40 million children will be orphaned by AIDS worldwide and global infant mortality will rise 75% due to AIDS by 2010
- In the United States, half of all new HIV infections are among persons under the age of 25
- AIDS is the sixth leading cause of death among 15-24 year old Americans

DRAFT

FEDERAL WORLD AIDS DAY ACTIVITIES

Department of Commerce

Activities: Will conduct a workshop on "How to Talk to Your Kids about AIDS and another workshop focusing "Management Concerns": Addressing HIV/AIDS Issues in the Workplace." A film titled, "After Goodby: An AIDS Story" will be shown, as well as the film on the AIDS memorial quilt, "Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt."

Time: 10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m

Place: HCHB Conference Room 48309

Contact:

Corporation for National Service

Activities: Many of the 189 local AmeriCorps volunteers working on HIV/AIDS issues will attend the AIDSCAP press conference at the National Press Club. They will then attend the District of Columbia's Agency for HIV/AIDS's AIDS Fair; the volunteers will then attend an event Miriam's House.

Time: 8:30 a.m. AIDSCAP Press Conference (National Press Building)

11:00 AHA AIDS Fair

TBD Miriam's House

Place: See Above

Contact:

Department of Energy

Activities: The Department of Energy will display a panel from the National Memorial AIDS Quilt; an award winning documentary "Our Faces,:" will be shown on both December 1 and 2; will dim the lights of all D.C. and Germantown buildings, as will be done at the White House; volunteers from the Department's Gay, Lesbian and Bi-sexual Employees organization (GLOBE) will distribute red ribbons and a listing of local AIDS service organizations; an E-mail listing of all AIDS Day events will be sent to all DOE employees; a WEB page linking users to HIV/AIDS service providers will be developed; and a member of the Children's HIV/AIDS Model Program will speak to the Diversity Council about activities focusing on children.

Time: All day Quilt; "Our Faces" video, distribution of red ribbons

7:45 p.m. Dimming of Lights

Place: Main building entrance

Contact:

DRAFT

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Activities: In addition to red ribbons being handed out by the HUD Gay Lesbian and Bi-sexual Employees groups (GLOBE), a large 80' red ribbon will be displayed in the main lobby. In addition, HUD's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), together with the HUD Health Unit, will staff an AIDS information table. All HUD employees will receive a focus message from the EAP focusing on HIV/AIDS.

Time: All day

Place: Main lobby

Contact:

Department of Justice

Activities: Attorney General Janet Reno is scheduled to give remarks at the DOJ commemoration titled "Faces of AIDS: Giving Hope for the Future." In addition, Precious Thomas, a child living with AIDS, will also speak. Jim Graham, executive director of Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., the area's largest AIDS service organization, will also provide remarks. It is anticipated that a DOJ employee with AIDS and family members of an employee who dies from AIDS will also speak.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Main Justice Building, Conference Room B

Contact:

Office of Personnel Management

Activities: OPM will show the video and photo display from the Boston to New York AIDS Ride, a bicycle ride completed by several thousand individuals over a three-day period. In addition, OPM staff will distribute information about local AIDS service organizations.

Time:

Place:

Contact:

U.S. Peace Corps

Activities: Volunteers in approximately 90 host countries will be conducting their own World AIDS Day activities in their post around the world.

Time: n/a

Place: n/a

Contact:

DRAFT

Social Security Administration

Activities: The Commissioner of the SSA will send a letter to the nearly 65,000 SSA employees acknowledging World AIDS Day and detailing resources available to employees who may have concerns or questions.

Time: n/a

Place: n/a

Contact:

U.S. Department of State

Activities: Both Miss America and Sandy Thurman, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, will help the State Departments commemorate the theme for World AIDS Day, "Give Children Hope in a World with AIDS. The Deputy Secretary of State will host the program. Jim Graham, executive director of Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C. and chair of the board of directors of the National Association of People with AIDS, and USAID Administration Brian Atwood or Ambassador Sally Shelton will participate. Approximately 350 people will attend, including 20 - 30 children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: State Department

Contact:

U.S. Information Agency

Activities: USIA's news services will highlight US activities scheduled to mark World AIDS Day. News service programs will provide fresh news items, and identify new contacts for the development of upcoming international exchange programs.

Time: All day

Place: n/a

Contact:

Department of Veterans Affairs

Activities: VA facilities will mark World AIDS Day with special displays, distribution of literature, and other education programs. VA's main headquarters will have a display and distribution of HIV/AIDS awareness literature.

Time: All day

Place: Main lobby

Contact:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

WORLD AIDS DAY, 1999

Warm greetings to all those around the world observing the 12th annual World AIDS Day. Each year on this day, we reflect on the impact that the AIDS pandemic is having on our friends and families and on people in communities worldwide. It is a moment for us to pause in remembrance of those we have lost and to renew our commitment to fight on behalf of those still living with the disease.

We can take heart from the progress we have made in recent years in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Many people living with HIV/AIDS are living longer and more fulfilling lives, and new drugs are showing promising results in halting the progression of the disease. However, AIDS has also illuminated the tremendous gulf that exists between those who are sharing in the prosperity of our global economy and those who are not. Of the more than 34 million people with HIV and AIDS, most are living in poverty, without access to new treatments or even the basic care that could increase the quality and length of their lives.

We must work together to reduce such poverty and to bring attention to the devastating impact that AIDS continues to have both here in the United States and in communities across the globe. On World AIDS Day last year, I announced a new emergency effort to address children orphaned by AIDS. This year, my Administration has put forth a more comprehensive effort to address the global epidemic with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa, where the impact of AIDS on children and families is most severe.

Children are hit particularly hard by HIV/AIDS. Last year, more than 3 million children and young people worldwide became infected with HIV. Most live in poor countries that struggle to provide even basic support and care. This year's World AIDS Day theme -- "Listen, Learn, Live!" -- challenges us to listen to the needs of these children and young people and to respond to them with compassion and conviction. Each of us must find new ways to fight this terrible disease and to bring hope and help to all those battling HIV/AIDS.

As we observe World AIDS Day 1999, let us make a commitment to do more. Working together, we can make a difference. We can stop the spread of this deadly disease. We can make treatments, and hopefully soon a vaccine, available to those who need them. And we can ensure that the world inherited by the children and youth of today is a world free of the shadow of AIDS.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "B" and "C".

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

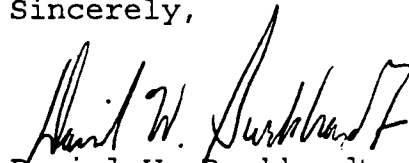
Dear Friend:

Thank you for requesting a message from the President. I am happy to send you the enclosed.

Please be aware that the White House has long-standing guidelines governing the use of Presidential messages. The enclosed message may be used only at the time for which it was requested and for the specific purpose for which it was sought. Under no circumstance is the message to be altered, reprinted in other media (including the Internet), used for recruiting, reproduced for fundraising solicitations or annual reports, represented as an endorsement, used for advertising, or used for any other purpose without the written consent of the White House.

Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines.

Sincerely,

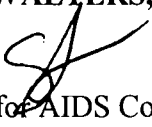
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel W. Burkhardt". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel W. Burkhardt
Special Assistant to the President
Director of Correspondence and
Presidential Messages

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR GARY WALTERS, CHIEF USHER

FROM: Sandra L. Thurman 
Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation and
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy

CC: Julian Potter

DATE: November 27, 2000

SUBJECT: Residence Activities in Support of World AIDS Day

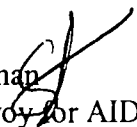
Friday, December 1, is World AIDS Day. All across the globe, communities will be hosting events to remember loved ones who have died of AIDS, and to celebrate the lives of those living with HIV.

As you have been so kind to do in the past, I am again requesting that lights from 8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. in both residences be dimmed to show support for those who are participating in World AIDS Day activities, both in the U.S. and internationally. In addition, I will be requesting that the White House Press Office issue a statement to explain the dimming of the lights so that visitors and others will be aware of the significance of the gesture.

Please let either Mr. Matthew Murguía of my staff or me know if you have any questions. Both of us may be reached at 202-456-2437. Thank you again for your support.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM TO PHILLIP DUFOUR, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TO MRS. GORE

FROM: Sandra L. Thurman 
Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation and
Director Office of National AIDS Policy

CC: Julian Potter

DATE: November 27, 2000

SUBJECT: Vice-President's Residence Activity in Support of International AIDS
Candlelight Memorial

Friday, December 1, is World AIDS Day. All across the globe, communities will be hosting events to remember loved ones who have died of AIDS, and to celebrate the lives of those living with HIV.

As you have been so kind to do in the past, I am again requesting that lights in both residences be dimmed from 8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. to show support for those who are participating in World AIDS Day activities, both in the U.S. and internationally. In addition, I will be requesting that the White House Press Office issue a statement to explain the dimming of the lights so that visitors and others will be aware of the significance of the gesture.

Please let either Mr. Matthew Murguía of my staff or me know if you have any questions. Both of us may be reached at 202-456-2437. Thank you again for your support.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 2000

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The President of the United States
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Today, as our global community commemorates World AIDS Day, I am pleased to submit to you a report entitled Action Against AIDS: A Legacy of Leadership at Home and Around the World.

As you know all too well, AIDS is a plague of biblical proportions, consistently outpacing all predictions. Nearly 60 million men, women, and children worldwide have already become infected – and 16,000 more become infected every day.

But the intent of this report is not to again focus on the gravity of the AIDS crisis, but instead on another simple truth. Leadership and concerted action have made, and can continue to make, a world of difference.

During the tenure of your administration, we have made unprecedented strides in the battle against AIDS. Here at home, funding for AIDS has more than doubled, and our contribution to the global fight has more than tripled. And these investments have paid real dividends. Our funding for research and increased access to care has led to more and better treatments, which have reduced HIV transmission from mother to child and enabled people to live longer and better lives. And targeted prevention efforts are beginning to show promise in hard-hit communities both at home and around the world.

Under your watch, the U.S. government has played a vitally important role – as a payer, as a provider, and perhaps most importantly, as a partner. We have consistently advocated that the fight against AIDS is every leader's fight, every parent's fight, every person's fight. From the Parliament to the parish, from the corporate boardroom to the community, we have joined forces and built alliances to help turn this tide. But there is more work to be done, and sustained leadership from our government is perhaps now more important than ever.

We must be in this fight for the long haul – as we would be for any disaster for which hundreds of millions of lives hang in the balance. If we are, together we can save lives. Together we can push past denial, hopelessness and complacency – and towards compassion, community mobilization, and constructive action. Together, we can win the war on AIDS.

On behalf of millions of people living with AIDS, thank you for your courageous leadership and your unwavering support.

Respectfully,



Sandra L. Thurman
Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation, and
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy

MEMORANDUM

To: Minyon Moore
From: Jamie Fox
Re: Presidential event request
Date: August 2, 2000

Attached please find a request from Senator Torricelli for a Presidential Appearance on December 1, 2000.

Again, thank you for all your help

62439

Cd:
Sandy Thurman
Steph Street



DEMOCRATIC +
SENATORIAL +
CAMPAIGN +
COMMITTEE +

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The President of the United States
Executive Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I wanted to take a moment to invite you to the Gay Men's Health Crisis benefit concert on December 1, 2000 at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Under your leadership AIDS awareness, prevention and research has increased immeasurably. As of 1997 the number of deaths due to this horrible disease dropped by nearly fifty percent, from about 43,000 in 1995 to 16,865. Sustained success in this field can only be achieved with the continued cooperation of world leaders such as yourself and those people willing to devote their time and energy to this worthy cause.

The Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc. (GMHC) is at the forefront of this tremendous effort as the nation's oldest and largest AIDS organization. With over 6,000 volunteers, they have been providing compassionate care to New Yorkers with AIDS; educating to keep people healthy; and advocating for fair and effective public policies for almost two decades.

On December 1, 2000 the GMHC will celebrate their twentieth anniversary with a fund-raising concert at Carnegie Hall at which they will honor your leadership in the fight against AIDS. I am extremely proud of the efforts and accomplishments of your administration in this area and I highly support your attendance at this special concert. While celebrities such as Barry Manilow, Bernadette Peters and Angela Lansbury have been asked to perform, your participation would ensure the event's success. The event will take place from 8:00 to 10:30 PM with a pre-concert reception at Carnegie Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 PM for major donors and corporate sponsors.

Mr. President, your presence at this event will help to increase awareness of this worthy cause. While there has been significant progress, AIDS is still a major concern, and now kills more people worldwide than any other infection, with over 40,000 Americans becoming infected each year. Your continued support is essential to the efforts to combat this global epidemic.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Senator Robert G. Torricelli

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