

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Ruby Shamir (CN=Ruby Shamir/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:23-MAY-2000 10:15:09.00

SUBJECT: Re: final documents needed

TO: Diane Dewhirst (Diane Dewhirst <dewhirst@email.msn.com> [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Press guidance from the NSC from yesterday - sorry I didn't get it to you yesterday, my e-mail transition has been difficult,

PRESIDENT MBEKI AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN AIDS CRISIS

May 22, 2000

BACKGROUND: The human toll of AIDS is staggering. Fifty million people worldwide have been infected with the HIV virus; 33.6 million are now living with HIV/AIDS, and annual AIDS-related fatalities hit a record 2.6 million last year. Ninety-five percent of all cases are in the developing world. AIDS is now the leading cause of death in Africa and fourth in the world. In at least five African countries, over 20 percent of adults are HIV-positive. And the highest rates of new infections are often among young women who will soon be mothers.

AIDS Statistics for South Africa:

ú South Africa has more people living with HIV/AIDS than any other country in Africa ¶) 4.2 million (1 in 10 of the total population, and 1 in 5 adults.)

ú 1600 new infections each day

ú 1 in 4 pregnant women positive for HIV

ú by 2003, more than 1 million South African children will be

orphaned by AIDS.

President Mbeki has some controversial views surrounding AIDS. He has embraced some scientific dissidents who even question whether AIDS is even caused by a virus. Will you discuss this with him?

ú Yes, the issue of AIDS in Africa will be on the agenda for discussions with the President.

ú There is no question that President Mbeki understands the depth of the health crisis facing much of Africa, including his own country. South Africa is doing a great deal, including appointing a senior government task force, an AIDS council between the public and private sector, and a country-wide education campaign.

ú We intend to discuss ways to deal with AIDS in South Africa in the context of poverty ¶) to assist in finding an African solution ¶) but a solution based on the best science.

But what about his controversial statements that seem to question whether AIDS is caused by the HIV virus?

ú You will have to ask him.

ú But, President Mbeki has clearly engaged in the struggle to control AIDS in his country. He is questioning everything in an attempt to come to terms with a disease devastating his country. As part of his quest he is talking to a wide variety of people, including some with

unorthodox views that don't reflect the broad international consensus about the science of the disease.

ú Do we agree with the views of every expert he's consulted? No, we don't and we have communicated that to the South African government. But we do agree with his premise that more has to be done globally, and more needs to be done in Africa.

Is AIDS is different in Africa, as some claim?

ú The virus that causes AIDS, HIV, has several strains. The strain mostly found in the U.S. is different from the one in Africa. However, the strain differences do not affect the severity of disease, how it is transmitted, or whether or not anti-AIDS drugs are effective.

ú We recognize that the AIDS epidemic in Africa, including South Africa, is manifesting itself in different ways than it has in the United States) but not because the science of the disease is different. They don't have the same health care infrastructure that we do, for example, which means that in addition to what the South African government is already doing for prevention, education and care, they also need to look at additional approaches relevant to specific conditions in Africa.

ú But there are also evolving similarities in the two epidemics - - In the U.S. the disease is now spreading most rapidly among heterosexuals, people of color, and the poor, just as in Africa.

How much are we assisting South Africa?

ú In FY 2000, the USG has obligated about \$11 million, up from about 2 million in 1999. CDC and USAID are actively involved in a wide ranging set of prevention and care activities.

The Washington Post announced that the Administration has formally designated the disease for the first time as a "National Security Threat." 8 Why now?

ú This has been an evolving process. We have recognized for a long time that the spread of AIDS is undermining the health, development, economics and potentially even the political stability of the hardest hit nations. And we have invested in combating the international AIDS epidemic since the early 1980s. Nearly two years ago, the NSC established an office of International Health Affairs, to expand the security community involvement with issues such as AIDS. The expansion of the epidemic has focused the broad national security community on the significant negative impact on growing economies and democracies.

ú AIDS threatens to undermine progress towards democracy and reform, it weakens societies by decimating all classes of society, drags down economies, fuels corruption, and has a greater humanitarian impact than major regional wars.

ú A recent National Intelligence Estimate (which is unclassified) laid out some of the security concerns for the U.S. and others, including demographic upheaval, (reduction in life-span by up to 20 years , doubling infant mortality , loss of workforce, increase in orphans), and possible political instability as state resources are drained and economic

productivity vanishes. Not to mention the humanitarian tragedy of losing millions and millions of lives each year.

What are we doing for controlling AIDS, especially in Africa?

ú Since 1986, USAID has dedicated over \$1.2 billion to mitigate the epidemic. For FY 2000, Congress appropriated funding for our global AIDS prevention and care program of \$225 million) four times as much as the next largest donor. And nearly two thirds will go to Africa. The FY2001 budget request includes an additional \$100 million increase in our global AIDS effort (for a total of \$325 million, excluding research) which will be targeted to: prevention; basic care and treatment; support for orphans; and health infrastructure development, and implemented by USAID, HHS (CDC), DOL and DOD. In addition, NIH is spending over \$1.8 billion annually on AIDS research, with over \$200 million each year in the search for a vaccine.

Should we be doing more?

ú Yes, we) and all concerned countries) should be doing more. Our response is focused on two key components: leadership and resources. The USG is now engaged in an interagency process to identify and refine a series of new initiatives and partnerships to deal with the critical issues of prevention, treatment and care.

ú The President's joint statement with India on HIV/AIDS, and India's recent IDA loan to fund AIDS activities are good examples of the leadership needed.

ú But the resources required ) more than \$3 billion/year for prevention and care in Sub-Saharan Africa alone, will be a formidable obstacle. The average sub-Saharan African country has only \$5-20 million from all sources to spend on AIDS prevention and care ) a ludicrously insufficient amount. No matter how much we spend as a nation, we cannot do it alone. To help solve that problem we are working on a four-point strategy: Increased bilateral assistance; multilateral coordination; debt forgiveness; and engaging the private sector.

ú We must leverage an enhanced response from other bilateral donors and multilateral institutions through a U.S.-lead international cooperative effort.

ú At the US-EU Summit next month, we will be joining the EU in drafting new initiatives to increase activities to combat the epidemic, especially in Africa. The Japanese have indicated that HIV/AIDS will be a major agenda item on the G-8 meeting in Okinawa in July. The U.S. will be joining our G-8 partners in pushing for increased international funding of AIDS efforts and leader-to-leader dialogue to raise awareness and priority.

ú Ongoing discussions with James Wolfensohn at the World Bank indicate that the multi-lateral development banks are willing to make substantial funds available to eligible countries to meet the prevention, treatment and care requirements of eligible countries. This will complement the Cologne debt initiative agreement last year in which, for the first time, we agreed with our G-7 partners to fund debt relief for the HIPC countries with the thus-freed up resources to be used for social and health programs such as AIDS control.

AIDS AS A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT

May 22, 2000

Why has the White House decided that AIDS is a threat to national security?

ú In addition to the classic threats to security, there are a number of trends which constitute a global threat ¶) terrorism, drug-trafficking, disease, international crime - these move freely across borders and without prejudice. AIDS is one of these, and the scale and scope are such that the epidemic poses a threat to global security.

ú We're seeing frightening statistics in Africa now, but anticipate similar trends in Asia and the former Soviet Union ¶) indeed throughout the world.

ú Ninety-five percent of all cases are in the developing world. In the case of Africa, for example, AIDS is the leading cause of death, and in some countries 20% of the population is infected. This level of prevalence directly affects military forces, and could lead to instability necessitating the involvement of the U.S. , either in terms of humanitarian response or for security reasons.

ú Also threatens economic progress that is needed to counter instability. Two of the world's fastest-growing economies are in Africa ¶) Botswana and Mozambique ¶) but the gains these and other countries will be reversed if producers and policymakers are killed by the epidemic.

ú Poverty also fuels the spread of AIDS. Where there is inadequate communication and health infrastructure, it is extremely difficult to counter the spread of this disease.

Why now?

ú The U.S. has been supporting AIDS programs around the world for years ¶) since 1986, US Agency for International Development has dedicated over \$1.2 billion to fighting this disease.

ú But the numbers show that treating AIDS as a health issue alone is inadequate, that AIDS and poverty are a lethal combination, and that more resources and more leadership are needed to reverse a dangerous trend.

ú AIDS is increasingly on the agenda of the President¶,s meetings with other leaders, and in meetings between members of the cabinet and their counterparts ¶) as an issue requiring a more concerted effort on the ground and the increased involvement of the international community.

What are you doing about it?

ú We believe that defeating AIDS requires several things:

ú First is the leadership in the international arena. This is why we put AIDS on the agenda of the UN Security Council in January, why it

will be a key topic during the upcoming U.S.-EU Summit, and why we're pleased that Japan has identified AIDS as a priority issue for the G-8 meeting in Okinawa in July.

ú Leadership at the national level is equally important. Uganda, for example, has reversed an upward trend in the spread of AIDS, and did so because from the President on down, the entire government engaged in educating the public, and community groups were supported to take the message out to the villages. The U.S. is one of the leading donors to Uganda's AIDS program.

ú Second is resources. For FY 2000, Congress appropriated funding for our global AIDS prevention and care programs of \$225 million -- four times as much as the next largest donor. The FY2001 budget request includes an additional \$100 million increase. We intend to use our position as the world's leading donor to leverage similar commitments from other governments.

ú Third is prevention -- both through education at the ground level, but also through a more rigorous effort to find a cure for this and other devastating diseases like malaria. That's why the President has proposed a tax credit as an incentive to the pharmaceutical industry to do more, and quickly, to develop vaccines.

Senator Lott has said that AIDS is not a threat to national security, and that the White House is simply aiming to please some of the groups here in Washington over the weekend.

ú We believe the evidence is in that AIDS is a global threat, and

that it affects all people, without prejudice.

ú Certainly, when we are seeing evidence that diseases like West Nile Fever that are carried by migratory birds, or other diseases that move freely as people travel throughout the world, it is clear that we must look at the spread of disease as a threat that affects all Americans.

Is the Administration concerned about the recent statements made by South African President Mbeki?

ú President Mbeki is well aware of the threat posed to South Africa's future by AIDS, and the government and private organizations in South Africa are engaged in a vigorous campaign to educate the public, prevent and treat the disease.

ú We believe that the scientific evidence of the link between HIV-AIDS is irrefutable.

ú We also believe that President Mbeki is making another critically important point -- not yet addressed by the media -- that the combination of AIDS and poverty is indeed lethal, and that we've got to fight both if we want to win the war against AIDS.

05/22/2000 11:50:46 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: final documents needed

Attached you will find the latest version of the Q&A based on Monday morning's discussion. We need to have this in final form by cob today in order to get to Mary Ellen for Holbrooke's briefing for Wed pm press event in NYC. If I can get input by 11:00 am on Tuesday, I will incorporate into document for Holbrooke. What I don't get, I will clean up language so that it makes sense without additional information. Note: I expect this document to continue to evolve (oh help us) throughout this week and next. However, we need to get something out the door on Tuesday for Holbrooke.

In particular, I hope the following folks will review/give input to the following areas:

#7 - Lidia - congressional delegation participation - are you tracking codel

information? if so, what's the latest? if not, who is?

#10 Theresa - you wanted parental rights addressed here, please give me language by fax on how to do

#11 Theresa - someone suggested we address prostitution here, please give me

language on how to do

#12 Linda - you had concerns about listed US actions on globalization - comments?

#13 - Theresa - you wanted to review final language on Afghan women - more on international effort, if yes, how?

#18 - Theresa - you were going to get me faith based groups to list - see blanks

#21 - Ruby - did more guidance/Q&A on AIDS come from White House on Monday as expected? if so, please forward pertinent ones to me.

Thanks very much. Again, I need to receive by 11:00 am comments/edits/additions...I will be out of pocket for the entire afternoon.

Thanks very much...we're making progress, yes?

- Qanda.wpd

Message Sent

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===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

Unable to convert ARMS_EXT:[ATTACH.D76]ARMSZY000EDDA.000 to ASCII,
The following is a HEX DUMP:

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50-Draft Questions and Answers
Beijing + 5: Women 2000
05/23/00

1. What is Beijing +5: Women 2000? Why is there a special session of the United Nations?

"Beijing+5," formally called, "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century," marks the five-year anniversary of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995). The Beijing meeting was the fourth in series of meetings organized by the United Nations to advance the status of women. The other meetings were: Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980), and Nairobi (1985). In Beijing, a Platform for Action was agreed to which set a course of action for the advancement of women and girls. At the June special session, each of the 189 member states will give a progress report on their government's work, share information and successful practices, and recommit to overcoming remaining obstacles for achievement.

2. Who is participating in the June meeting?

Official delegations from 189 member states will attend the UN special session. These delegations include government officials and representatives from non-government organizations. (NGOs). In addition, representatives from hundreds of NGOs will attend workshops and seminars in conjunction with the UN special session.

3. What will the end result of the June meeting be?

Governments, NGOs, and the private sector will assess that progress made in advancing women, recommit themselves to the goals set in Beijing five years ago, set action steps to be taken to fully implement the Platform for Action, raise new challenges and resolve to overcome obstacles in order to advance the status of women and girls today and in the future.

4. Why are these meetings important?

For 25 years, the United Nations has convened meetings to discuss the status of women and girls internationally. These meetings, and in particular Beijing, have given governments, NGOs and others, blueprints for achievement. These conferences demonstrate that coming together to invest in the human rights of women and the full potential of women is essential to the future of families and communities. Progress on these issues can be made; it is essential to build on that progress in order to achieve in the future. This is critical for the women and girls of today and future generations to come.

5. What is the role of the U.S. Government? Is this a priority?

The official delegation made up of high level representative of government and NGOs recognize the importance of the advancing the status of women and children. The delegation will take part in all UN and many NGO activities during the week of June 5. The US government has demonstrated its belief that the status of women and girls is a high priority. Under the leadership of President Clinton, the US government has led the way in enhancing women's lives by promoting human rights, providing family friendly workplaces, ensuring the economic security of women, preventing violence against women, increasing the political participation of women in elected and appointed offices, and expanding health initiatives for women.

6. What is the role of Secretary Albright? Secretary Shalala? Mrs. Clinton? Ambassador Holbrooke?

Secretary Albright, Secretary Shalala, and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton all played prominent roles as members of the US delegation in Beijing five years ago. All three women have worked to implement the Platform for Action. Secretary Albright serves as chair of the US Delegation and as Chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women, which is responsible for the implementation of the Beijing + 5 Platform for Action among federal agencies. Secretary Shalala is a co-chair of the US delegation and served as past chair of the President's Council. Mrs. Clinton serves as honorary chair of the Council. Through her work as First Lady, Mrs. Clinton has traveled domestically and abroad to promote and encourage the goals of the Beijing Platform. Ambassador Holbrooke is a co-chair of the US Delegation and, as the US representative to the UN, has been working on the UN preparations for the June meeting.

7. What is the role of the Congress in this effort?

Members of Congress attended the Beijing conference in 1995 as part of the official delegation. Since then, many members of Congress have played key roles in helping to draft and pass vital legislation that has helped achieve the goals set out by the Platform for Action. Members of Congress will be in attendance at the UN meeting and related activities in June. (Possible code?)

8. Will there be another meeting in another five years? What do you hope will be accomplished before that meeting?

While no world conference is planned, the UN will make another review of progress in five years. The UN General Assembly has already adopted a declaration with strong US support. It reaffirms the commitments of 189 member states to work for full equality and empowerment for women and girls. Virtually all countries have established a Plan of Action for their government to redress inequalities and discrimination in health, education, law, and other indicators of women's lives. NGO groups continue to advocate for governmental action and hold their governments responsible. Over the next few years, the UN Commission on the Status of Women (the US is one of the 45 members) will continue to press for action and share strategies for successful implementation in each of the member countries.

9. Do you expect opposition from the pro-life forces within the international community?

We recognize that the concept of health across the lifespan including reproductive rights raises issues of concern for some delegates. We respect the views and sincerity of all involved. However, the vast majority of UN member states involved in the Beijing+5 process, and the citizens they represent, remain steadfast in their support for reproductive rights of all women around the world.

- The Beijing Platform for Action, adopted by consensus the 189 member states, recognizes that “good health is essential to leading a productive and fulfilling life” as well as “the right of all women to control all aspects of their health, in particular their own fertility, is basic to their empowerment.”
- Reproductive rights, as defined in the Platform, are inextricably linked to this basic right. They “embrace certain human rights” and “rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so,” as well as the “right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health” and the “right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence.”

10. Some opponents have attacked this conference as anti-family. How do you respond to this charge? What is the conference position on parental rights?

This conference recognizes the critical role of the family in society; it reaffirms the important role of the mother in the family. “Women play a critical role in the family. The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened...The social significance of maternity, motherhood and the role of parents in the family and the upbringing of children should be acknowledged.” The Platform for Action seeks to advance the role of the mother with such things as family friendly workplace practices, ensuring women’s economic security, preventing violence against women. The platform seeks to invest in women while recognizing their many different roles in today’s society. (Address parental rights?)

11. Trafficking of women and girls has been a major issues on the international front. What is the U.S. position? Will this conference take a position on this issue?

Trafficking of women and girls is an increasingly alarming issue. The US opposes trafficking in all forms. In partnership with other governments, NGOs and international organizations, the US has led an aggressive three-step strategy against trafficking: prevention, prosecution of traffickers, and protection of the victims. The US has reached out to governments around the world to aid in the fight against trafficking. The US government has also promoted public awareness programs and has trained police and immigrations officials on how to apprehend traffickers. In early June, the US will participate in a meeting in Vienna to discuss the UN Protocol to combat trafficking, which the US helped develop. This is an area that the US believes the conference should reaffirm its resolve to combat this problem. (Address prostitution?)

12. How do you respond to the charges made recently about globalblization? Will this

conference address concerns raised at WTO and World Bank meetings?

The Special Session will involve discussions of globalization and its positive and negative impact and potential impact on women. (The UN however does not give directions to the WTO or the World Bank.) In the past five years since the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN has identified globalization as an emerging issue that has increased in importance since the 1995 conference. Around the world women have been organizing and forming coalitions and networks around these issues. It can be expected that the Special Session will recommend that governments and other players take steps to prepare women to participate in and benefit from globalization, to measure differential impacts of globalization on men and women, and to minimize any potential negative impacts such as the strengthening and/or establishment of "social safety net" mechanisms. The US has taken the lead in promoting women's participation in the global economy with efforts to increase participation of women in decision-making and policy development, enhance women's capacities through education and training, improve the work/business environment for women, and promote respect for core labor standards.

13. Will this conference take a position on human rights in Afghanistan? What is US Government position?

The US has led the international community in support of the women and girls of Afghanistan who are living under the very restrictive regime of the Taliban, the extremist militia group that now controls most of the country. These restrictions include preventing girls from attending school, forbidding women to leave their homes unless accompanied by a male relative and restricting women's access to health care for themselves and their family.

From meetings at the White House with Afghan women refugees to funding education and health care programs for Afghan women and girls in refugee camps along the Afghan border, President Clinton and the US government have demonstrated their determination that the Afghan women and girls will not be forgotten. The US has made it clear that no faction in Afghanistan will be recognized as the new government unless it recognizes universal standards of human rights, including the rights of women and girls. Resolutions in support of Afghan women and girls have been passed by previous meetings of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The plight of Afghan women and girls will be an important issue discussed by governments and NGOs at the UN meeting in June.

14. Gender equality is a goal of this conference. How can gender equality be obtained when

many developing countries are struggling with extreme poverty?

In most countries, poverty has the face of women and children. Alleviating poverty requires the education and empowerment of women to fully contribute to their families and society.

Programs to educate girls and to encourage micro enterprise are proven strategies for lessening poverty. In countries torn by civil strife, the leadership of women in civil society and through community economic development are key to peace.

15. Will this conference take a position the status of the Holy See in the UN?

No, this issue is not on the agenda for the conference. The US supports the observer status of the Vatican. We see no reason to change it.

16. Why hasn't the United States ratified the CEDAW?

The Clinton Administration fully supports this important treaty on human rights. It was signed by President Carter in 1979 but has yet to be ratified by the Senate. Iran, Sudan, Somalia, and Afghanistan are among the countries who have not ratified this treaty. The Clinton Administration believes that for a country to promote human rights as a critical part of its foreign policy and holds itself as an example of the enjoyment of human rights at home, ratification is the right thing to do. It would also provide the US leverage in its foreign relations and enable it to participate in the treaty's reporting and monitoring committee at the UN. President Clinton and Secretary Albright continue to make ratification a top human rights priority.

17. What progress has been made in the past 5 years since Beijing?

While many challenges and obstacles still exist, there has been progress made on the international front in the economic, social, political and human rights/legal arenas. Through the work of Secretary Albright and others, the advancement of women and girls has become of a focus of US foreign policy. Our foreign aid programs and the Vital Voices Global Democracy Initiative have been successful in integrating issues affecting women into American policies abroad. At home, the US government focused its energy on many of the issues that were spelled out in the Beijing platform - family friendly workplace practices, expanding women's health initiatives, preventing violence against women, increasing the opportunity for women's political participation, and securing American women's financial security.

18. What is the position of the faith community?

While a few groups have chosen to misinterpret the work of the women's conferences by twisting and distorting words and actions, the Platform for Action honors the family by recognizing the importance of women and seeking to enhance the lives of all women, including mothers. That is why women representing a wide range of faith groups from xxxx to xxxx to xxxx have participated in the Beijing+5 activities and support the Platform for Action. US officials have met with groups at home and abroad and are inspired by their work within the faith community.

10. Some have charged that the platform adopted in Beijing undermines the family by promoting homosexual rights. Is this true?

The Beijing Platform for Action, as has numerous other UN consensus documents, recognizes that "the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened", that "in different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist", and that "the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected." In this regard, the Platform is a well-balanced document that recognizes the fundamental role of families and their individual members in society.

20. Is it true that some delegations are trying to undermine family values by promoting sexual rights at Beijing+5?

The Platform recognizes that "the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality...free of coercion, discrimination and violence." We believe the definition of sexual rights is consistent with this language.

21. HIV/AIDS is a growing concern since Beijing. What has the US done about AIDS, particularly in Africa?

On January 9 of this year, for the first time in history, the UN Security Council held a meeting on the issue of AIDS in Africa. Recognizing that AIDS is a threat that knows no borders, the Security Council held this historic session to discuss ways to combat the disease through any means necessary. American support for international AIDS initiatives was doubled, bringing the US contribution to \$360 million.

(More AIDS Q and A to come - from guidance given on Monday - Ruby?)

22. Why does the US continue to support sanctions against Iraq that have a very negative impact on the health and well-being of Iraqi women and children?

The UN Security Council-mandated sanctions on Iraq do not limit the import of food and medicine. The US was the original sponsor of the Oil-for-Food program by which Iraq is able to sell oil to meet the needs of its population. It has expanded from being a program which delivered only food and medicine to a program that covers sectors of humanitarian importance such as water, sanitation, electricity, and oil production. Unfortunately, the Iraqi regime has consistently and cynically manipulated civilian suffering in order to obtain the lifting of the sanctions without compliance with Security Council resolutions requiring Iraq to rid itself of weapons of mass destruction and submit to a credible weapons inspections process.

That said, the Oil-For-Food program works, despite Iraqi regime manipulation. The great majority of goods requested - about 90 percent - are approved. Notably, there is a growing gap in conditions in the north of Iraq and the rest of the country. In the north, where the UN manages oil-for-food distribution, malnutrition is well on the way to being eradicated, medicines are reaching recipients, vaccination programs are enormously successful, and school enrollments are up. In the rest of Iraq, Baghdad stubbornly refuses to implement supplementary feeding programs recommended for years by the UN to combat malnutrition; Iraqis with chronic diseases have only sporadic access to needed medication; and vaccinations in some sectors are woefully lacking.

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