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RECORD ID: 0001612
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FROM: BURNIM, J

DOC DATE: 06 MAR 00
SOURCE REF: EHF389

KEYWORDS: INTL HEALTH

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: STATE TESTIMONY ON HR-3519 WORLD BANK AIDS PREVENTION TRUST FUND ACT

ACTION: ACTION COMPLETED BY FAX

DUE DATE: 07 MAR 00 STATUS: C

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

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CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 00030715 CONCURRENCE TO OMB
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COMMENTS: COMMENTS DUE 7 MAR @ 4:45 P.M.

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*** ACTIVITY REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO.	7141	
CONNECTION TEL		55691
CONNECTION ID		
START TIME	03/07 19:49	
USAGE TIME	03'23	
PAGES	5	
RESULT	OK	

LRM ID: EHF389
Fund Act

SUBJECT: STATE Testimony on HR3519 World Bank AIDS Prevention Trust

RESPONSE TO
LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL
MEMORANDUM

If your response to this request for views is short (e.g., concur/no comment), we prefer that you respond by e-mail or by faxing us this response sheet. If the response is short and you prefer to call, please call the branch-wide line shown below (NOT the analyst's line) to leave a message with a legislative assistant.

You may also respond by:

(1) calling the analyst/attorney's direct line (you will be connected to voice mail if the analyst does not answer); or

(2) sending us a memo or letter

Please include the LRM number shown above, and the subject shown below.

TO: E. Holly Fitter Phone: 395-3233 Fax: 395-5691
Office of Management and Budget
Branch-Wide Line (to reach legislative assistant): 395-6194

FROM: MATT ACCARO } FOR K BERNARD (Date)
NORA DEMPSEY (Name)
NSC (Agency)
6-9391 (Telephone)

The following is the response of our agency to your request for views on the above-captioned subject:

☐ Concur

☐ No Objection

☐ No Comment

☒ See proposed edits on pages 3

☐ Other: _____

☒ FAX RETURN of 5 pages, attached to this response sheet

LRM ID: EHF389

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, D.C. 20503-0001**

Monday, March 6, 2000

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer - See Distribution below

FROM: John D. Burnim (for) Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

OMB CONTACT: E. Holly Fitter
E-Mail: E_Holly_Fitter@omb.eop.gov
PHONE: (202)395-3233 FAX: (202)395-5691

SUBJECT: **STATE Testimony on HR3519 World Bank AIDS Prevention Trust Fund Act**

DEADLINE: **4:45 PM Tuesday, March 7, 2000**

In accordance with OMB Circular A-19, OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President. **Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts for purposes of the "Pay-As-You-Go" provisions of Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.**

COMMENTS:

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**Statement for the Record
Committee on Banking and Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
March 8, 2000**

**Richard C. Holbrooke
United States Ambassador to the United Nations**

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the honor of testifying before your committee this morning. Your work and that of other members of this committee, including Congresswoman Barbara Lee, has been absolutely crucial to shaping our government's response to what I believe is one of the greatest global pandemics of our time – HIV/AIDS. Close cooperation between the Congress and the Executive Branch is always critical – and it has been one of my highest priorities as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations – but it is no more important than when facing an international threat on the scale of HIV/AIDS. The very fact that your committee is holding these hearings today demonstrates the urgency of this crisis and the Congress' sustained commitment to stem it.

I'd also like to recognize two of my valued colleagues who have joined me here this afternoon. Sandy Thurman, the Director of President Clinton's Office of National AIDS policy, and Tim Geithner, the Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, are two of the Executive Branch's most insightful and important officials on HIV/AIDS. Day in and day out, they're on the front lines of this battle. So with that background, I expect that during the question and answer session, they'll handle all your tough questions.

Mr. Chairman, I am not an AIDS expert. My expertise is diplomacy, not science or medicine. Up until a few months ago, I did not follow the back-and-forth of AIDS policy any more than any other concerned citizen. But what I've seen and learned over the past seven months has left me convinced that there are few issues as threatening to global economic prosperity and development, international security, and our common humanity than the threat presented by HIV/AIDS. AIDS is not just a health issue; it's a diplomatic and security issue; it's a trade issue; it's an economic issue; and it's a human rights issue.

Although AIDS is a growing concern in places like Russia, India and Southeast Asia, nowhere is the disease's impact more evident than in sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS threatens a broad swath of African states, endangering millions of lives from Kampala to Cape Town. Although the crescent of states from Kenya to South Africa has only 10% of

the world's population, it has over two-thirds of the world's HIV positive people and nearly 85% of all AIDS deaths. The disease kills more people in sub-Saharan Africa annually -- more than 2.6 million last year alone -- than all of the continent's armed conflicts combined.

Last December, in an eleven-day, ten-nation mission to Africa, our delegation made the AIDS crisis, along with the conflict in the Congo, one of the top issues on our agenda. We returned home with a vivid understanding of the scope and degree of this truly horrible crisis. In Africa, our delegation saw first-hand the terrible costs reaped by AIDS -- from the thousands of orphans in Lusaka, Zambia who were forced to live in a bus depot, many of whom were already infected with HIV; to the six pregnant women in Windhoek Namibia, all of whom were infected with AIDS and who had to meet with our delegation secretly because of the stigmatization associated with the disease. These women told us that if they even admitted their ailment, they would lose their husbands and families, their jobs, and be completely ostracized from society. Under such circumstances, these women are simply left to die.

Mr. Chairman, it is for this reason that on January 10th, we convened the opening Security Council session of the 21st century to discuss AIDS as a security threat. After 4,086 Security Council meetings, this was the first to ever discuss what had previously been considered a "health issue." The Security Council formally acknowledged what many of us (including many members of this committee) have long argued -- that post-Cold War international security is about more than guns and bombs and the balance of power. Vice President Gore, who chaired this historic session and whose presence was indispensable to our success, put it eloquently: AIDS is a security crisis, he said, "because it threatens not just individual citizens, but the very institutions that define and defend the character of a society."

This Security Council session was the galvanizing event that the UN needed. It sparked a wide-range of action in New York to do more to fight AIDS not only in Africa, but around the world. Many of our UN partners are now seized with the issue. UN Secretary General Annan is poised for action, as are the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN Development Program (UNDP), both of which have already held important follow-up sessions on the issue. Peter Piot, the head of UNAIDS, the UN's leading body on this issue, told me last week that what has happened at the UN over the past few months -- with international attention focused on AIDS and with a new surge of momentum to do more -- was what he had dreamed for since taking the job.

Now, the UN and all its member states must back their words with deeds. We have urged the United Nations to address this issue system-wide; we have insisted that the battle against AIDS become a core part of every agency; we have asked every UN organization to recognize and fulfill its responsibility to do what it can to fight AIDS; and we have called on the Security Council to do more to address the tragic relationship

*While I am ambassador,
On my watch,*

between AIDS, conflict, and peacekeeping. All too often, the sad truth is that at times, in trying to solve one problem (such as preventing a war from breaking out or containing conflict), UN peacekeepers unintentionally contribute to another serious problem, the spread of AIDS. Peacekeepers need to be better trained and educated about the dangers of spreading AIDS. We must insist that the UN peacekeeping department (DPKO) do a better job. The Security Council, for its part, should work toward a resolution that describes and responds to the impact of AIDS as a cause and consequence of security crises. ~~And let me be clear: the U.S. will never again vote for a peacekeeping resolution that does not require specific action by the UNDPKO to prevent AIDS from spreading by or to peacekeepers.~~ *should*

Along with these steps in New York, Mr. Chairman, the U.S. must also back its own words with deeds. It's not enough just to admit that AIDS is a global problem. The international community is looking to us for leadership. Working in close collaboration with Congress, we look forward to providing it.

Mr. Chairman, the momentum created over the past few months is an important opportunity, one that requires American leadership. Working together, Congress and the Administration should seek a lead role in the international effort to fight HIV/AIDS. This is an area where we can use our national strengths (in science, in resources, and in international influence) to help deliver a global good of unambiguous positive effect.

First, and most urgently, this means a greater commitment of resources. It's no secret that the level of international resources dedicated to fighting AIDS is far too low. According to World Bank President Jim Wolfensohn, the current level of official international assistance for AIDS prevention in Africa is only \$160 million. That's not much more than the combined salaries of the top-ten highest paid basketball players in the NBA (\$150 million); and it's much less than the money grossed by most major Hollywood movies.

We should be proud that the U.S. is by far the largest donor of international development assistance for HIV/AIDS. But we must do more. In last January's Security Council session, Vice President Gore announced that we would ask Congress' support for another \$100 million to fight the epidemic, bringing our total this year to \$325 million. But we recognize that that's just a drop in the bucket. In the coming months, we look forward to working with many of you to seek higher levels of support by all donors. And we will continue to work through diplomatic channels to energize our G-8 colleagues, UNAIDS, the World Health Organization, the World Bank and other international organizations, the private sector, as well as the leaders of every country in the world to improve coordination and bring more financial and political commitment to this global fight.

Second, national governments must also do more to end the stigmatization associated with HIV/AIDS. As I stated earlier, this stigmatization was one of the most striking aspects of what our delegation saw in Africa. In too many places, families (and many doctors) even refuse to recognize AIDS as a cause of death. Often, they'll cover it up by attributing death to AIDS-related illnesses like pneumonia. Many infected Africans do not even know they are infected, mainly because they lack awareness of or access to HIV testing. We therefore have a pandemic time-bomb waiting to explode.

The United States' own history shows that through education, we can curb the stigmatization problem, and slow the spread of this pandemic. We still have a ways to go, but in the last decade, we have made significant progress in fighting AIDS, due in part to the brave public stands and courageous examples of both the living and the dead, from Magic Johnson and Elizabeth Glaser, to Arthur Ashe and Ryan White. Some countries, like Uganda and Thailand, have begun to deal with this problem through openness and education. These examples show that with AIDS, sunlight is the best disinfectant. Pretending that AIDS does not exist will only make the crisis worse.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we must accept the fact that governments can only do so much. The challenges presented by AIDS far surpasses the abilities of governments alone. Therefore, it's critical that we empower and energize the private sector to take action and build partnerships against AIDS. Last month, Vice President Gore announced an initiative for an expanded public-private partnership, including working with the private sector to develop a set of voluntary principles for corporate conduct to promote AIDS education and prevention. My team at the UN has begun to open a dialogue with donor organizations and other private groups to improve cooperation. And both President Clinton and Vice President Gore are planning to play a personal role in developing these ties further.

Mr. Chairman, the only way we can win the fight against AIDS is by acting through partnership – partnership among the community of nations; partnership between public and private sectors; and partnership between Congress and the Executive Branch. The costs of inaction are simply too high. Let there be no doubt that the challenge ahead is great. There will be no quick fixes. But I am hopeful that if we can bring to this fight our shared sense of purpose and commitment; if we help support science's search for a cure; and if by acting together, the Congress and the Executive Branch can provide sustained, steadfast U.S. leadership to intensify global action and improve international coordination – we can help save the world's next generation of children from this deadly scourge.

I thank you and your distinguished colleagues for the opportunity to appear before this committee to discuss such an important issue. We look forward to working with you in the days ahead.