

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

Staff Office-Individual:

International Health Affairs

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [UN Security Council] (3 pages)	01/09/2000	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [January 2000 Security Council Debate] (2 pages)	01/09/2000	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [South Africa] (3 pages)	03/31/2000	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [AIDS in Africa] (7 pages)	06/02/2000	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: [Burundi] (3 pages)	06/02/2000	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: [Scenesetter] (9 pages)	06/07/2000	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: [AIDS in Africa] (10 pages)	06/19/2000	P1/b(1)
008. cable	Re: Letter from President Mbeki to Vice President Gore on HIV/AIDS (8 pages)	07/27/2000	P1/b(1)
009. cable	Re: [Ethiopia] (3 pages)	08/21/2000	P1/b(1)
010. cable	Re: [Discussion] (5 pages)	10/12/2000	P1/b(1)
011. cable	Re: [Apartheid] (2 pages)	10/12/2000	P1/b(1)
012. cable	Re: [Ethiopia] (5 pages)	12/06/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Health Affairs
OA/Box Number: 3456

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

2007-1550-F
ke2030

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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013. cable	Re: [South Africa] (5 pages)	12/14/2000	P1/b(1)

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DEPT PASS EXIM FOR C. MORIARTY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, ECOX, PREL, MI

SUBJECT: HIV, AIDS, AND DEATH IN THE WARM

HEART OF AFRICA; PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC; SOCIAL; AND
CULTURAL EFFECTS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT FOR INTERNET POSTING.

PART ONE OF A THREE-PART CABLE SERIES ON HIV/AIDS IN
MALAWI.

1. (U) SUMMARY. MALAWI'S NATIONAL AIDS SECRETARIAT (NAS) ESTIMATES THAT NEARLY 750,000 OF THE NATION'S 9.8 MILLION CITIZENS ARE HIV POSITIVE. CREDIBLE ESTIMATES PLACE THE NATIONWIDE HIV INFECTION RATE FOR ADULTS AT 14 PERCENT, WITH INFECTION RATES IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS PEAKING AT APPROXIMATELY 26 AND 12 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. AIDS IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR ADULT MALAWIANS AGED 15-49. BECAUSE OF HIV/AIDS, DEATH HAS ASSUMED A GROSSLY DISPROPORTIONATE PLACE IN EVERYDAY LIFE IN MALAWI. THE PANDEMIC HAS TAKEN ITS HEAVIEST TOLL ON THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY UNIT, THE DESTRUCTION OF WHICH HAS OVERBURDENED EXTENDED FAMILY NETWORKS. CULTURAL FACTORS RANGING FROM THE STIGMATIZATION OF HIV/AIDS TO MISGUIDED BELIEFS IN "TRADITIONAL" OR MAGICAL CURES CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPREAD OF HIV IN MALAWI. END SUMMARY.

ADULT INFECTION RATES: URBAN 26%; RURAL 12%; OVERALL 14%

2. (U) MALAWI RANKS AMONG THE TOP TEN COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE IN TERMS OF HIV INFECTION RATES. MALAWI'S NATIONAL AIDS SECRETARIAT (NAS) ESTIMATES THAT NEARLY 750,000 OF THE NATION'S 9.8 MILLION CITIZENS ARE HIV POSITIVE. MALAWI'S NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM (NACP) ESTIMATES THAT FROM THE BEGINNING OF MALAWI'S AIDS EPIDEMIC (THE FIRST AIDS CASES WERE DOCUMENTED IN MALAWI IN 1985) THROUGH 1999 OVER 265,000 PEOPLE (ADULTS AND CHILDREN) HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES TO THE DISEASE. THE ADULT (AGED 15-49) NATIONWIDE HIV INFECTION RATE IS ESTIMATED TO BE 14 PERCENT, WITH A RATE OF 26 PERCENT IN URBAN AND 12 PERCENT IN RURAL AREAS.

3. (U) AIDS ALREADY ACCOUNTS FOR 50 PERCENT OF THE DEATHS IN THE 15-49 AGE GROUP, MAKING IT THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR THAT COHORT. A 1999 USAID REPORT CITES AIDS AS THE "PRIMARY DETERMINANT OF ADULT MORTALITY" IN MALAWI AND NOTES THAT "AIDS DEATHS ARE REVERSING EARLIER PROGRESS MADE IN CONTROLLING MORTALITY DUE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE." THE USAID REPORT ESTIMATES THAT BETWEEN 1990 AND 2000 AIDS HAS RAISED THE CRUDE DEATH RATE BY 44 PERCENT.

LIFE EXPECTANCY ON THE DECLINE

4. (U) THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE MALAWI 1998 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS REFLECT THE EFFECTS HIV/AIDS IS HAVING ON MALAWI'S POPULATION IN TERMS OF

ABSOLUTE NUMBERS AND THE GROWTH RATE. CENSUS FIGURES PLACED MALAWI'S POPULATION AT 9.8 MILLION AND ITS ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE AT 1.9 PERCENT, WELL BELOW THE ANTICIPATED 11.2 MILLION AND 3-PLUS PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. (AT THE DECEMBER 1998 CONSULTATIVE GROUP (CG) MEETING IN LILONGWE, PRIOR TO RELEASE OF THE CENSUS PRELIMINARY RESULTS, THEN MINISTER OF HEALTH AND

POPULATION HARRY THOMPSON TOLD DONORS THAT THE POPULATION NUMBERED 11 MILLION AND THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE REGISTERED 3.2 PERCENT.)

5. (U) THE CENSUS PRELIMINARY RESULTS SURPRISED PRESIDENT MULUZI AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WHO PUBLICLY QUESTIONED THE REASON FOR THE SLOWER-THAN-EXPECTED POPULATION GROWTH. THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU ESTIMATES THAT WITHOUT AIDS MORTALITY MALAWI'S POPULATION WOULD HAVE NUMBERED 10.7 MILLION. OTHER REASONS CITED FOR THE POPULATION DISCREPANCY INCLUDE OVER AND UNDER-ESTIMATIONS OF THE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES RESPECTIVELY ON THE PART OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (NSO) AND NSO FAILURE TO ACCURATELY ACCOUNT FOR IN AND OUT MIGRATION OF MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES DURING THE INTER-CENSORIAL PERIOD. THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU ESTIMATES THAT 1998 LIFE-EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH IN MALAWI IS 36.6; WITHOUT THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IT IS PROJECTED THAT LIFE EXPECTANCY WOULD HAVE BEEN 51.1 YEARS. THE 1999 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT LISTS MALE AND FEMALE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT 38.9 AND 39.6 YEARS RESPECTIVELY.

YOUNG WOMENS' INFECTION RATES HIGHER THAN YOUNG MENS'

6. (U) AN NACP "AIDS CASES SURVEILLANCE" 1998 REPORT NOTES THAT "DESPITE MARKED AGE SPECIFIC VARIATIONS IN DISTRIBUTION, THE OVERALL MALE TO FEMALE RATIO (OF AIDS CASES) IS ALMOST 1:1." HOWEVER, HIV INFECTION RATES AMONG YOUNG WOMEN EXCEED THOSE OF THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS. THE REPORT NOTES THAT IN THE 15 TO 29 AGE BRACKETS, FEMALE CASES OUTNUMBER THOSE OF MALES BY APPROXIMATELY 2:1 WHILE BEYOND AGE 30 THE TREND REVERSES. EARLY SEXUAL INITIATION, COMBINED WITH PHYSIOLOGICAL IMMATUREITY OF THE YOUNG FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM, PARTLY ACCOUNT FOR THE HIGHER PREVALENCE AMONG FEMALES. THE 1998 SURVEILLANCE REPORT FOUND THAT 72 PERCENT OF AIDS CASES INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE EITHER MARRIED, DIVORCED, OR WIDOWED, THEREBY UNDERSCORING THE FACT THAT HIV IN MALAWI IS TRANSMITTED PRIMARILY THROUGH HETEROSEXUAL CONTACT.

7. (U) HIV/AIDS IS MOST PREVALENT IN MALAWI'S SOUTHERN REGION, WHERE THE INFECTION RATE IS 18 PERCENT AMONG ADULTS AGED 15 TO 45 YEARS, ACCORDING TO THE NACP. NACP STATISTICS ESTIMATE ADULT INFECTION RATES FOR MALAWI'S CENTRAL AND NORTHERN REGIONS AT 11 AND 9 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. MALAWI'S POPULATION DENSITY IS HIGHEST IN THE SOUTHERN REGION AND LOWEST IN THE NORTHERN REGION.

DEVASTATING THE SOCIAL LANDSCAPE

8. (U) OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS DEATH OF YOUNG AND MIDDLE AGED ADULTS HAS ASSUMED A GROSSLY DISPROPORTIONATE PLACE IN EVERYDAY LIFE IN MALAWI. VISITORS COMMENT ON THE HIGH PREVALENCE OF ROADSIDE SIGNS FOR "COFFIN SHOPS" AND ON THE UNNATURALLY HIGH NUMBERS OF FUNERAL CORTEGES. CONDOLENCE MESSAGES AND JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS OCCUPY EVER LARGER SECTIONS OF NEWSPAPERS. "HE HAS MALARIA" - THE TRADITIONAL AND UBIQUITOUS EXCUSE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL'S ABSENCE - IS INCREASINGLY CEDING PLACE TO "HE IS AT A FUNERAL." FULL-PAGE NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS FOR FUNERAL INSURANCE, SUCH AS THAT PUBLISHED LAST JULY BY THE NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY (NICO) IN A LEADING DAILY, REFLECT SOME NOW-COMMON WORRIES: "FUNERAL EXPENSES/CAN MORTALLY AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS/PUT YOUR FAMILY IN DEBT,/ EMBARRASS YOU.../PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU HAVE NOT/RECOVERED FROM YET ANOTHER FUNERAL OR SCHOOL FEES!/"

EXTENDED FAMILY NETWORKS OVERTAXED

9. (U) WHILE THE UNUSUALLY HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE OF PEOPLE IN THEIR PRIME WORK YEARS SENDS SHOCK WAVES ACROSS THE ENTIRE SOCIAL SYSTEM, HIV/AIDS HAS TAKEN ITS HEAVIEST TOLL ON THE CORE OF THE SOCIAL SYSTEM - THE FAMILY UNIT. AS OF 1998 OVER 210,000 CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 15 ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LOST THEIR MOTHERS TO AIDS; THE NACP ESTIMATES THAT THIS NUMBER WILL TRIPLE IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

10. (U) BEYOND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA INFLICTED UPON CHILDREN WHO WATCH THEIR MOTHER OR FATHER (OR OFTEN BOTH) DETERIORATE AND DIE, THIS DESTRUCTION OF THE CORE FAMILY UNIT PLACES EXTREME STRAIN ON THE EXTENDED FAMILY. INCREASINGLY, ONE BREADWINNER SUPPORTS NOT ONLY HIS OWN CHILDREN, BUT ALSO THE FAMILIES OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS-IN-LAW WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS CAN END UP HEADING HOUSEHOLDS WHEN THEIR EXTENDED FAMILIES CAN NO LONGER SUPPORT THEM. THIS IN TURN LEADS TO LOWER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT RATES -- UNDERMINING PROGRESS IN EDUCATION -- ONE OF THE PILLARS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POVERTY ERADICATION EFFORT.

11. (U) DONOR COUNTRY AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION REPRESENTATIVES RAISED THE HIV/AIDS ISSUE REPEATEDLY THROUGHOUT THE DECEMBER 1998 AND MAY 2000 CONSULTATIVE GROUP (CG) MEETINGS, UNDERSCORING THE SALIENCE OF THE DISEASE IN THE CONTEXT OF MALAWI'S SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. SPEAKING AT THE 1998 CG, BARBARA KAFKA, THE WORLD BANK COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR ANGOLA, MALAWI, AND ZIMBABWE, TOLD DELEGATES THAT "THE COSTS OF AIDS -- FOR THE HEALTH SYSTEM, FOR FAMILIES, FOR MALAWI'S CAPACITY -- ARE ENORMOUS." SHE SAID THAT THE PROGRESS OF MALAWI'S ECONOMIC STRUCTURAL REFORMS WOULD DEPEND ON CIVIL SERVICE REFORM AND CONTAINING THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS. "WITH 25 TO 50 PERCENT OF THE WORKFORCE IN URBAN AREAS LIKELY TO DIE FROM AIDS OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS, NO OTHER ISSUE THREATENS THE COUNTRY'S CAPACITIES AS DIRECTLY AS DOES THIS EPIDEMIC," SAID KAFKA.

12. (U) KAFKA'S ABOVE-NOTED "25 TO 50 PERCENT" IS TAKEN FROM A 1997 WORLD BANK-GOM MALAWI AIDS ASSESSMENT

STUDY (AAS). THIS STATISTIC IS FREQUENTLY QUOTED, AND IS CITED BY THE UNAIDS' OCTOBER 1999 COUNTRY PROFILE. SOME EXPERTS HERE, INCLUDING STAFF OF THE NACP AND THE CDC TECHNICAL ADVISOR IN HIV/AIDS, QUESTION THE VALIDITY OF THESE ESTIMATES, ESPECIALLY THE UPPER RANGE AT "50 PERCENT" OF THE URBAN WORKFORCE. DATA FROM THE VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING CENTERS IN MALAWI'S TWO LARGEST CITIES OF LILONGWE AND BLANTYRE SUGGEST THAT THE URBAN RATES ARE LOWER, ESPECIALLY IN MEN WHO MAKE UP THE MAJORITY OF THE WORK FORCE.

WHEN CULTURE CLASHES WITH LIFE

13. (SBU) CULTURAL FACTORS RANGING FROM THE STIGMATIZATION OF HIV/AIDS TO MISGUIDED BELIEFS IN TRADITIONAL AND MAGICAL CAUSES AND CURES CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE IN MALAWI. MALAWIANS RARELY ADMIT THAT SOMEONE HAS DIED OF AIDS. FEW, EVEN IF THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY ILL, HAVE SOUGHT TO BE TESTED FOR IT. IN CONVERSATION AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES PEOPLE GENERALLY ATTRIBUTE SOMEONE'S DEATH TO "A LONG ILLNESS" OR AN AIDS-OPPORTUNISTIC DISEASE SUCH AS TUBERCULOSIS OR PNEUMONIA. AN EXPATRIATE DOCTOR WORKING AT A PRIVATE HOSPITAL IN LILONGWE TOLD ECONOFF THAT NURSES ROUTINELY CROSS OFF OR ERASE NOTATIONS HE MAKES ON PATIENT CHARTS SIGNALING HIV SEROPOSITIVE STATUS OR AIDS. EMBASSY FSN EMPLOYEES -- THOUGH COGNIZANT THAT A COLLEAGUE OR FAMILY MEMBER IS SUFFERING OR HAS DIED FROM AIDS -- WILL NOT ADMIT IT.

14. (SBU) TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PRACTICES ALSO PROMOTE THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS. SUCH PRACTICES INCLUDE: "KUHARA OR KULOWA CHOLOLO" - WHEREBY WIDOWS MUST MARRY THEIR BROTHERS-IN-LAW; "KUKONZA KUFA" - WHEREBY MALE RELATIVES OF A DECEASED HUSBAND HAVE SEX WITH THE WIDOW TO "CLEANSE" THE VILLAGE; "CHIMWANAMAYE" OR "CHITHUTHU" A TRADITIONAL VERSION OF WIFE SWAPPING; GIRLS' INITIATION CEREMONIES IN WHICH A DESIGNATED VILLAGE MALE ENGAGES IN SEX WITH EACH VILLAGE GIRL AS SHE COMES OF AGE; AND THE NURSING BY A DESIGNATED MOTHER OF OTHER WOMEN'S INFANTS SO THAT THEY CAN WORK UNINTERRUPTED IN THE FIELDS. A MANAGER OF AN EMBASSY-SPONSORED SELF HELP PROJECT IN MALAWI'S SOUTHERN NSANJE DISTRICT TOLD AMBASSADOR SHIPPY IN MID 1999 THAT ELDERS IN HIS HOME VILLAGE HAVE BEGUN DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INITIATION FOR YOUNG GIRLS AS A RESULT OF THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC. THE SALVATION ARMY HAS WORKED WITH INITIATORS TO MODIFY INITIATION PRACTICES TO PREVENT RISKY SEXUAL PRACTICES. A PROGRAM UNDER PEACE CORPS MALAWI'S HEALTH PROJECT TEACHES YOUNG PEOPLE -- ESPECIALLY YOUNG WOMEN -- LIFE SKILLS WHICH INCLUDE RESPONSIBLE DECISIONMAKING WITH RESPECT TO AN ARRAY OF HEALTH ISSUES.

15. (SBU) PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS (PWA) IN MALAWI FREQUENTLY SEEK PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL ATTENTION ONLY AFTER HAVING VISITED WITCHDOCTORS. (WITCHCRAFT IS STILL WIDELY PRACTICED AND FEARED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.) SOME TRADITIONAL CURES -- SUCH AS DRINKING MAGIC POTIONS -- POTENTIALLY HARM ONLY THE PATIENT; OTHERS SPREAD THE VIRUS. MRS. T. CHIZUMILA OF MALAWI'S WOMEN'S LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, RECENTLY TOLD DCM AND ECONOFF THAT

WITCHDOCTORS OFTEN ADVISE HIV POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS TO HAVE SEX WITH SMALL CHILDREN OR INFANTS IN ORDER TO CLEANSE THEMSELVES OF THE DISEASE. ON DECEMBER 22, 1999 MALAWI'S MINISTER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WARNED A GROUP OF DISABLED STUDENTS ABOUT POPULAR MYTHS ALLEGING THAT A SEROPOSITIVE MAN CAN RID HIMSELF OF HIV BY SLEEPING WITH A DISABLED WOMAN.

16. (U) POST COMMENT AND ANALYSIS WILL APPEAR IN THE FINAL CABLE OF THIS THREE-PART SERIES.

SHIPPY

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Keenan, Josefine (Chris) (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2000 4:00 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Smith, Gayle E. (AF)
Subject: HIV, AIDS, AND DEATH IN THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA; PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC; SOCIAL; AND CULTURAL EFFECTS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT FOR INTERNET POSTING.

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RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RUFOADA/JAC RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOA//
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0020
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
Line1: RAAUZYUW RUEHLGA2098 1470746-UUUU--RHEHAAA.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: R 260746Z MAY 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
Originator: AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
Precedence: ROUTINE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
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StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHLG
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STATE FOR AF/S AND AF/EPS

CDC FOR WEAKLAND

LONDON FOR DRAGNICH AND PFLAUMER

PARIS FOR WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT

WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR S. THURMAN

USDOL FOR ILAB/M.DESHAZER

USDOL ALSO FOR ILAB/C.HELM, S.HAHN, AND P.MAMACOS

NSC FOR GAYLE SMITH

LISBON FOR VERDUN

DEPT PASS EXIM FOR C. MORIARTY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, ECOX, PREL, MI

SUBJECT: HIV, AIDS, AND DEATH IN THE WARM

HEART OF AFRICA; PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC; SOCIAL; AND
CULTURAL EFFECTS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT FOR INTERNET POSTING.

PART ONE OF A THREE-PART CABLE SERIES ON HIV/AIDS IN
MALAWI.

1. (U) SUMMARY. MALAWI'S NATIONAL AIDS SECRETARIAT (NAS) ESTIMATES THAT NEARLY 750,000 OF THE NATION'S 9.8 MILLION CITIZENS ARE HIV POSITIVE. CREDIBLE ESTIMATES PLACE THE NATIONWIDE HIV INFECTION RATE FOR ADULTS AT 14 PERCENT, WITH INFECTION RATES IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS PEAKING AT APPROXIMATELY 26 AND 12 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. AIDS IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR ADULT MALAWIANS AGED 15-49. BECAUSE OF HIV/AIDS, DEATH HAS ASSUMED A GROSSLY DISPROPORTIONATE PLACE IN EVERYDAY LIFE IN MALAWI. THE PANDEMIC HAS TAKEN ITS HEAVIEST TOLL ON THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY UNIT, THE DESTRUCTION OF WHICH HAS OVERBURDENED EXTENDED FAMILY NETWORKS. CULTURAL FACTORS RANGING FROM THE STIGMATIZATION OF HIV/AIDS TO MISGUIDED BELIEFS IN "TRADITIONAL" OR MAGICAL CURES CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPREAD OF HIV IN MALAWI. END SUMMARY.

ADULT INFECTION RATES: URBAN 26%; RURAL 12%; OVERALL 14%

2. (U) MALAWI RANKS AMONG THE TOP TEN COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE IN TERMS OF HIV INFECTION RATES. MALAWI'S NATIONAL AIDS SECRETARIAT (NAS) ESTIMATES THAT NEARLY 750,000 OF THE NATION'S 9.8 MILLION CITIZENS ARE HIV POSITIVE. MALAWI'S NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM (NACP) ESTIMATES THAT FROM THE BEGINNING OF MALAWI'S AIDS EPIDEMIC (THE FIRST AIDS CASES WERE DOCUMENTED IN MALAWI IN 1985) THROUGH 1999 OVER 265,000 PEOPLE (ADULTS AND CHILDREN) HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES TO THE DISEASE. THE ADULT (AGED 15-49) NATIONWIDE HIV INFECTION RATE IS ESTIMATED TO BE 14 PERCENT, WITH A RATE OF 26 PERCENT IN URBAN AND 12 PERCENT IN RURAL AREAS.

3. (U) AIDS ALREADY ACCOUNTS FOR 50 PERCENT OF THE DEATHS IN THE 15-49 AGE GROUP, MAKING IT THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR THAT COHORT. A 1999 USAID REPORT CITES AIDS AS THE "PRIMARY DETERMINANT OF ADULT MORTALITY" IN MALAWI AND NOTES THAT "AIDS DEATHS ARE REVERSING EARLIER PROGRESS MADE IN CONTROLLING MORTALITY DUE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE." THE USAID REPORT ESTIMATES THAT BETWEEN 1990 AND 2000 AIDS HAS RAISED THE CRUDE DEATH RATE BY 44 PERCENT.

LIFE EXPECTANCY ON THE DECLINE

4. (U) THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE MALAWI 1998 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS REFLECT THE EFFECTS HIV/AIDS IS HAVING ON MALAWI'S POPULATION IN TERMS OF

ABSOLUTE NUMBERS AND THE GROWTH RATE. CENSUS FIGURES PLACED MALAWI'S POPULATION AT 9.8 MILLION AND ITS ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE AT 1.9 PERCENT, WELL BELOW THE ANTICIPATED 11.2 MILLION AND 3-PLUS PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. (AT THE DECEMBER 1998 CONSULTATIVE GROUP (CG) MEETING IN LILONGWE, PRIOR TO RELEASE OF THE CENSUS PRELIMINARY RESULTS, THEN MINISTER OF HEALTH AND UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 LILONGWE 002098

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR AF/PD - PATIN

STATE FOR AF/S AND AF/EPS

CDC FOR WEAKLAND

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POPULATION HARRY THOMPSON TOLD DONORS THAT THE POPULATION NUMBERED 11 MILLION AND THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE REGISTERED 3.2 PERCENT.)

5. (U) THE CENSUS PRELIMINARY RESULTS SURPRISED PRESIDENT MULUZI AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WHO PUBLICLY QUESTIONED THE REASON FOR THE SLOWER-THAN-EXPECTED POPULATION GROWTH. THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU ESTIMATES THAT WITHOUT AIDS MORTALITY MALAWI'S POPULATION WOULD HAVE NUMBERED 10.7 MILLION. OTHER REASONS CITED FOR THE POPULATION DISCREPANCY INCLUDE OVER AND UNDER-ESTIMATIONS OF THE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES RESPECTIVELY ON THE PART OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (NSO) AND NSO FAILURE TO ACCURATELY ACCOUNT FOR IN AND OUT MIGRATION OF MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES DURING THE INTER-CENSORIAL PERIOD. THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU ESTIMATES THAT 1998 LIFE-EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH IN MALAWI IS 36.6; WITHOUT THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IT IS PROJECTED THAT LIFE EXPECTANCY WOULD HAVE BEEN 51.1 YEARS. THE 1999 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT LISTS MALE AND FEMALE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT 38.9 AND 39.6 YEARS RESPECTIVELY.

YOUNG WOMENS' INFECTION RATES HIGHER THAN YOUNG MENS'

6. (U) AN NACP "AIDS CASES SURVEILLANCE" 1998 REPORT NOTES THAT "DESPITE MARKED AGE SPECIFIC VARIATIONS IN DISTRIBUTION, THE OVERALL MALE TO FEMALE RATIO [OF AIDS CASES] IS ALMOST 1:1." HOWEVER, HIV INFECTION RATES AMONG YOUNG WOMEN EXCEED THOSE OF THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS. THE REPORT NOTES THAT IN THE 15 TO 29 AGE BRACKETS, FEMALE CASES OUTNUMBER THOSE OF MALES BY APPROXIMATELY 2:1 WHILE BEYOND AGE 30 THE TREND REVERSES. EARLY SEXUAL INITIATION, COMBINED WITH PHYSIOLOGICAL IMMATURITY OF THE YOUNG FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM, PARTLY ACCOUNT FOR THE HIGHER PREVALENCE AMONG FEMALES. THE 1998 SURVEILLANCE REPORT FOUND THAT 72 PERCENT OF AIDS CASES INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE EITHER MARRIED, DIVORCED, OR WIDOWED, THEREBY UNDERSCORING THE FACT THAT HIV IN MALAWI IS TRANSMITTED PRIMARILY THROUGH HETEROSEXUAL CONTACT.

7. (U) HIV/AIDS IS MOST PREVALENT IN MALAWI'S SOUTHERN REGION, WHERE THE INFECTION RATE IS 18 PERCENT AMONG ADULTS AGED 15 TO 45 YEARS, ACCORDING TO THE NACP. NACP STATISTICS ESTIMATE ADULT INFECTION RATES FOR MALAWI'S CENTRAL AND NORTHERN REGIONS AT 11 AND 9 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. MALAWI'S POPULATION DENSITY IS HIGHEST IN THE SOUTHERN REGION AND LOWEST IN THE NORTHERN REGION.

DEVASTATING THE SOCIAL LANDSCAPE

8. (U) OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS DEATH OF YOUNG AND MIDDLE AGED ADULTS HAS ASSUMED A GROSSLY DISPROPORTIONATE PLACE IN EVERYDAY LIFE IN MALAWI. VISITORS COMMENT ON THE HIGH PREVALENCE OF ROADSIDE SIGNS FOR "COFFIN SHOPS" AND ON THE UNNATURALLY HIGH NUMBERS OF FUNERAL CORTEGES. CONDOLENCE MESSAGES AND JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS OCCUPY EVER LARGER SECTIONS OF UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 LILONGWE 002098

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR AF/PD - PATIN

STATE FOR AF/S AND AF/EPS

CDC FOR WEAKLAND

LONDON FOR DRAGNICH AND PFLAUMER

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CULTURAL EFFECTS

NEWSPAPERS. "HE HAS MALARIA" - THE TRADITIONAL AND
UBIQUITOUS EXCUSE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL'S ABSENCE - IS
INCREASINGLY CEDING PLACE TO "HE IS AT A FUNERAL."
FULL-PAGE NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS FOR FUNERAL
INSURANCE, SUCH AS THAT PUBLISHED LAST JULY BY THE
NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY (NICO) IN A LEADING DAILY,
REFLECT SOME NOW-COMMON WORRIES: "FUNERAL EXPENSES/CAN
MORTALLY AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS/PUT YOUR FAMILY IN DEBT,/
EMBARRASS YOU.../PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU HAVE
NOT/RECOVERED FROM YET ANOTHER FUNERAL OR SCHOOL FEES!/"

EXTENDED FAMILY NETWORKS OVERTAXED

9. (U) WHILE THE UNUSUALLY HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE OF
PEOPLE IN THEIR PRIME WORK YEARS SENDS SHOCK WAVES
ACROSS THE ENTIRE SOCIAL SYSTEM, HIV/AIDS HAS TAKEN ITS
HEAVIEST TOLL ON THE CORE OF THE SOCIAL SYSTEM - THE
FAMILY UNIT. AS OF 1998 OVER 210,000 CHILDREN UNDER THE
AGE OF 15 ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LOST THEIR MOTHERS TO
AIDS; THE NACP ESTIMATES THAT THIS NUMBER WILL TRIPLE
IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

10. (U) BEYOND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA INFLICTED UPON
CHILDREN WHO WATCH THEIR MOTHER OR FATHER (OR OFTEN
BOTH) DETERIORATE AND DIE, THIS DESTRUCTION OF THE CORE
FAMILY UNIT PLACES EXTREME STRAIN ON THE EXTENDED
FAMILY. INCREASINGLY, ONE BREADWINNER SUPPORTS NOT ONLY
HIS OWN CHILDREN, BUT ALSO THE FAMILIES OF BROTHERS AND
SISTERS-IN-LAW WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY. CHILDREN AND
ADOLESCENTS CAN END UP HEADING HOUSEHOLDS WHEN THEIR
EXTENDED FAMILIES CAN NO LONGER SUPPORT THEM. THIS IN
TURN LEADS TO LOWER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT RATES --
UNDERMINING PROGRESS IN EDUCATION -- ONE OF THE PILLARS
OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POVERTY ERADICATION EFFORT.

11. (U) DONOR COUNTRY AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL
INSTITUTION REPRESENTATIVES RAISED THE HIV/AIDS ISSUE
REPEATEDLY THROUGHOUT THE DECEMBER 1998 AND MAY 2000
CONSULTATIVE GROUP (CG) MEETINGS, UNDERSCORING THE
SALIENCE OF THE DISEASE IN THE CONTEXT OF MALAWI'S
SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. SPEAKING AT THE 1998
CG, BARBARA KAFKA, THE WORLD BANK COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR
ANGOLA, MALAWI, AND ZIMBABWE, TOLD DELEGATES THAT "THE
COSTS OF AIDS -- FOR THE HEALTH SYSTEM, FOR FAMILIES,
FOR MALAWI'S CAPACITY -- ARE ENORMOUS." SHE SAID THAT
THE PROGRESS OF MALAWI'S ECONOMIC STRUCTURAL REFORMS
WOULD DEPEND ON CIVIL SERVICE REFORM AND CONTAINING THE
SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS. "WITH 25 TO 50 PERCENT OF THE
WORKFORCE IN URBAN AREAS LIKELY TO DIE FROM AIDS OVER
THE NEXT TEN YEARS, NO OTHER ISSUE THREATENS THE
COUNTRY'S CAPACITIES AS DIRECTLY AS DOES THIS EPIDEMIC,"
SAID KAFKA.

12. (U) KAFKA'S ABOVE-NOTED "25 TO 50 PERCENT" IS
TAKEN FROM A 1997 WORLD BANK-GOM MALAWI AIDS ASSESSMENT
STUDY (AAS). THIS STATISTIC IS FREQUENTLY QUOTED, AND
IS CITED BY THE UNAIDS' OCTOBER 1999 COUNTRY PROFILE.

SOME EXPERTS HERE, INCLUDING STAFF OF THE NACP AND THE
CDC TECHNICAL ADVISOR IN HIV/AIDS, QUESTION THE VALIDITY
OF THESE ESTIMATES, ESPECIALLY THE UPPER RANGE AT "50
UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 LILONGWE 002098

SENSITIVE

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PERCENT" OF THE URBAN WORKFORCE. DATA FROM THE
VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING CENTERS IN MALAWI'S TWO
LARGEST CITIES OF LILONGWE AND BLANTYRE SUGGEST THAT THE
URBAN RATES ARE LOWER, ESPECIALLY IN MEN WHO MAKE UP THE
MAJORITY OF THE WORK FORCE.

WHEN CULTURE CLASHES WITH LIFE

13. (SBU) CULTURAL FACTORS RANGING FROM THE
STIGMATIZATION OF HIV/AIDS TO MISGUIDED BELIEFS IN
TRADITIONAL AND MAGICAL CAUSES AND CURES CONTRIBUTE TO
THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE IN MALAWI. MALAWIANS RARELY
ADMIT THAT SOMEONE HAS DIED OF AIDS. FEW, EVEN IF THEY
ARE OBVIOUSLY ILL, HAVE SOUGHT TO BE TESTED FOR IT. IN
CONVERSATION AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES PEOPLE GENERALLY
ATTRIBUTE SOMEONE'S DEATH TO "A LONG ILLNESS" OR AN
AIDS-OPPORTUNISTIC DISEASE SUCH AS TUBERCULOSIS OR
PNEUMONIA. AN EXPATRIATE DOCTOR WORKING AT A PRIVATE
HOSPITAL IN LILONGWE TOLD ECONOFF THAT NURSES ROUTINELY
CROSS OFF OR ERASE NOTATIONS HE MAKES ON PATIENT CHARTS
SIGNALING HIV SEROPOSITIVE STATUS OR AIDS. EMBASSY FSN
EMPLOYEES -- THOUGH COGNIZANT THAT A COLLEAGUE OR FAMILY
MEMBER IS SUFFERING OR HAS DIED FROM AIDS -- WILL NOT
ADMIT IT.

14. (SBU) TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PRACTICES ALSO PROMOTE
THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS. SUCH PRACTICES INCLUDE:

"KUHARA OR KULOWA CHOLOLO" - WHEREBY WIDOWS MUST MARRY THEIR BROTHERS-IN-LAW; "KUKONZA KUFA" - WHEREBY MALE RELATIVES OF A DECEASED HUSBAND HAVE SEX WITH THE WIDOW TO "CLEANSE" THE VILLAGE; "CHIMWANAMAYE" OR "CHITHUTHU" A TRADITIONAL VERSION OF WIFE SWAPPING; GIRLS' INITIATION CEREMONIES IN WHICH A DESIGNATED VILLAGE MALE ENGAGES IN SEX WITH EACH VILLAGE GIRL AS SHE COMES OF AGE; AND THE NURSING BY A DESIGNATED MOTHER OF OTHER WOMEN'S INFANTS SO THAT THEY CAN WORK UNINTERRUPTED IN THE FIELDS. A MANAGER OF AN EMBASSY-SPONSORED SELF HELP PROJECT IN MALAWI'S SOUTHERN NSANJE DISTRICT TOLD AMBASSADOR SHIPPY IN MID 1999 THAT ELDERS IN HIS HOME VILLAGE HAVE BEGUN DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INITIATION FOR YOUNG GIRLS AS A RESULT OF THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC. THE SALVATION ARMY HAS WORKED WITH INITIATORS TO MODIFY INITIATION PRACTICES TO PREVENT RISKY SEXUAL PRACTICES. A PROGRAM UNDER PEACE CORPS MALAWI'S HEALTH PROJECT TEACHES YOUNG PEOPLE -- ESPECIALLY YOUNG WOMEN -- LIFE SKILLS WHICH INCLUDE RESPONSIBLE DECISIONMAKING WITH RESPECT TO AN ARRAY OF HEALTH ISSUES.

15. (SBU) PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS (PWA) IN MALAWI FREQUENTLY SEEK PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL ATTENTION ONLY AFTER HAVING VISITED WITCHDOCTORS. (WITCHCRAFT IS STILL WIDELY PRACTICED AND FEARED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.) SOME TRADITIONAL CURES -- SUCH AS DRINKING MAGIC POTIONS -- POTENTIALLY HARM ONLY THE PATIENT; OTHERS SPREAD THE VIRUS. MRS. T. CHIZUMILA OF MALAWI'S WOMEN'S LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, RECENTLY TOLD DCM AND ECONOFF THAT WITCHDOCTORS OFTEN ADVISE HIV POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS TO HAVE SEX WITH SMALL CHILDREN OR INFANTS IN ORDER TO CLEANSE THEM,SY LILONGWE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4045
INFO RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0329
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RUFOADA/JAC RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOA//
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0024
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 LILONGWE 002098

SENSITIVE

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HEART OF AFRICA; PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC; SOCIAL; AND
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MALAWI'S MINISTER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WARNED
A GROUP OF DISABLED STUDENTS ABOUT POPULAR MYTHS
ALLEGING THAT A SEROPOSITIVE MAN CAN RID HIMSELF OF HIV
BY SLEEPING WITH A DISABLED WOMAN.

16. (U) POST COMMENT AND ANALYSIS WILL APPEAR IN THE
FINAL CABLE OF THIS THREE-PART SERIES.

SHIPPY

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. cable	Re: [AIDS in Africa] (7 pages)	06/02/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Health Affairs
OA/Box Number: 3456

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

2007-1550-F
ke2030

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. cable	Re: [Burundi] (3 pages)	06/02/2000	P1/b(1)

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National Security Council
International Health Affairs
OA/Box Number: 3456

FOLDER TITLE:

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2007-1550-F
kc2030

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006. cable	Re: [Scenesetter] (9 pages)	06/07/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
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OA/Box Number: 3456

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Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

2007-1550-F
ke2030

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. cable	Re: [AIDS in Africa] (10 pages)	06/19/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Health Affairs
OA/Box Number: 3456

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

2007-1550-F
ke2030

RESTRICTION CODES

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Keenan, Josefine (Chris) (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2000 10:37 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Tabak, Lauren B. (AF/INTERN)
Subject: PORTRAIT OF MALAWI, "THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA": PART II: THE CULTURAL CONTEXT; HIV/AIDS

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4188
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 191417Z JUN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY SMITH TABAK
Identifier: M4498501
InfoAddres: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5-EURDIV-AF//
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC 0010
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC//DH-4//
RUFNGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//
RUERHB/CDR3RDSFGA FT BRAGG NC//AOSO-SFT-SC//
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RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
Line1: PAAUZYUW RUEHLGA2678 1711417-UUUU--RHEHNSC.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: P 191417Z JUN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
Originator: AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
Precedence: PRIORITY
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
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StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHLG
StationSerialNumber: 2678
TimeOfReceipt: 06/19/2000 10:36:13 ET

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 LILONGWE 002678

SENSITIVE

STATE PASS TO USAID FOR AFR/SA

STATE PASS TO PEACE CORPS FOR CDU MALAWI

STATE PASS EXIM FOR MORIARTY

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TREASURY FOR OASIA

LONDON FOR DRAGNICH AND PFLAUMER

CDC FOR WEAKLAND

CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/16/10

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, EAID, KHIV, SOCI, MASS, MI

SUBJECT: PORTRAIT OF MALAWI, "THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA": PART II: THE CULTURAL CONTEXT; HIV/AIDS

REF: (A) LILONGWE 2677, (B) LILONGWE 939,
C) LILONGWE 2205, (D) LILONGWE 2662

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT/NOT FOR INTERNET POSTING.

1. (U) THIS CABLE IS PART II OF A FOUR-PART REPORT ON PRESENT DAY MALAWI AND ITS PROSPECTS. PART I (REFTEL A) LOOKS AT CHALLENGES FACING THE COUNTRY; PART III (SEPTTEL) DEALS WITH POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY; PART IV (SEPTTEL) ANALYZES THE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

SUMMARY

2. (SBU) MALAWIANS ARE CONSERVATIVE, FORMAL AND CAUTIOUS. HARDWORKING, THEY NEVERTHELESS HAVE A STRONG CULTURE OF DEPENDENCY, VIEWING AID MORE AS A RENEWABLE ASSET THAN TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE. MANY MALAWIANS HAVE BEEN QUICKER TO EXERCISE, OR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, THE FREEDOMS AFFORDED BY DEMOCRACY THAN TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ACCOMPANY SUCH FREEDOMS. AN OUTGROWTH OF THE MOVE FROM DICTATORSHIP TO DEMOCRACY IS THE RISING CRIME RATE, FUELED BY ECONOMIC HARDSHIP AND EMBOLDENED BY THE CESSATION OF AUTOCRATIC RULE AND A WEAK POLICE FORCE. MALAWI DOES NOT HAVE SERIOUS TRIBAL, ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS DIVISIONS, ALTHOUGH SOME TENSION EXISTS BETWEEN THE COUNTRY'S ETHNIC SOUTH ASIANS AND BLACK MALAWIANS. MALAWI'S DIVISIONS ARE REGIONALLY BASED, AND THUS EASIER TO ADDRESS AND OVERCOME THAN TRADITIONALLY BITTER TRIBAL OR RELIGIOUS ANIMOSITIES.

3. (U) MALAWI RANKS AMONG THE TOP TEN COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE IN TERMS OF HIV INFECTION RATES. ALTHOUGH MANY MALAWIANS ARE AWARE OF HOW HIV/AIDS SPREADS, BEHAVIOR CHANGE LAGS BEHIND AWARENESS. MALAWI HAS A HERCULEAN TASK IN MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF HIV/AIDS, BUT THE SITUATION IS MORE POSITIVE NOW THAN IT WAS A YEAR AGO. PRESIDENT MULUZI IS PROVIDING ACTIVE, DIRECT LEADERSHIP; HIV/AIDS IS ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE A CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUE AND IS MORE OPENLY DISCUSSED. THE USG WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MALAWI EFFORTS TO MAKE PROGRESS AGAINST THE DISEASE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES. (FOR A MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF HIV/AIDS IN MALAWI, SEE REFTELS B-D.) END SUMMARY

THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

4. (U) THE FIRST MALAWIANS WERE FARMERS AND

FISHERMEN; MOST LATER AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS FOLLOWED THE SAME PASTORAL PATTERNS. BEGINNING IN THE MID-1800'S, MALAWIANS EXPERIENCED ABOUT ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF EUROPEAN MISSIONARIES (WHO BOTH PROSELYTIZED, AND PROVIDED SCHOOLS AND HEALTH SERVICES) AND BRITISH COLONIAL RULE. MALAWI BECAME INDEPENDENT IN 1964. UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 LILONGWE 002678

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/16/10

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, EAID, KHIV, SOCI, MASS, MI

SUBJECT: PORTRAIT OF MALAWI, "THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA": PART II: THE CULTURAL CONTEXT; HIV/AIDS

DR. HASTINGS KAMUZU BANDA QUICKLY ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS "PRESIDENT FOR LIFE;" HIS AUTHORITARIAN DICTATORSHIP LASTED 30 YEARS. (THE PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY TOOK PLACE IN 1993-1994.) DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD AND, EVEN MORE SO DURING BANDA'S REGIME, IDEAS AND CREATIVITY WERE, FOR THE MOST PART, PUNISHED RATHER THAN REWARDED. THE CULTURE WHICH DEVELOPED OUT OF THIS CUMULATIVE EXPERIENCE IS CONSERVATIVE, FORMAL AND CAUTIOUS.

5. (U) MALAWI OFFERS SOME OF THE WARMEST HOSPITALITY ON THE CONTINENT, BUT OFTENTIMES, EVEN CLOSE CONTACTS REMAIN ON A SURNAME-BASIS THROUGHOUT A THREE-YEAR FOREIGN SERVICE TOUR. THE FORMALITY IS SO INGRAINED THAT PEOPLE IN THE MOST REMOTE VILLAGES WEAR TWO-, OR EVEN THREE-, PIECE SUITS TO MEET VISITORS. THE BRITISH AND DR. BANDA LEFT ANOTHER LEGACY: THOSE IN POWER (ESPECIALLY DR. BANDA) DECIDED WHAT PEOPLE NEEDED, AND ALLOCATED RESOURCES ACCORDINGLY, CREATING A STRONG CULTURE OF DEPENDENCY. ALTHOUGH GENERALLY HARDWORKING, MALAWIANS FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE VIEW AID MORE AS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE THAN TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE. RECIPIENTS WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER TO THANK THE DONOR, BUT OFTEN MAKE THEIR NEXT APPEAL IN THE SAME BREATH. THESE ATTITUDES ARE BEGINNING TO CHANGE, BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME TO MODIFY THE INGRAINED BEHAVIOR OF GENERATIONS.

REACTION TO DEMOCRACY

6. (U) AS HAS BEEN THE CASE ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, MANY MALAWIANS HAVE BEEN QUICKER TO EXERCISE, OR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, THE FREEDOMS AFFORDED BY DEMOCRACY THAN TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ACCOMPANY SUCH FREEDOMS. THE RESULTS OF THIS UNEVEN ADAPTATION ARE SOMETIMES MILDLY COMICAL, I.E., STUDENTS WHO TELL THEIR TEACHER THAT THE REASON THEY ARE NOT DOING HOMEWORK IS BECAUSE "I'M FREE, AND FREEDOM MEANS I CAN DO WHAT I LIKE." BUT OTHER OUTGROWTHS OF THE MOVE FROM DICTATORSHIP TO DEMOCRACY ARE MORE THREATENING. CRIME, ESPECIALLY CRIME ACCOMPANIED BY THE USE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, IS ON THE RISE. THIS INCREASE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IS FUELED BY POVERTY AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, WHICH TO SOME EXTENT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO TIGHTER CONTROLS ON GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND MOVEMENT TOWARDS A FREE MARKET ECONOMY. (ANOTHER CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IS THAT MALAWI HAS ONE OF THE MOST INEQUITABLE INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.) CRIMINALS ARE EMBOLDENED BY THE CESSATION OF AUTOCRATIC RULE AND A POLICE FORCE WHICH NOW HAS NEITHER THE DICTATORIAL AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE PUNISHMENT, NOR THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO FIGHT CRIME IN A DEMOCRACY (MANPOWER, TRAINING, EQUIPMENT, A JUDICIAL SYSTEM WITH THE RESOURCES TO PROSECUTE CASES).

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/16/10

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, EAID, KHIV, SOCI, MASS, MI

SUBJECT: PORTRAIT OF MALAWI, "THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA": PART II: THE CULTURAL CONTEXT; HIV/AIDS

DIVISIONS

7. (U) MALAWI DOES NOT HAVE SERIOUS TRIBAL, ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS DIVISIONS. IDENTITY IS DEFINED BY REGION, WITH STEREOTYPES AND PERCEIVED INEQUITIES MOST FREQUENTLY TARGETED AT THE NORTHERN REGION, THE COUNTRY'S LEAST POPULOUS. NORTHERNERS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE BETTER EDUCATED ON AVERAGE (A PARTIAL TRUTH,

BORN OF THEIR LONGER EXPOSURE TO MISSIONARY EDUCATION). THIS TENDS TO MAKE OTHER MALAWIANS SOMEWHAT PARANOID WITH RESPECT TO PERCEIVED BIAS IN ADMISSION, HIRING AND PROMOTION PRACTICES "FAVORING" COLLEAGUES FROM THE NORTH. NORTHERNERS, MEANWHILE, CHARGE THAT THE NORTH IS IGNORED BY THE GOVERNMENT/RULING PARTY (WHOSE BASE IS IN THE SOUTH), PARTICULARLY IN RECEIVING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND OTHER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES. THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH PEOPLE MARRY ACROSS TRIBES AND REGIONS SUGGESTS THAT THESE SOCIETAL DIFFERENCES ARE NOT DIFFICULT TO SURMOUNT.

8. (U) THE OTHER NOTABLE SOCIAL TENSION EXISTS BETWEEN THE COUNTRY'S ETHNIC SOUTH ASIANS AND BLACK MALAWIANS. MANY OF THE SOUTH ASIANS ARE ECONOMICALLY WELL OFF, WHICH CAUSES RESENTMENT. MANY ARE MULTIPLE-GENERATION MALAWI RESIDENTS OR CITIZENS, BUT THEY HAVE NEITHER ASSIMILATED NOR BEEN ASSIMILATED.

9. (U) BOTH THE REGIONAL AND ASIAN-ETHNIC DIVISIONS WERE EXACERBATED BY DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES INSTITUTED BY FORMER "PRESIDENT FOR LIFE" BANDA. AT ONE POINT, FOR EXAMPLE, BANDA ORDERED ALL THE TEACHERS WHO CAME FROM THE NORTH, WHO WERE TEACHING IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF MALAWI, TO RELOCATE TO THE NORTH.

10. (U) COMMENT: EMOTIONAL AND CULTURAL DIVISIONS BASED ON "REGIONALISM" SHOULD BE EASIER TO ADDRESS AND OVERCOME THAN THE BITTER ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS RIVALRIES EXISTING ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. THE TENSIONS BETWEEN SOUTH ASIAN AND BLACK MALAWIANS, HOWEVER, WILL BE HARDER TO RESOLVE. END COMMENT

CHRISTIAN/MUSLIM RELATIONS

11. (SBU) THE CHRISTIAN/MUSLIM RELATIONSHIP HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN ONE OF AT LEAST APPARENT TOLERANCE. THE WIDESPREAD MISSIONARY ACTIVITY BOTH GROUPS HAVE ENGAGED IN SINCE 1993-94, HAS, HOWEVER, INCREASED DISTRUST BETWEEN THEM. GENERALLY UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS BY POLITICIANS TO EXPLOIT RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES -- AND FEARS -- FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, HAVE PUT RELIGION ON THE AGENDA AS AN ISSUE TO WATCH.

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 LILONGWE 002678

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/16/10

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, EAID, KHIV, SOCI, MASS, MI

SUBJECT: PORTRAIT OF MALAWI, "THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA": PART II: THE CULTURAL CONTEXT; HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS

12. (U) ONE OF THE IMPEDIMENTS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND, INCREASINGLY, TO DEMOCRATIZATION EFFORTS, IS THE POOR HEALTH OF THE AVERAGE MALAWIAN. WITH RESPECT TO HIV/AIDS, MALAWI RANKS AMONG THE TOP TEN COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE IN TERMS OF HIV INFECTION RATES. THE ADULT (AGES 15-49) NATIONWIDE HIV INFECTION RATE IS ESTIMATED TO BE 14%; AIDS IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR ADULTS.

13. (U) STUDIES SHOW THAT ALMOST ALL MALAWIANS ARE AWARE OF HIV/AIDS AND HOW IT IS TRANSMITTED, ALTHOUGH KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO PREVENT INFECTION IS NOT AS WIDESPREAD. THERE ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS THAT PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR: CONDOM USE IS INCREASING AND ANECDOTAL DATA SUGGEST A DECREASE IN CASUAL SEX. THE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO RECENTLY INTRODUCED, USAID-FUNDED, "RAPID TESTS," WHICH PROVIDE AN EASY (FINGERPRICK), FAST (15 MINUTES) AND ACCURATE DETERMINATION OF ONE'S HIV SERO STATUS, INDICATES AN UNEXPECTED WILLINGNESS AND INTEREST ON THE PART OF MANY MALAWIANS TO LEARN WHETHER THEY ARE HIV POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE. FOUR TIMES AS MANY MALAWIANS ARE REQUESTING VOLUNTARY TESTING AND COUNSELING NOW, COMPARED WITH THE NUMBERS BEFORE THE INTRODUCTION OF "SAME DAY RESULTS." COUNSELORS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY THE IMMEDIATE TEST RESULT PROVIDES TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR CHANGE, BOTH FOR THOSE FOUND HIV INFECTED AND FOR THOSE STILL FREE OF HIV INFECTION.

14. (U) IN OCTOBER 1999 PRESIDENT MULUZI HOSTED AN "AIDS AWARENESS DAY" AND LAUNCHED MALAWI'S NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK-IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE 2000-2004 PERIOD. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, MULUZI CHARACTERIZED AIDS AS THE "SINGLE MOST SERIOUS CHALLENGE FACING THIS NATION TODAY." PLEDGING HIMSELF TO MAKE SURE THE NEW FRAMEWORK IS CARRIED OUT, MULUZI IS ONE OF THE FIRST (IF NOT THE ONLY) SOUTHERN AFRICAN PRESIDENTS TO MAKE HIMSELF PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF A NATIONAL AIDS PLAN.

15. (U) DONORS HAVE STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE, PLEDGING 109 MILLION OF THE ESTIMATED 121 MILLION USD IT WILL TAKE TO IMPLEMENT THE HIV/AIDS PLAN OVER ITS FIVE YEAR'S (2000-2004); THE WORLD BANK HAS SAID IT WILL COVER THE GAP. THE U.S. IS THE LARGEST SINGLE DONOR TO THE PLAN.

16. (U) COMMENT: MALAWI HAS A HERCULEAN TASK AHEAD, BUT THE SITUATION IS MORE POSITIVE NOW THAN IT WAS A YEAR AGO. PRESIDENT MULUZI IS PROVIDING ACTIVE, DIRECT LEADERSHIP. HIV/AIDS IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS A CROSS-SECTOR PROBLEM, NOT AS "ONLY" A HEALTH MATTER. BOTH GOVERNMENT AND CIVILIAN LEADERS MORE OFTEN
UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 LILONGWE 002678

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/16/10

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, EAID, KHIV, SOCI, MASS, MI

SUBJECT: PORTRAIT OF MALAWI, "THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA": PART II: THE CULTURAL CONTEXT; HIV/AIDS

DISCUSS HIV/AIDS IN PUBLIC SPEECHES. IT IS MENTIONED MORE FREQUENTLY IN THE MEDIA AND IS MORE OPENLY DISCUSSED IN GENERAL. THE USG WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MALAWI EFFORTS TO MAKE PROGRESS AGAINST THE DISEASE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES. END COMMENT

17. (U) FOR A MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF HIV/AIDS IN MALAWI, SEE REFTELS B-D.

SHIPPY

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008. cable	Re: Letter from President Mbeki to Vice President Gore on HIV/AIDS (8 pages)	07/27/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Health Affairs
OA/Box Number: 3456

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

2007-1550-F
ke2030

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President
and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of
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b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
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financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
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concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C.
2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2000 10:13 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Banbury, Anthony "Tony" N. (MULTI); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI); Harris, Grant T. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); ODonohue, Peter A. (AF); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Smith, Peter D. R. (MULTI); Tabak, Lauren B. (AF/INTERN); Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Subject: HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA: HOW CAN WE RESPOND?

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4276
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 211358Z AUG 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY FELDMAN HARRISG MCLEAN NAPLAN ODONOHUE PATTEN SCHWARTZ SMITH SMITHP TABAK WILCOX
Identifier: M4592169
InfoAddrees: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

Line1: PAAUZYUW RUEHSA6584 2341358-UUUU--RHEHNSC RHEHAAA.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: P 211358Z AUG 00
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 PRETORIA 006584

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AF/S FOR A. RENDER
OES FOR N. CARTER-FOSTER
IO/T FOR A. BLACKWOOD
L FOR D. BOUCKER
WHITE HOUSE ONAP FOR DIRECTOR S. THURMAN

E.O. 12948: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, SOCI, AMGT, APER, SF

SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA: HOW CAN WE RESPOND?

REFS: A) PRETORIA 2426

B) PRETORIA 2671

C) PRETORIA 2749

D) PRETORIA 2788

E) 99 PRETORIA 15004

(U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT
ACCORDINGLY.

SUMMARY

1. (SBU) HIV/AIDS MAY BE THE SINGLE GREATEST THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICAN PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMING DECADES. IN LIGHT OF THE DEVASTATING PROGRESS OF THE PANDEMIC, MISSION PRETORIA BELIEVES WE MUST INCREASE OUR EFFORTS EVEN FURTHER TO COMBAT IT. HELPING SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESS THE DISEASE HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF THE MISSION'S HIGHEST PRIORITIES. TO STRENGTHEN OUR WORK AND HELP COORDINATE IT, AMBASSADOR LEWIS CREATED AN INTERAGENCY HIV/AIDS STRATEGIC FOCUS GROUP IN JANUARY. IN EARLIER CABLES (REFS A-D), WE DREW ON THE GROUP'S WORK TO ASSESS THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE PANDEMIC IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN OTHER MESSAGES, WE LOOKED AT WHAT THE SAG, DONORS, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE DOING TO COMBAT THE DISEASE. IN THIS CABLE, WE SET OUT NEW MISSION-WIDE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT WE WILL UNDERTAKE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS. THERE IS A REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENT ACTION IN PARAGRAPH 11. END SUMMARY.

HIV/AIDS STRATEGIC FOCUS GROUP

2. (SBU) HIV/AIDS CONTINUES ITS DEVASTATING PROGRESS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIV/AIDS IN DURBAN UNDERScoreD AGAIN THE DEADLY THREAT THE DISEASE POSES TO AFRICA. IN JANUARY 2000, IN RESPONSE TO THIS CHALLENGE, AMBASSADOR LEWIS CREATED AN INTERAGENCY STRATEGIC FOCUS GROUP ON HIV/AIDS. CO-CHAIRED BY AID MISSION DIRECTOR RHODES AND ECONOMIC MINISTER COUNSELOR GODEC, THE HIV/AIDS STRATEGIC FOCUS GROUP HAS REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICES, USAID, THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL, THE FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE, THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE, AND PEACE CORPS. OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN DURBAN WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ADDED TO THE GROUP.

3. (SBU) IN A SERIES OF CABLES (REFS A-D), THE STRATEGIC FOCUS GROUP ASSESSED THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE PANDEMIC IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN OTHER MESSAGES, WE LOOKED AT WHAT THE SAG, DONORS, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE DOING TO COMBAT THE DISEASE. OUR CONCLUSION WAS THAT WE, AND OTHERS, MUST DO MORE.

4. (SBU) MUCH OF WHAT THE MISSION DOES, OF COURSE, IS DONE BY INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES, NOTABLY USAID AND THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL. WHILE WE HAVE REVIEWED

THOSE PROGRAMS, WE LOOKED PARTICULARLY AT WHAT MORE THE MISSION MIGHT DO COLLECTIVELY. THE RESULT OF OUR REVIEW IS THIS CABLE. CONSISTENT WITH OUR GOALS IN THE MISSION PERFORMANCE PLAN, OUR RECOMMENDATIONS, HIGHLIGHTED BELOW, ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE AREAS: (A) MISSION PROGRAMS (B) MISSION EDUCATION EFFORTS, AND (C) COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS. WE SHOULD STRESS THAT THESE ARE PROPOSALS THAT, BY AND LARGE, DO NOT REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT NEW RESOURCES FROM WASHINGTON AND CAN BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY. IN FUTURE MESSAGES, AND PARTICULARLY VIA INDIVIDUAL AGENCY REQUESTS, WE WILL ASK FOR NEW RESOURCES TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER OUR ABILITY TO COMBAT THIS THREAT.

MISSION PROGRAMS: CHANGING ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS

5. (SBU) IN OUR VIEW, THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN SOUTH AFRICA CALLS FOR DECISIVE AND SUSTAINED US ENGAGEMENT. IN ADDITION TO OUR CURRENT ACTIVITIES, WE INTEND TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 PRETORIA 006584

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AF/S FOR A. RENDER
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L FOR D. BOUCKER
WHITE HOUSE ONAP FOR DIRECTOR S. THURMAN

E.O. 12948: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, SOCI, AMGT, APER, SF
SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA: HOW CAN WE RESPOND?

ENHANCE US MISSION INVOLVEMENT AND EFFECTIVENESS:

-- WORK WITH THE SAG TO ENCOURAGE UNDERSTANDING OF THE THREAT OF HIV/AIDS AND TO IMPROVE/EXPAND PROGRAMS TO COMBAT IT. ONE STEP THE MISSION WILL TAKE WILL BE TO BRING IN APPROPRIATE EXPERTS ON THE ISSUE TO ENSURE THE SAG HAS FULL AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ON KEY ISSUES.

-- REVIEW AND EXPAND THE HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES OF USAID, HHS, CDC AND OTHER USG AGENCIES WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS), COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, UNIVERSITIES, UNIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. WHILE US AGENCIES WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE SAG, WE WILL ALSO SHIFT RESOURCES AS WE SEEK TO ENHANCE OUR PROGRAM'S EFFECTIVENESS.

-- ENCOURAGE ALL MISSION AGENCIES AND SECTIONS TO DISCUSS HIV/AIDS WITH THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT COUNTERPARTS. IN SOME CASES, THE AGENCIES/SECTIONS MAY BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO ASSIST THEIR INTERLOCUTORS IN ADDRESSING THE PANDEMIC. FOR EXAMPLE, THE DAO MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY TO INCORPORATE HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND EDUCATION MESSAGES INTO IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND OTHER MILITARY PROGRAMS.

-- EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING AS AN EVALUATION CRITERION FOR NEW EMBASSY CONTRACTS WHETHER A

COMPANY HAS AN HIV/AIDS WORKPLACE POLICY.

-- CONTINUE TO ENGAGE OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE SADC REGION IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS USING OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS THE US/SADC FORUM AS A VEHICLE FOR HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE.

-- EXPAND THE USE OF THE SELF-HELP FUND TO EMPHASIZE AND PROMOTE COMMUNITY-BASED HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES.

-- DEVELOP A SYSTEMATIC PROGRAM TO PLACE CONDOMS AND HIV/AIDS LITERATURE IN CONSULAR AND OTHER MISSION WAITING ROOMS.

-- ORGANIZE AND SANCTION VOLUNTEER DAYS WHERE MISSION MEMBERS CAN TAKE OFFICE TIME TO WORK WITH HIV/AIDS ORGANIZATIONS.

-- REQUIRE US OFFICERS AND OTHER KEY STAFF, WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO HAVE A WORK OBJECTIVE RELATING TO THE PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS.

-- SEEKS WAYS TO RAISE THE PUBLIC PROFILE OF THE MISSION ON HIV/AIDS. SMALL STEPS MIGHT INCLUDE PLACING THE AIDS RIBBON SYMBOL ON ALL MISSION CORRESPONDENCE AND ENCOURAGING STAFF TO WEAR THE AIDS RIBBON.

-- UPDATE THE EMBASSY'S WEBSITE TO REFLECT USG HIV/AIDS INITIATIVES.

MISSION EDUCATION EFFORTS: "BREAK THE SILENCE"

6. (SBU) TO BE EFFECTIVE IN OUR EFFORTS TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS, WE MUST "BREAK THE SILENCE." TO DO SO, WE WILL UNDERTAKE A BROAD-BASED INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN. HERE'S HOW.

REACHING SOUTH AFRICANS

-- EXPAND OUR CURRENT PRACTICE OF INCORPORATING HIV/AIDS INTO PUBLIC SPEECHES BY (A) HOSTING EVENTS WHERE US AND LOCAL CELEBRITIES INFECTED OR AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS SPEAK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES AND (B) INCLUDE UNIVERSITY-BASED HIV/AIDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS INTO ALL US-GOVERNMENT SPONSORED TRAINING PROGRAMS.

-- ARRANGE FOR VISITORS/PARTICIPANTS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO RECEIVE AN HIV/AIDS BRIEFING THAT ADDRESSES THE PERSONAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE DISEASE.

-- USE THE MEDIA'S INTEREST IN THE AMBASSADOR TO FOCUS UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 PRETORIA 006584

SENSITIVE

AF FOR A/S RICE, DAS SCHNEIDMAN
AF/S FOR A. RENDER
OES FOR N. CARTER-FOSTER
IO/T FOR A. BLACKWOOD
I FOR D. BOLICKER

WHITE HOUSE ONAP FOR DIRECTOR S. THURMAN

E.O. 12948: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, SOCI, AMGT, APER, SF

SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA: HOW CAN WE RESPOND?

ATTENTION ON HIV/AIDS BY HAVING HIM MENTION THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE AT ALL POSSIBLE PUBLIC EVENTS.

-- SEEK OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS HIV/AIDS WITH THE MEDIA, E.G., IN PRESS INTERVIEWS AND THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA.

-- EXPAND DISTRIBUTION OF "MEGA TALKERS" ON HIV/AIDS AND ENCOURAGE ALL EMBASSY STAFF TO USE THEM AT MEETINGS, SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS OR IN SPEECHES.

-- INCLUDE HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES ON THE AGENDAS OF VISITING CODELS, STAFFDELS AND US CABINET OFFICIALS.

-- PREPARE AND DELIVER APPROPRIATELY BALANCED BRIEFINGS AND INFORMATION TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS, INCLUDING RISK ASSESSMENTS.

-- INCLUDE A POINT ON HIV/AIDS IN ALL APPROPRIATE DEMARCHES AND OTHER CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

-- DISSEMINATE, WHEN COMPLETED, THE RESULTS OF THE HIV/AIDS MACROECONOMIC, SECTOR IMPACT STUDIES AND TRAINING MATERIALS TO SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS AND OPINION MAKERS IN A USER-FRIENDLY FORMAT.

-- ENCOURAGE FSN PERSONNEL TO SPEAK AND/OR EDUCATE THEIR COMMUNITIES OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT HIV/AIDS. WHEN APPROPRIATE, SEND AMERICAN PERSONNEL TO ASSIST IN DELIVERING THE MESSAGE.

REACHING MISSION EMPLOYEES

-- EXPAND SIGNIFICANTLY OUR CURRENT HIV/AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR ALL PERSONNEL. ENSURE THE EDUCATION CONTINUES ACROSS TIME AND INCLUDES VISITS TO FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS WHERE HIV/AIDS IS A MAJOR FOCUS. WE WILL BEGIN WITH A MAJOR HIV/AIDS PRESENTATION FOR ALL MISSION EMPLOYEES IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER.

-- ENCOURAGE VOLUNTARY HIV TESTING OF ALL EMPLOYEES, WITH APPROPRIATE COUNSELING.

-- INVOLVE THE EMBASSY HEALTH UNIT, STAFFED BY TWO PHYSICIANS AND A PSYCHIATRIST, IN AN EXPANDED EDUCATION EFFORT FOR EMPLOYEES, BOTH AMERICAN AND FSN, FROM THE DAY THEY ARRIVE AT THE CHANCERY.

-- PROVIDE THE MISSION COMMUNITY WITH UPDATES ON DEVELOPMENTS IN HIV/AIDS RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES IN PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE.

COORDINATION WITH PARTNERS: EXTENDING THE REACH

7. (SBU) WE MUST WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, UNIONS AND OTHERS TO BE EFFECTIVE IN COMBATING HIV/AIDS. HERE'S HOW WE WILL DO IT.

-- SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE THE SAG, POLITICAL PARTIES, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO MAKE HIV/AIDS PART OF OTHER PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN A NONPARTISAN WAY, WE MIGHT ENCOURAGE SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PARTIES TO USE THE UPCOMING LOCAL ELECTIONS TO CAMPAIGN COLLECTIVELY TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE PANDEMIC.

-- WORK TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DONOR COORDINATION GROUP ON HIV/AIDS THAT INCLUDES ALL MAJOR DONORS (NOTABLY THE EUROPEAN UNION) AND OPERATES UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF UNAIDS. IN ADDITION, ENCOURAGE THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO COORDINATE DONOR ASSISTANCE MORE EFFECTIVELY TO ENSURE INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ARE COMPLEMENTARY.

-- SEEK TO MOTIVATE OTHER AMBASSADORS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BY HOSTING (OR CO-HOSTING) SOCIAL AND BUSINESS EVENTS TO TARGET HIV/AIDS.

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 PRETORIA 006584

SENSITIVE

AF FOR A/S RICE, DAS SCHNEIDMAN
AF/S FOR A. RENDER
OES FOR N. CARTER-FOSTER
IO/T FOR A. BLACKWOOD
L FOR D. BOUCKER
WHITE HOUSE ONAP FOR DIRECTOR S. THURMAN

E.O. 12948: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, SOCI, AMGT, APER, SF

SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA: HOW CAN WE RESPOND?

-- HOST SOCIAL/WORKING EVENTS FOR LEADERS IN BUSINESS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SADC REGION.

-- WORK WITH OTHER DONORS TO ESTABLISH A MEDIA AWARD FOR HIV/AIDS REPORTING TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINED MEDIA COVERAGE.

-- WORK WITH THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (AMCHAM) TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT ON HIV/AIDS ISSUES AND TO DEVELOP "BEST PRACTICES" PROGRAMS AND GUIDELINES FOR ITS MEMBERS. ENCOURAGE THE AMCHAM TO CONTINUE TO WORK, AS WELL, WITH OTHER BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA TO "SPREAD THE WORD." WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE MISSION WILL ALSO WORK DIRECTLY WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

-- DEMONSTRATE TO COMPANIES THAT HIV/AIDS HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON BOTTOM LINE PROFITS, IN PART BY USING ANALYSIS TO SHOW THE COST OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS VERSUS THE COST OF INACTION WITH RESPECT TO HIV/AIDS IN THE WORKPLACE.

-- SERVE AS A CATALYST TO ESTABLISH LINKS BETWEEN COMPANIES THAT ARE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING HIV/AIDS

WORKPLACE PROGRAMS AND THE NGOS WITH EXPERTISE TO ASSIST THEM.

NEXT STEPS AND AN ACTION REQUEST

8. (SBU) WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN ONLY ASSIST SOUTH AFRICA IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS. SOUTH AFRICANS THEMSELVES MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS WAR. WE VIEW THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED ABOVE AS A WORK IN PROGRESS. WE HAVE BEGUN IMPLEMENTING MANY OF THEM AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE COMING MONTHS. AS WE DISCOVER WHAT WORKS, AND WHAT DOESN'T, WE WILL MODIFY OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE WE ARE MAKING THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF US GOVERNMENT RESOURCES.

9. (SBU) WE STRESS, FURTHER, THAT IN THE COMING MONTHS INDIVIDUAL MISSION AGENCIES WILL DEVELOP AND EXPAND THEIR OWN PROGRAMS AND PLANS. THE WORK OF THE HIV/AIDS STRATEGIC FOCUS GROUP IS INTENDED TO COMPLEMENT THE WORK OF INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES, NOT REPLACE IT. TO ENSURE WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE COMPLETE AND CURRENT INFORMATION ON THE CRISIS AND OUR EFFORTS TO COMBAT IT, WE PLAN TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND OUR REPORTING.

10. (SBU) WE UNDERScore, AGAIN, THAT THIS MISSION IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN OUR VIEW, HIV/AIDS MAY BE THE SINGLE GREATEST THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICAN PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMING DECADES. WE ARE DETERMINED TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO ASSIST IN STOPPING THE SPREAD OF THIS LARGELY PREVENTABLE DISEASE.

11. (SBU) IN THAT LIGHT, WE HAVE ONE IMPORTANT REQUEST. THE DEPARTMENT COULD ASSIST US BY APPROVING OUR HIV/AIDS IN THE WORKPLACE POLICY (REF E). WE SENT THIS POLICY TO WASHINGTON FOR APPROVAL IN DECEMBER 1999. WE HAVE INQUIRED, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, ABOUT THE PROGRESS ON IT. WE UNDERSTAND THE POLICY IS UNDER REVIEW. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THERE ARE COMPLICATED LEGAL AND MEDICAL RAMIFICATIONS TO THE POLICY, HIV/AIDS IS, AS PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS DECLARED, A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY. WE NEED THIS POLICY APPROVED. WE NEED IT DONE NOW. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL.

LEWIS

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
009. cable	Re: [Ethiopia] (3 pages)	08/21/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Health Affairs
OA/Box Number: 3456

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

2007-1550-F
ke2030

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Keenan, Josefine (Chris) (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2000 9:11 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Harris, Grant T. (AF); Smith, Gayle E. (AF)
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONVENES FIRST HIV/AIDS DONOR COORDINATION MEETING

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4978
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 261258Z SEP 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC HARRISG SMITH
PRT: thurman
Identifier: M4646010
InfoAddres: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
Line1: PAAUZYUW RUEHSAA7518 2701258-UUUU--RHEHNSC RHEHAAA.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: P 261258Z SEP 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
Originator: AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
Precedence: PRIORITY
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
HARRISG
SMITHG
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHSA
StationSerialNumber: 7518
TimeOfReceipt: 09/26/2000 09:10:38 ET

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PRETORIA 007518

SENSITIVE

USAID FOR AFR/AA/AIDW VIVIAN DERRYCK
AF FOR A/S RICE, DAS SCHNEIDMAN
AF/S FOR A. RENDER
OES FOR N. CARTER-FOSTER
IO/T FOR A. BLACKWOOD
WHITE HOUSE ONAP FOR DIRECTOR S. THURMAN

E.O. 12948: N/A
TAGS: KHIV, EAID, TBIO, SOCI, SF
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONVENES FIRST HIV/AIDS
DONOR COORDINATION MEETING

REF: A) PRETORIA 7304 B) CAPETOWN 1553
C) CAPETOWN 1580

(U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT
ACCORDINGLY.

SUMMARY

1. (SBU) THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) HAS TAKEN AN IMPORTANT STEP IN ITS BATTLE AGAINST THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC BY CONVENING A FIRST-EVER MEETING OF DONORS TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES. AS DECIDED IN THE SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL CHAIR THE MEETINGS AND UNAIDS WILL HELP MANAGE THE COORDINATION OF THE HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS OF RESPECTIVE DONOR AGENCIES. ALTHOUGH THE FIRST MEETING FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON WORK TO BE DONE IN THE FUTURE, THE FACT THAT IT TOOK PLACE AT ALL WAS AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) WHILE TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT MBEKI AND HEALTH MINISTER TSHABALALA-MSIMANG, OFFER AMBIGUOUS VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER HIV CAUSES AIDS (SEE REFS), THE DOH HAS CONVENED A FIRST-EVER DONOR COORDINATION MEETING FOCUSED ON HIV/AIDS. IN THE SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING CHAIRED BY DOH, REPRESENTATIVES OF DONOR AGENCIES DISCUSSED ESTABLISHING AN HIV/AIDS "THEME GROUP FOR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DONORS". ALL OF THE KEY DONOR AGENCIES WERE IN ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING USAID, THE WORLD BANK, THE EU, DFID AND HHS/CDC. IN ADDITION TO THE DOH, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED BY OFFICIALS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF WELFARE, EDUCATION AND FINANCE.

3. (SBU) DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DOH'S HIV/AIDS AND STD PROGRAM CELICIA SERENATA OPENED THE MEETING BY EXPLAINING THAT THE URGENCY OF THE HIV/AIDS PICTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARGUED FOR A MORE FORMAL ARRANGEMENT FOR COORDINATING THE PROGRAMS FUNDED BY VARIOUS DONOR AGENCIES. BUILDING ON THE COOPERATION THAT BEGAN WITH THE PARTNERSHIP AGAINST AIDS, THE DOH HOPED SUCH A FORUM WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

- SHARE INFORMATION REGARDING THE EPIDEMIC;
- DEVELOP A COORDINATED AND NON-DUPLICATIVE RESPONSE;
- SCALE UP NATIONAL RESPONSES;
- IMPROVE COMMUNICATION TO ENSURE THE COUNTRY CAN BENEFIT FROM INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES AND INVESTMENTS;
- STRENGTHEN TECHNICAL SUPPORT IN TERMS OF ADVOCACY, TRAINING, POLICY ANALYSIS, RESEARCH, PROCESS MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT; AND
- ADDRESS CROSS-BORDER ISSUES.

4. (SBU) AS AGREED IN THE MEETING, THE DOH WILL CONTINUE TO CONVENE THE MEETINGS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UNAIDS. DR. NONO SIMELELA, CHIEF DIRECTOR OF THE DOH'S HIV/AIDS AND STD PROGRAM, WILL ACT AS THE DOH POINT OF CONTACT. UNAIDS NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICER IVAN LLOYD SUGGESTED THAT AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP WOULD BE TO SPELL OUT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DONOR FORUM'S SUPPORT OF THE PRIORITIES OUTLINED BY THE DOH. HE PROPOSED THAT THE GROUP MEET PERIODICALLY TO SHARE INFORMATION, DO ANALYSIS, IDENTIFY AREAS FOR INTERVENTION, AND DISCUSS STRATEGIES FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND NGOS. AS THE COORDINATING AGENCY, LLOYD AGREED THAT UNAIDS WOULD COMPILE A LIST OF

THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF DONOR AGENCIES. HE SUGGESTED ANOTHER MEETING WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH TO FINALIZE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE.

5. (SBU) ALTHOUGH SOUTH AFRICA HAS HAD A LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH DONOR AGENCIES, DR. SIMELELA OF THE DOH COMMENTED THAT DONOR SUPPORT HAS HERETOFORE BEEN ON UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PRETORIA 007518

SENSITIVE

USAID FOR AFR/AA/AIDW VIVIAN DERRYCK
AF FOR A/S RICE, DAS SCHNEIDMAN
AF/S FOR A. RENDER
OES FOR N. CARTER-FOSTER
IO/T FOR A. BLACKWOOD
WHITE HOUSE ONAP FOR DIRECTOR S. THURMAN

E.O. 12948: N/A
TAGS: KHIV, EAID, TBIO, SOCI, SF
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONVENES FIRST HIV/AIDS DONOR COORDINATION MEETING

AN AD HOC BASIS. SIMELELA SAID SHE INTENDED TO HOLD "SECTORAL SUMMITS" AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL AND CONCENTRATE ON A BOTTOM-UP APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING WHERE DONOR ASSISTANCE CAN BE BEST UTILIZED. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION FROM THE EU REPRESENTATIVE ON WHAT SHE CONSIDERED HER MOST PRESSING FUNDING GAPS, SIMELELA ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN THREE AREAS: CONDOMS, TRAINING OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING.

6. (SBU) COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE INITIAL MEETING'S OUTCOME MAY HAVE BEEN SHORT ON SUBSTANCE, THE FACT THAT IT TOOK PLACE WAS ITSELF QUITE SIGNIFICANT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE NATION'S TOP LEADERSHIP IS PROVIDING SO LITTLE DIRECTION ON THE HIV/AIDS FRONT. WE NOTE THAT THE U.S. MISSION HAS BEEN WORKING IN RECENT MONTHS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL DONORS TO STRENGTHEN THE COORDINATION PROCESS. THIS MEETING WAS, IN PART, AN OUTGROWTH OF OUR EFFORTS. THAT THE DOH, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UNAIDS, IS MOVING AHEAD TO ESTABLISH A MUCH-NEEDED DONOR COORDINATION PROCESS SHOWS A COMMITMENT THAT WE WELCOME.
BLANEY

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
010. cable	Re: [Discussion] (5 pages)	10/12/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Health Affairs
OA/Box Number: 3456

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

2007-1550-F
kc2030

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
011. cable	Re: [Apartheid] (2 pages)	10/12/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Health Affairs
OA/Box Number: 3456

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

2007-1550-F
ke2030

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Keenan, Josefine (Chris) (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2000 12:11 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Banbury, Anthony "Tony" N. (MULTI); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Harris, Grant T. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Shea, Dorothy C. (MULTILAT); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Smith, Peter D. R. (MULTI); Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Subject: HIV/AIDS: PRESIDENT MOGAE INTENSIFIES HIS PUBLIC ACTIVISM

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5844
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 220555Z NOV 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY BYRNE NSC HARRISG MCLEAN NAPLAN PATTEN SCHWARTZ
SHEA SMITH SMITHP WILCOX
Identifier: M4743436
InfoAddrees: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
Line1: RAAUZYUW RUEHORA5213 3270555-UUUU--RHEHNSC.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: R 220555Z NOV 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
Originator: AMEMBASSY GABORONE
Precedence: ROUTINE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BANBURYA
BYRNEC
CABLES
HARRISG
MCLEANM
NAPLAN
PATTENW
SCHWARTE
SHEAD
SMITHG
SMITHP
WILCOXR
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHOR
StationSerialNumber: 5213
TimeOfReceipt: 11/22/2000 01:10:00 ET

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 GABORONE 005213

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR OES/EID AND AF/S

STATE PASS USAID - AFR/SA

STATE ALSO PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP

NSC FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AFFAIRS

PRETORIA FOR USAID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KHIV, TBIO, SOCI, EAID, PGOV, PREL, BC

SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS: PRESIDENT MOGAE INTENSIFIES HIS PUBLIC
ACTIVISM

1. (U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT FOR INTERNET DISTRIBUTION - PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY: DURING RECENT WEEKS, PRESIDENT MOGAE HAS INTENSIFIED HIS PERSONAL LEADERSHIP AND EFFORTS ON HIV/AIDS. IN HIS ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT'S OPENING SESSION ON NOVEMBER 6, HE WARNED LAWMAKERS THAT BOTSWANA "STAND(S) AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE THREAT OF ANNIHILATION..." FROM THE PANDEMIC INFECTING 35.8 PERCENT OF ADULTS (UNAIDS FIGURES), AND URGED THEM TO STAY FOCUSED ON THE "FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS (WHICH) IS A MISSION TO STAY ALIVE." AT THE OCTOBER 29 PUBLIC CEREMONY TO LAUNCH A NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING AGENCY INITIATIVE, THE PRESIDENT DECLARED "WAR" ON HIV/AIDS -- A CALL WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN UP BY THE MEDIA -- AND HE HAS ALSO RAISED THE PROFILE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC AT OTHER RECENT OPPORTUNITIES. THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINED PERSONAL CAMPAIGN ON HIV/AIDS IS AN ENCOURAGING ELEMENT OF THE GOB'S OVERALL CROSS-SECTOR HIV/AIDS STRATEGY. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, IF HIS COMMITTED PUBLIC ADVOCACY (AND THAT OF HIS MINISTERS) WILL TRANSLATE INTO CHANGING PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR. END COMMENT.

MOGAE WARNS OF BOTSWANA'S POSSIBLE "ANNIHILATION"

3. (SBU) IN RECENT WEEKS, PRESIDENT FESTUS MOGAE HAS INTENSIFIED HIS -- AND HIS MINISTERS' -- PERSONAL LEADERSHIP ON HIV/AIDS. THIS WAS MOST RECENTLY AND DRAMATICALLY DEMONSTRATED IN HIS ADDRESS OPENING THE SECOND SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, WHEN HE SPOKE TO MP'S OF THE CHALLENGES FACING BOTSWANA IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM. THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE DISCUSSED WAS HIV/AIDS. IN A STATEMENT THAT HAS RECEIVED MUCH MEDIA ATTENTION, HE WARNED THE LAWMAKERS "WE STAND AT THE CROSSROADS OF A THREAT OF ANNIHILATION OF OUR NATION."

4. (U) RESPONDING TO A VIEW HELD BY SOME THAT HIS AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S INCREASINGLY VOCAL ACTIVISM ON HIV/AIDS MAY BE INDUCING "LISTENING FATIGUE" ON THE PART OF BATSWANA, THE PRESIDENT CHIDED THOSE WHO "ARE IN DENIAL OR ARE DETERRED BY (HIV/AIDS) STIGMA" FROM ACTING. "OUR PEOPLE MUST ACCEPT THAT WE HAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF TERMINALLY ILL AIDS PATIENTS... THAT PROBABLY HALF, IF NOT MORE, OF TODAY'S NATURAL DEATHS ARE CAUSED BY AIDS." HE URGED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO REMAINED FOCUSED ON THE ISSUE - WHICH DEMANDS GOVERNMENT ATTENTION AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING PULA 40 MILLION (APPROXIMATELY USD 8 MILLION) TO CARE FOR THE ALMOST 30,000 HIV/AIDS ORPHANS IN THE COUNTRY. "WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS IS A MISSION TO STAY ALIVE."

MOGAE LAUNCHES NACA INITIATIVE AND "WAR" ON HIV/AIDS

5. (U) IN ANOTHER RECENT HIGH PROFILE OPPORTUNITY, THE PRESIDENT USED HIS BULLY PULPIT TO GALVANIZE NATIONAL ACTION ON HIV/AIDS. AT THE OCTOBER 29 PUBLIC LAUNCHING EVENT FOR THE NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING AGENCY'S (NACA) "INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION" YOUTH-FOCUSED CAMPAIGN, THE PRESIDENT WARNED THAT THE SPREAD OF

HIV/AIDS WAS EFFECTIVELY REVERSING THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT GAINS MADE BY BOTSWANA SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1966. TRAGEDY, HE SAID, IS BECOMING A WAY OF LIFE, A SITUATION WHICH WILL WORSEN AS THE "200 THOUSAND INFECTED WITH HIV" BEGIN TO DEVELOP AIDS AND DIE. (NOTE: IN 1999 THE GOVERNMENT ESTIMATED 290 THOUSAND OF BOTSWANA'S 1.6 MILLION WERE INFECTED WITH THE VIRUS.) HE DECLARED "WAR" ON HIV/AIDS AND URGED ALL BATSWANA TO "STAND UP AND BE COUNTED AMONG THE NATION'S SOLDIERS" IN THIS WAR SPEARHEADED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND NACA.

PRESIDENT BROACHES SENSITIVE ISSUES RELATED TO HIV

6. (U) THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT BEEN SHY IN PROMOTING OPEN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 GABORONE 005213

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR OES/EID AND AF/S

STATE PASS USAID - AFR/SA

STATE ALSO PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP

NSC FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AFFAIRS

PRETORIA FOR USAID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KHIV, TBIO, SOCI, EAID, PGOV, PREL, BC

SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS: PRESIDENT MOGAE INTENSIFIES HIS PUBLIC ACTIVISM

DISCUSSION OF EVEN THE MOST SENSITIVE HIV/AIDS-RELATED ISSUES. A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER THE NACA EVENT (DESCRIBED ABOVE), MOGAE GAVE THE OPENING ADDRESS AT THE LAUNCH OF A LOCAL NGO CAMPAIGN "STOP THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN CAMPAIGN." COMPLIMENTING THE NGO FOR ITS INITIATIVE IN ITS PROACTIVE STANCE ON THIS TROUBLING ISSUE, HE NOTED THAT "WE CANNOT DISCUSS THE ABUSE (OF CHILDREN) TOPIC WITHOUT DISCUSSING HIV/AIDS, AS EVIDENCED BY THE HIGH PREVALENCE OF TEEN PREGNANCIES AND THE PREVALENCE OF HIV/AIDS IN CHILDREN. (UNAIDS ESTIMATES THAT UP TO 36 PERCENT OF FEMALES AND 18 PERCENT OF MALES BETWEEN 15-24 YEARS OLD ARE HIV-POSITIVE.) "THE TIME TO CHANGE (THE PRACTICE OF ADULTS APPROACHING YOUTHS FOR SEX) IS NOW - OR NEVER," HE UNDERScoreD.

7. (U) IN OTHER FORA, THE PRESIDENT HAS DISCUSSED ISSUES SUCH AS CONDOM USE (AS ONE ELEMENT OF THE "A-B-C'S" OF AIDS - ABSTINENCE, BEING FAITHFUL TO ONE'S PARTNER, AND CONDOM USE.) HE PUBLICLY SCOLDED NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR PERCEIVED UNWILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT A UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA CONDOM DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (ALTHOUGH THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CLAIMS TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE). BEHAVIORAL CHANGE HAS BEEN ANOTHER FREQUENT TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. AT THE NACA CEREMONY, HE URGED "EVERY YOUTH, MAN, WOMAN, PARENT OR WORKER (TO) COMMIT THEMSELVES TO BEHAVIORAL CHANGE, BY ACKNOWLEDGING NOT ONLY SAFE SEX METHODS, BUT ALSO THE NEED TO PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE."

PRESIDENT AT HARVARD/AIDS SUMMIT AND OTHER SESSIONS

8. (U) MOGAE VISITED THE U.S. NOVEMBER 12 - 14, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "AFRICA NOW: LEADERSHIP SUMMIT TO DEFINE AFRICAN PRIORITIES FOR AIDS IN AFRICA," IN CAMBRIDGE, MA. IN A PRESS EVENT FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE, HE URGED OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE EVENT TO "PUT OUR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER" INCLUDING ASSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE, AND ASSURING APPROPRIATE BUDGETS FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION - TWO KEY SECTORS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS. MOGAE'S ALSO CHASTISED THE U.S. AND OTHER G7 NATIONS ON AFRICA'S BEHALF FOR "MAKING 'SYMPATHETIC NOISES' BUT DOING LITTLE" AS THE CONTINENT SUFFERS THE ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS. MOGAE DID, HOWEVER, RECOGNIZE THE RECENT ENGAGEMENT BY PRESIDENT CLINTON ON THE ISSUE.

9. (U) FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE U.S., THE PRESIDENT OPENED THE "AIDS IN THE WORKPLACE" CONFERENCE IN GABORONE. IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS, THE PRESIDENT URGED CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS -- REPRESENTING BOTSWANA'S MOST IMPORTANT EMPLOYERS -- TO TAKE THE LEAD IN OFFERING COMPASSIONATE TREATMENT TO THOSE INFECTED WITH HIV/AIDS, AND TO SERVE AS ROLE MODELS IN REDUCING THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISEASE HERE. "YOUR LEADERSHIP WILL BE NEEDED TO GUIDE EMPLOYEES. ASSURE THEM THEY CANNOT CATCH AIDS BY WORKING ALONG SIDE INFECTED COLLEAGUES."

IN BOTSWANA: CAPACITY PROBLEMS

10. (SBU) THE COUNTRY ENJOYS THE LUXURY OF CONSIDERABLE NATIONAL RESOURCES, AS WELL AS BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR DONOR FUNDING FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, WITH THE GATES FOUNDATION, AND MERCK AND BRISTOL-MEYERS PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES, ALL PLEDGING GENEROUS SUPPORT. THERE ARE CONCERNS, HOWEVER, THAT BOTSWANA MAY LACK THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO USE EFFECTIVELY ALL THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT ITS ANTI-HIV/AIDS CAMPAIGN. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECENTLY COMPLAINED TO THE LOBATSE TOWN COUNCIL THAT ONLY PULA 2000 OF THE P340,000 AVAILABLE TO THE TOWN FOR HOME-BASED-CARE ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN SPENT. ON A LARGER SCALE, ONLY A FRACTION OF THE PULA 23 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S COMMUNITY-FOCUSED "MOTHER-TO-CHILD-TRANSMISSION" PROGRAM HAS BEEN SPENT, EVEN AS THE FISCAL YEAR HERE DRAWS TO A CLOSE. BUT THE INFORMATION ON HOW TO AVOID INFECTION, AT LEAST, IS READILY AVAILABLE
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 GABORONE 005213

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR OES/EID AND AF/S

STATE PASS USAID - AFR/SA

STATE ALSO PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP

NSC FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AFFAIRS

PRETORIA FOR USAID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KHIV, TBIO, SOCI, EAID, PGOV, PREL, BC

SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS: PRESIDENT MOGAE INTENSIFIES HIS PUBLIC
ACTIVISM

(ESPECIALLY IN URBAN AREAS) THANKS TO THE WORK OF THE
GOB/MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AS WELL AS CDC AND OTHER FOREIGN
PARTNERS. (NOTE: CDC IS THE LEAD USG AGENCY ON HIV/AIDS
IN BOTSWANA AND HAS DRAMATICALLY INCREASED THE SIZE OF
ITS PROGRAM OVER THE LAST YEAR. END NOTE.

COMMENT

11. (SBU) DESPITE THE PRESIDENT'S URGING THAT THE G-7 DO
MORE, MONEY IS NOT THE PRIMARY CONCERN HERE -
IMPLEMENTATION IS. MOGAE IS CLEARLY ASSUMING A GROWING
ROLE NOT ONLY AS A NATIONAL, BUT ALSO ASA REGIONAL
LEADER ON HIV/AIDS. HIS INTENSIFIED PERSONAL CAMPAIGN ON
HIV/AIDS IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE GOB'S OVERALL
CROSS-SECTOR HIV/AIDS STRATEGY. HIS VOICE AND ADVOCACY
GUARANTEES MEDIA AND PUBLIC ATTENTION AND MAY YET HELP TO
SHAPE THE BOTSWANA NATIONAL RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS. IT
REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, IF HIS LEADERSHIP AND
ADVOCACY (AND THAT OF HIS MINISTERS WHO HAVE FOLLOWED HIS
EXAMPLE) WILL HELP CHANGE INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR INCREASE
PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN
BOTSWANA.

LANGE

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 5:32 PM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Banbury, Anthony "Tony" N. (MULTI); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Bruns, Judson L. (Jay) (INTECON); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Duncan, John D. (INTECON); Efros, Laura L. (NEC); Harris, Grant T. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Samans, Richard (INTECON); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Shea, Dorothy C. (MULTILAT); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Smith, Peter D. R. (MULTI); Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Subject: MALAWI REACHING OUT TO PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES FOR HIV ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUGS

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4795
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 281452Z NOV 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY BERNARD BRUNS BYRNE NSC DUNCAN EFROS HARRISG MCLEAN
NAPLAN PATTEN SAMANS SCHWARTZ SHEA SMITH SMITHP WILCOX
PRT: USTR{P\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06}
Identifier: M4752198
InfoAddres: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
Line1: RAAUZYUW RUEHLGA5231 3331452-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: R 281452Z NOV 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
Originator: AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
Precedence: ROUTINE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BANBURYA
BERNARDK
BRUNSJ
BYRNEC
CABLES
DUNCANJ
EFROSL
HARRISG
MCLEANM
NAPLAN
PATTENW
SAMANSR
SCHWARTE
SHEAD
SMITHG
SMITHP
WILCOXR
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHLG
StationSerialNumber: 5231
TimeOfReceipt: 11/28/2000 18:32:03 ET

UNCLAS LILONGWE 005231

SENSITIVE

WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR S.THURMAN

USDOL FOR ILAB/M.DESHAZER, C.HELM

NSC FOR GAYLE SMITH

LONDON FOR CGURNEY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KHIV, TBIO, SOCI, ECON, EAID, PREL, MI
SUBJECT: MALAWI REACHING OUT TO PHARMACEUTICAL
COMPANIES FOR HIV ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUGS

REF: LILONGWE 2662 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON NOVEMBER 23, MALAWI VICE PRESIDENT JUSTIN MALEWEZI GAVE A STATUS REPORT ON THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI TO OBTAIN ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUG (ARV) REGIMENS TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS. HE SAID THAT THIS INITIATIVE GREW OUT OF DISCUSSIONS HE AND OTHERS HAD AT THE JULY AIDS CONFERENCE IN DURBAN. (FYI - MALEWEZI IS CHAIR OF THE MALAWIAN CABINET COMMITTEE ON AIDS. END FYI) IN HIS OPENING REMARKS AT AN OCTOBER 23-24 MEETING OF EXPERTS TO STUDY THE VIABILITY OF OBTAINING AND USING ARV'S IN MALAWI, MALEWEZI WELCOMED THE PARTICIPATION OF BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM, BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB, GLAXO WELLCOME, MERCK AND CO., INC. AND F. HOFFMAN LA ROCHE IN A UN PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE PRICE OF DRUGS USED TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS AND ITS OPPORTUNISTIC DISEASES.
2. (SBU) MINDFUL OF THE COMPLICATIONS AND DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH ADMINISTERING ARV'S, MALEWEZI NEVERTHELESS BELIEVES THE GOM SHOULD ADOPT A PROGRAM TO ARREST MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION AND REDUCE THE VIRAL LOADS IN HIV POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS. THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE SOUGHT ADVICE FROM EXPERTS AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, WHO CONFIRMED THAT THE NEWEST GENERATION OF ARV'S IS LESS PRONE TO PRODUCING RESISTANT STRAINS OF THE VIRUS. HE RECOGNIZED THAT SUSTAINABILITY OF ARV TREATMENT IS A KEY TO PROTECTING THE PATIENT AS WELL AS THE NATION FROM MORE VIRULENT STRAINS.
3. (U) MALEWEZI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GETTING PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR IS STILL THE KEY TO SLOWING THE PANDEMIC. HE SAID THAT THE GOM HAS "MAINSTREAMED" HIV/AIDS INTO ALL OF THE MINISTRIES AND THAT HE HAS ASKED ALL POLITICIANS AND THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS AIDS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. THE GOM HAS DISTRIBUTED FACT SHEETS TO ENSURE EVERY SPEAKER PROVIDES ACCURATE INFORMATION. MALEWEZI SAID THAT THE GOM IS REACHING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN MALAWI, URGING THEM TO ADDRESS THOSE ASPECTS OF THE DISEASE WITH WHICH THEY ARE THE MOST COMFORTABLE AND NOT TO CONDEMN OTHER APPROACHES, SUCH AS ADVOCATING THE USE OF CONDOMS. THE VICE PRESIDENT CONFIRMED THAT THE FOCUS OF THE GOM OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS WILL BE TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGIC PLAN, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED BY PRESIDENT MULUZI IN OCTOBER 1999.
4. (SBU) COMMENT: HAVING SUCCEEDED IN INCREASING THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF AND GALVANIZING SUPPORT TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS OVER THE LAST YEAR, THE GOM MUST NOW MOBILIZE THE CONSIDERABLE DONOR RESOURCES WHICH HAVE BEEN PLEDGED TO THIS EFFORT. MEANWHILE, THE IMPACT OF THE ILL AND DYING ON DAILY LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED -- EVEN MALEWEZI CARES FOR

SIX ORPHANS.
MEECE

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
012. cable	Re: [Ethiopia] (5 pages)	12/06/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Health Affairs
OA/Box Number: 3456

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

2007-1550-F
ke2030

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
013. cable	Re: [South Africa] (5 pages)	12/14/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Health Affairs
OA/Box Number: 3456

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [2]

2007-1550-F
kc2030

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 8:06 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Banbury, Anthony "Tony" N. (MULTI); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables, Laura L. (NEC); Harris, Grant T. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Shea, Dorothy C. (MULTILAT); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Smith, Peter D. R. (MULTI); Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: U.S.-EU COOPERATION ON HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND TUBERCULOSIS IN AFRICA
ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0475
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 091244Z NOV 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY BERNARD Blinken BYRNE NSC EFROS HARRISG MCLEAN NAPLAN PATTEN SCHWARTZ SHEA SMITH SMITHP WILCOX Yee
Identifier: M4724442
InfoAddres: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
Line1: PAAUZYUW RUEHDRA5414 3141244-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: P 091244Z NOV 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
Originator: AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
Precedence: PRIORITY
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BANBURYA
BERNARDK
BLINKENA
BYRNEC
CABLES
EFROSL
HARRISG
MCLEANM
NAPLAN
PATTENW
SCHWARTE
SHEAD
SMITHG
SMITHP
WILCOXR
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TimeOfReceipt: 11/09/2000 09:05:18 ET

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 005414

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL SOCI KHIV TBIO TZ
SUBJECT: U.S.-EU COOPERATION ON HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND TUBERCULOSIS IN AFRICA

REF: A) STATE 201421 B) STATE 152319

1. MISSION OFFICERS HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS

WITH THE FRENCH (EU PRESIDENT) AND WITH OTHER EU MEMBERS ABOUT INCREASED COOPERATION IN TANZANIA RELATED TO HIV/AIDS. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE WITH SOME OF HIS EU COLLEAGUES. THERE IS A

CONSENSUS THAT DONOR EFFORTS SHOULD BE FOCUSED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON ENCOURAGING THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A NATION-WIDE HIV/AIDS POLICY AND STRATEGY, AND THERE IS HOPE THAT THE GOT WILL GIVE THIS ISSUE A HIGHER PROFILE IN ITS NEXT TERM.

2. THE FRENCH EMBASSY IS INTERESTED IN CONTINUING TO EXPLORE WAYS TO INCREASE COOEPRATION BUT POINTS OUT THAT THE EU DOES NOT HAVE AN HIV/AIDS PROGRAM IN TANZANIA AND THAT ITS OWN PROGRAM IS VERY SMALL. COORDINATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES, THEREFORE, IS NOT REALLY AN ISSUE. COORDINATION IN TERMS OF FINDING CREATIVE WAYS TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS AND ENCOURAGE GREATER OPENNESS ABOUT AND DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE IN TANZANIA IS MORE CHALLENGING.

3. ONE OF THE AREAS THE EMBASSY WANTS TO FOCUS ON IS ENCOURAGING GREATER INVOLVEMENT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING INTERNALLY ON AN HIV/AIDS POLICY, BASED ON THE MODEL BY AF. ONCE OUR PLAN IS COMPLETED, WE PLAN TO SHARE IT WITH KEY PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS AND USE IT AS THE BASIS FOR STIMULATING DISCUSSION WITHIN THE TANZANIAN PRIVATE SECTOR ABOUT THE IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS AND RELATED ILLNESSES, AND WAYS IN WHICH A DIALOGUE IN TANZANIAN CAN BE EXPANDED. WE PLAN TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH OUT EU COLLEAGUES ON THIS ISSUE IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR BROADER COOPERATION.

NESBITT