

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [4]

Staff Office-Individual:

International Health Affairs

Original OA/ID Number:

3456

Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:	Stack:
38	6	9	1	V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Malawi] (3 pages)	01/06/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [4]

2007-1550-F

ke2032

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.

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2000 11:49 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO ON SENEGAL FOR UNSC

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1836
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0479

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 051644Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4231894
InfoAddres: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0175
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHDKA0066 0051644-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 051644Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
Originator: AMEMBASSY DAKAR
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHDK
StationSerialNumber: 0066
TimeOfReceipt: 01/05/2000 11:48:57 ET

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DAKAR 000066

DEPT FOR AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, SG
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO ON SENEGAL FOR UNSC

REF: STATE 1299

1. INFORMATION PROVIDED BELOW ON HIV/AIDS IN SENEGAL IS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN PARAS. 3 AND 4 OF REFTEL.

2. WORKERS AND HIV/AIDS: THE NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM HAS AN ETHICS AND LAW SUB-COMMITTEE BUT THERE IS NO SPECIFIC LAW TO PROTECT A PERSON AGAINST JOB DISCRIMINATION WHO TESTS POSITIVE FOR HIV. GENERAL LABOR LAW FORBIDS DISCRIMINATION FOR RELIGIOUS, SEX OR OTHER STATUS AND WOULD APPLY IN THE CASE OF HIV/AIDS. RECENTLY, THE COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR POPULATION PROPOSED A BILL TO PROTECT PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AGAINST ANY TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION, BUT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN ACTED UPON.

3. TESTING OF PREGNANT WOMEN: THE NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM HAS NOT DEVELOPED A SPECIFIC POLICY FOR ROUTINE TESTING OF PREGNANT WOMEN. HOWEVER, THE PROGRAM IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT MOTHER TO CHILD

TRANSMISSION AND HAS RECENTLY INITIATED SEVERAL PILOT ACTIVITIES FOR THE TESTING AND CARE OF PREGNANT WOMEN. THE RESULTS OF THESE STUDIES SHOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS TO DEVELOP AN HIV/AIDS TESTING POLICY FOR PREGNANT WOMEN. IN ADDITION, MOST HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ENCOURAGE PREGNANT WOMEN TO TEST FOR HIV AND THE TEST IS INCLUDED IN THEIR ROUTINE BLOOD TESTS FOR A FEE.

4. EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS: THE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM INCLUDES SEVERAL COMPONENTS:

--BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES TARGETS SPECIFIC GROUPS SUCH AS COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS, YOUTH, LOW-INCOME WOMEN, TRUCK DRIVERS, MIGRANT SPOUSES, MEN AND WOMEN IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR AND WORKERS IN THE FORMAL SECTOR. TRAINING MANUALS IN DIFFERENT LOCAL LANGUAGES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO REACH THESE GROUPS AT THE REGIONAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS. COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND NGOS HAVE BEEN PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUTREACH STRATEGIES TOWARDS THESE GROUPS. SUPPORT GIVEN TO THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAS ENHANCED THE POSITIVE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS IN SENEGAL.

--ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES INCLUDE SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS WORLD AIDS DAY, YOUTH WEEK AGAINST AIDS AND WOMEN WEEK AGAINST AIDS. THE PROGRAM ALSO FOCUSES ON RADIO AND TELEVISION SPOTS, DISTRIBUTION OF POSTERS, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CONFERENCES, SPORT AND CULTURAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS OF POLITICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT HIV/AIDS AND ENCOURAGE BEHAVIOR CHANGE TO REDUCE HIV TRANSMISSION.

--POLICY DIALOGUE WITH POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO GARNER SUPPORT FOR GRASSROOTS-TARGETED ACTIVITIES. THERE HAVE BEEN THREE MAJOR GROUNDBREAKING EFFORTS. THE FIRST TWO EVENTS WERE SEPARATE TWO-DAY COLLOQUIUMS ORGANIZED FOR MUSLIM (MARCH 1995) AND CHRISTIAN (JANUARY 1996) RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION ON AIDS AND TO ASSIST THEM IN DEFINING THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS. SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS WERE MADE BY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS THEMSELVES TO INTENSIFY AIDS-RELATED COMMUNITY INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES. THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS THEMSELVES HAVE CALLED FOR A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM LEADERS. THE THIRD MAJOR EVENT WAS A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE FOR MORE THAN 50 PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (JULY 1996) TO SENSITIZE THESE LEADERS AND DECISION-MAKERS ABOUT THE AIDS EPIDEMIC. RECENTLY, THE NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, EXPANDED THE RELIGIOUS RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC BY ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS ALLIANCE ON HIV/AIDS FOR AFRICA WHICH IS BASED IN DAKAR.

--THE NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM HAS DEVELOPED AN IMPORTANT PROGRAM OF CONDOM PROMOTION. CONDOMS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO CSWS, STI PATIENTS AND YOUTH AND ADULTS THROUGH CLINICS, PEER EDUCATORS AND DURING AIDS-RELATED EVENT DAYS. IN ADDITION, SINCE 1995, USAID HAS BEEN PROMOTING SOCIAL MARKETING EFFORTS FOR A WIDER DISTRIBUTION OF CONDOMS. THE NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM AND THE SOCIAL MARKETING PROGRAM ARE DISTRIBUTING MORE THAN ONE MILLION CONDOMS PER YEAR. DURING THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 1999, THE QUANTITY OF CONDOMS DISTRIBUTED WAS RESPECTIVELY 1,034,500 AND 1,208,700.

--THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STI TREATMENT THROUGH A
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 DAKAR 000066

DEPT FOR AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, SG

SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO ON SENEGAL FOR UNSC

SYNDROMIC APPROACH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO IMPROVING SERVICE QUALITY AND INCREASED POPULATION AWARENESS ABOUT STI. MAJOR ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN INCLUDE A NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH DISTRICTS AND ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDIES, TRAINING AND INTENSIVE SUPERVISION OF HEALTH PERSONNEL AND CONTINUOUS EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF STI MANAGEMENT SERVICES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

5. RATE OF INFECTION AMONG GENERAL POPULATION: THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN SENEGAL CAN BE CATEGORIZED AS A "CONCENTRATED EPIDEMIC." THIS MEANS, ACCORDING TO UNAIDS DEFINITION, THAT SENEGAL HAS A PREVALENCE RATE OF MORE THAN 5 PERCENT IN CERTAIN RISK GROUPS, BUT LESS THAN 1 (ONE) PERCENT IN PREGNANT WOMEN. THE PREVALENCE RATE AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION IS 1.4 PERCENT (ACCORDING TO 1997 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION). A META-ANALYSIS CONDUCTED BY UNAIDS IN 1997 ATTRIBUTED THE LOW PREVALENCE RATE OF HIV/AIDS AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION TO THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- CONSERVATIVE CULTURAL NORMS REGARDING SEX;
- CREATION OF SAFE BLOOD SUPPLY FOR TRANSFUSION;
- REGISTRATION AND REGULAR MEDICAL CHECK-UPS OF COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS;
- PROMOTION OF CONDOM USE;
- COMMUNICATION FOR BEHAVIOR CHANGE INTERVENTIONS;
- ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITY AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS;
- STRENGTHENING THE MANAGEMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS USING A SYNDROMIC APPROACH; AND
- MONITORING SERO-PREVALENCE ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS.

6. QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE MILITARY: HIV TESTING IS NOT REQUIRED FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT AND ALSO THERE IS NO ROUTINE TEST. THE INFECTION RATE FOUND AMONG MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO PARTICIPATED IN UN PEACE KEEPING FORCES IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IN 1997 WAS LESS THAN 1 PERCENT. HOWEVER, AN IMPORTANT AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE MILITARY EXISTS AND THE PROMOTION OF CONDOM USE IS VERY DYNAMIC AMONG ALL MILITARY AND PARA-MILITARY PERSONNEL

MCCULLEY

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 4:33 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO ON SOUTH AFRICA FOR UNSC
ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9229
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1372
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 060855Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO
Identifier: M4233065
InfoAddrees: ////
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHSAA0078 0060855-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 060855Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
Originator: AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
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BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHSA
StationSerialNumber: 0078
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 04:32:51 ET

UNCLAS PRETORIA 000078

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/S AND AF/EP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, SF
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO ON SOUTH AFRICA FOR UNSC

REF: STATE 1299

1. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO THE QUESTIONS POSED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 OF REFTEL. THE QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED IN THE SAME ORDER AS THEY ARE PRESENTED.

2. LAWS: YES. THE LABOR RELATIONS ACT NO. 66 OF 1995 PROHIBITS UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES. SUCH UNFAIR PRACTICES WOULD INCLUDE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE ON ANY ARBITRARY GROUND, INCLUDING HIV STATUS. THE EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ACT NO. 55 OF 1998 ALSO PROHIBITS UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST?X:5kdjON, THE SOUTH AFRICAN INTERIM NATIONAL MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL'S GUIDELINES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH HIV/AIDS STATE THAT A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER MAY NOT DIVULGE A PATIENT'S HIV STATUS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE PATIENT. ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT APPLICATION OF THESE LAWS IS NOT UNIFORM AND IN SOME CASES INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS MAY BE COMPROMISED BECAUSE OF HIV STATUS.

3. TESTING: PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS. ONCE A YEAR (IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER) TESTING TAKES PLACE COUNTRYWIDE AT RANDOMLY CHOSEN SITES AMONG WOMEN WHO COME IN FOR PRE-NATAL CARE. THIS IS VOLUNTARY, HOWEVER, AND A WOMAN WILL NOT BE TESTED IF SHE OBJECTS.

4. EDUCATION: THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS IN SOUTH AFRICA AIMED AT INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HIV/AIDS AND PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS. MASS MEDIA-BASED INITIATIVES, COMMUNITY-BASED DRAMA PRODUCTIONS AND SPEECHES BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS.

5. RATE OF INFECTION: THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION IS APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT. AMONG ADULTS THE FIGURE IS AROUND 15 PERCENT AND AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN 25 PERCENT.

6. MILITARY TESTING: THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY TESTS PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT, BUT NOT PRIOR TO INDUCTION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL, SUCH AS PILOTS AND MEDICAL CORPS WORKERS, ARE TESTED. LEGISLATION HAS BEEN INTRODUCED TO ALLOW FOR PRE-INDUCTION TESTING.

7. MILITARY TESTING: NA

8. MILITARY RATE OF INFECTION: BECAUSE OF A LACK OF MANDATORY TESTING, RATES OF INFECTION WITHIN THE MILITARY AND POLICE ARE NOT KNOWN. MOST EXPERTS ASSUME THAT IT IS HIGHER THAN IN THE GENERAL POPULATION AND SOME ESTIMATES ARE AS HIGH AS 23-25 PERCENT.

9. MILITARY PREVENTION PROGRAMS: PROGRAMS AIMED AT THE MILITARY AND POLICE ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE DIRECTED AT THE GENERAL POPULATION. LEWIS

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 3:31 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA: LESOTHO AIDS INFORMATION

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0658
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 060711Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO
Identifier: M4233003
InfoAddres: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0009 RUCNDT/USUN NEW YORK 0026
Line1: PAAUZYUW RUEHMRA0018 0060711-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: P 060711Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
Originator: AMEMBASSY MASERU
Precedence: PRIORITY
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHMR
StationSerialNumber: 0018
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 03:30:45 ET

UNCLAS MASERU 0018

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, LT
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: LESOTHO AIDS INFORMATION

REF: 001299

1. DO LAWS EXIST TO PROTECT HIV POSITIVE PEOPLE FROM DISCRIMINATION? NOT YET - POLICY HAS BEEN DRAFTED BUT NOT RATIFIED. SOME PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE POLICIES WHICH DISALLOW DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS.

2. ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS TESTED FOR HIV AND IS IT VOLUNTARY? YES AND YES

3. WHAT HIV/AIDS EDUCATION/PREVENTION PROGRAMMES EXIST? NATIONAL HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMME, UNAIDS AND VARIOUS NGO'S.

4. RATE OF INFECTION IN GENERAL POPULATION? EXACT FIGURE UNKNOWN. THE DISEASE CONTROL UNIT VERY ROUGHLY ESTIMATES 10%, BUT THE SENIOR EPIDEMIOLOGIST BELIEVES THAT THE FIGURE UNDERESTIMATES THE ACTUAL INFECTION RATE.

5. IS THERE MANDATORY TESTING IN THE MILITARY AND THE POLICE? YES

6. THE ACTUAL RATE OF INFECTION IN THE MILITARY/POLICE IS UNKNOWN, BUT BASED ON LIMITED CLINICAL DATA, IT IS BELIEVED TO BE HIGHER THAN AVERAGE.

7. ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMMES FOR THE MILITARY/POLICE? YES - BUT THEY ARE VOLUNTARY. THERE IS A CHANCE THAT THROUGH THE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FUND, WE WILL CARRY OUT A USDOD FUNDED, HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR THE MILITARY THIS YEAR.
PETERSON

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 4:32 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3838
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0083

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 060847Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233043
InfoAddrees: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0088
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHORA0035 0060847-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 060847Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
Originator: AMEMBASSY GABORONE
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
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CABLES
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SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHOR
StationSerialNumber: 0035
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 04:31:54 ET

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GABORONE 000035

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, XA, UNSC
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC

REF: REFTEL:SECSTATE 01299

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN
PARAGRAPH 3 AND 4 OF REFTEL.

2.

Q. IF A PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS, DO LAWS
EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY TO PROTECT THAT PERSON AGAINST JOB
AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION?

A. YES, LAWS EXIST TO PROTECT PERSONS WITH HIV AGAINST JOB
DISCRIMINATION. I DO NOT HAVE EXACT WORDING MYSELF, BUT I DO KNOW
THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO REFUSE TO HIRE OR TO FIRE SOMEONE ON THE BASIS
OF BEING HIV POSITIVE.

Q. ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS?

A. PREGNANT WOMEN ARE NOT YET ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV BECAUSE
BOTSWANA'S GOVERNMENT PROJECT TO PREVENT MOTHER TO CHILD
TRANSMISSION IS STILL IN ITS PILOT PHASE IN GABORONE AND
FRANCISTOWN. ULTIMATLY ALL PREGNANT WOMEN WILL BE TESTED AND OFFERED

TREATMENT TO PREVENT TRANSMISSION TO THEIR CHILD. THE FIRST ROLL OUT TO ADDITIONAL DISTRICTS IS TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR APRIL, 2000. CDC PLANS TO ASSIST WITH FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF THIS FORM OF CARE AND HIV PREVENTION WHEN HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES ARE EXPANDED IN BOTSWANA.

Q. IS SUCH TESTING VOLUNTARY?

A. YES, ALL SUCH A TESTING IS SUPPOSED TO BE VOLUNTARY, BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS ANECDOTAL REPORTS OF CLINICIANS TESTING FOR HIV WITHOUT TELLING THE PATIENTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

Q. WHAT PROGRAMS EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS?

A. A NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS EXIST IN THE COUNTRY FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS, HOWEVER, THEY DO NOT MATCH THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM AND THESE, TOO WILL BE ADDRESSED UNDER BOTSWANA:

- A SCHOOL CURRICULUM EXISTS BUT IS NOT WIDELY IMPLEMENTED
- RADIO, THEATRE, BILLBOARDS, LEAFLETS ARE IN USE AND HAVE CREATED AWARENESS BUT HAVE NOT RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT BEHAVIOR CHANGE AS REFLECTED BY INCREASING HIV PREVALENCE
- GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED A MULTISECTORAL APPROACH SUCH THAT ALL BRANCHES AND MINISTRIES OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE A PREVENTION PROGRAM
- ACCESS TO VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING AND TESTING CENTRES FOR HIV IS VERY LIMITED
- LOCAL COMMUNITY AND CHURCH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS(NGOS) HAVE EVOLVED WITH THE SEVERITY OF THE EPIDEMIC BUT THEIR CAPACITY TO DELIVER PREVENTION MESSAGES IS LIMITED
- A NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, NATIONAL STRATEGIES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED, A WORKPLAN HAS BEEN DEVELOPED, BUT STAFFING AND RESOURCE LIMITATIONS PRECLUDE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION
- A COALITION OF LOCAL NGOS EXIST KNOWN AS THE BOTSWANA NETWORK OF AIDS SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS(BONASO) TO COORDINATE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Q. WHAT IS THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION?

A. THE PREVALENCE OF HIV IN THE AGE GROUP 15-49 YEARS IS ESTIMATED AT 25.1% AND IT IS ESTIMATED AT 20% FOR THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE. HOWEVER, PREVALENCE AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN 1998 RANGED FROM 22-50% IN THE COMMUNITIES SURVEYED.

3.

Q. IS THERE SIMILAR MANDATORY TESTING OF THE MILITARY IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY?

A. YES. THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE (BDF) TESTS INDUCTEES ONLY. NO OTHER TESTS ARE CONDUCTED AFTER AN INDIVIDUAL IS INDUCTED INTO THE BDF WITH THE EXCEPTION OF INDIVIDUALS TRAVELING TO OTHER COUNTRIES THAT REQUIRE TESTING (I.E. TO THE UNITED STATES TO ATTEND AN IMET CLASS).

Q. IS THE RATE OF INFECTION KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY? WITHIN THE POLICE?

A. NO OR AT LEAST IF IT IS KNOWN IT IS NOT SHARED PUBLICLY. THE BDF IS TIGHT-LIPPED ON THIS ISSUE AND CONSIDERS THIS INFORMATION TO BE CLASSIFIED. SINCE THERE IS NO REGULAR TESTING OF PERSONNEL AFTER INDUCTION, THE BDF CAN ONLY FIND OUT IF SOMEONE IS HIV POSITIVE IF THEY TRAVEL ABROAD OR IF THEY VOLUNTEER THE RESULTS OF A BLOOD TEST TO BDF MEDICAL PERSONNEL. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE RATE OF INFECTION WITHIN THE POLICE.

Q. ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY OR POLICE?

PRIMARLY TOWARDS THE ENLISTED RANKS. OTHERWISE THE BDF HAS LITTLE TO
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GABORONE 000035

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, XA, UNSC

SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC

OFFER IN THE AREA OF AIDS-PREVENTION. THE POLICE HAVE LITTLE IN THE
WAY OF AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

LANGE

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 3:32 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFORMATION FOR UNSC - NAMIBIA

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1003
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0413

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 060822Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233016
InfoAddrees: ////

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Line4: FM AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
Originator: AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
Precedence: PRIORITY
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BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHWD
StationSerialNumber: 0019
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 03:31:29 ET

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WINDHOEK 000019

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EPS

USAID POR AIDW AFR/SA WILLIAM JEPPEERS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, WA
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFORMATION FOR UNSC -
NAMIBIA

REF: (A) SECSTATE 01299
(B) USUN NEW YORK 4
(C) 99 USUN NEW YORK 3268

FOLLOWING IS NAMIBIA'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED
IN REFTEL A:

1. IF A PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE HIV/AIDS
VIRUS, DO LAWS EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY TO PROTECT
THAT PERSON AGAINST JOB AND OTHER TYPES OF
DISCRIMINATION?

- YES, LAWS DO EXIST TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION OF AN
HIV POSITIVE EMPLOYEE. ANY EMPLOYER WHO DISMISSES
A WORKER BECAUSE OF HIS/HER POSITIVE STATUS
CONTRAVENTES THE NATIONAL CODE ON HIV-AIDS IN
EMPLOYMENT PROMULGATED IN A 1998 AMENDMENT TO THE
LABOUR ACT. THIS ACT IS BINDING FOR ALL EMPLOYERS

IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. THE CODE MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO USE A PERSON'S HIV STATUS AS A FACTOR IN THAT INDIVIDUAL'S JOB STATUS, PROMOTION, TRANSFER, OR DISMISSAL.

THIS LAW'S EFFECTIVENESS IS BEING TESTED IN THE COURT BY THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (AN ORGANIZATION EQUIVALENT TO THE ACLU). THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER PRESENTLY IS REPRESENTING PERSONS FIRED OR TRANSFERRED BASED ON THEIR POSITIVE HIV STATUS.

2. ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS? IS THE TESTING VOLUNTARY?

- PREGNANT WOMEN ARE GIVEN THE OPTION OF AN HIV TEST DURING PRENATAL CARE. NO TESTING FOR THEIR HIV STATUS IS DONE WITHOUT THE WOMEN'S CONSENT. HOWEVER, BLOOD IS DRAWN FOR ROUTINE, INVOLUNTARY TESTING FOR OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.

BLOOD TAKEN FROM WOMEN IN ANTENATAL CLINICS IS SENT TO NATIONAL LABS FOR ANONYMOUS HIV/AIDS TESTING. THERE ARE NO MEANS TO IDENTIFY A SPECIFIC PATIENT TO ANY BLOOD SAMPLE. DATA FROM THESE TESTS FORM PART OF NAMIBIA'S HIV/AIDS SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE SURVEYS. CURRENT SURVEY INFORMATION INDICATES AN HIV ADULT PREVALENCE RATE IN EXCESS OF 20% NATIONWIDE AND CLOSER TO 30% IN SOME LOCATIONS (UNAIDS REPORT).

3. WHAT PROGRAMS EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS?

- USAID/NAMIBIA IS IN THE PROCESS OF STARTING AN HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAM IN ONE HIGH-RISK AREA OF THE COUNTRY (ERONGO REGION, INCLUDING WALVIS BAY AND SWAKOPMUND). THIS COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM IS TARGETED AT ALL SECTORS OF THE POPULATION, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN; FROM TEENS TO ADULTS. THE PROGRAM IS DUE TO START IN JUNE, 2000.

OTHER PREVENTION PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

A. A PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL-BASED YOUTH, CALLED "MY FUTURE IS MY CHOICE". THIS ACTIVITY TEACHES LIFE SKILLS TO YOUTH BETWEEN 15 TO 18. THE 10 SESSION CURRICULUM INCLUDES TOPICS ON SAFE SEX, CONDOM USE, AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING.

B. A LOCAL NGO (CATHOLIC AIDS ACTION) RUNS A NATIONWIDE PROGRAM PROMOTING PREVENTION AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL. THEIR "POSITIVE LIVING" STRATEGY PROMOTES GOOD HEALTH, ADVOCATES REDUCTION OF THE FREQUENCY OF UNPROTECTED SEX AND ENCOURAGES USE OF CONDOMS IN HIGH RISK BEHAVIOR.

C. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES HAS RECENTLY AUTHORIZED A 5 YEAR CONDOM SOCIAL MARKETING PROGRAM THAT BUILDS ON A PREVIOUS 3 YEAR PILOT ACTIVITY. GERMANY, THE LARGEST BILATERAL DONOR IN NAMIBIA, IS FUNDING THIS ACTIVITY THROUGH MARIE STOPES INTERNATIONAL (MSI). IN ADDITION, GERMAN FUNDS SUPPORT A BROAD-SCALE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM THROUGHOUT NAMIBIA WHICH INCLUDES HIV/AIDS PREVENTION.

4. WHAT IS THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION?

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EPS

USAID POR AID/W AFR/SA WILLIAM JEPPEERS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, WA
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFORMATION FOR UNSC -
NAMIBIA

5. THE US MILITARY TESTS ITS PERSONNEL PRIOR TO
INDUCTION, PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT, AND PERIODICALLY
DURING THEIR SERVICE. IS THERE A SIMILAR MANDATORY
TESTING OF THE MILITARY IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY?

- YES, THERE IS MANDATORY TESTING OF MEMBERS OF THE
MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES IN NAMIBIA

6. IS THE RATE OF INFECTION KNOWN WITHIN THE
MILITARY? WITHIN THE POLICE?

- THE RATES ARE UNKNOWN BY THE MISSION. IT IS ALSO
UNCLEAR IF THE MILITARY AND/OR POLICE HAS THAT
INFORMATION. IT IS NOT PUBLIC INFORMATION, IF IT
EXISTS. ANECDOTAL INFORMATION SUGGESTS IT IS
SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE GENERAL
POPULATION.

7. ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS
FOR THE MILITARY OR POLICE?

- UNDER THE U.S. E-IMET PROGRAM, A NAVY TEAM IS
WORKING WITH THE NAMIBIAN DEFENSE FORCES ON AN
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
DESIGNED TO ENABLE THE MILITARY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND
AND DEAL WITH THE IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS ON RECRUITMENT,
READINESS, AND RETENTION.

BADER

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 10:58 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Cables; Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI); Guarneri, Valerie N. (MULTI); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0885
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0025
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0145

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061551Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard NSC FELDMAN GUARNIERI MCLEAN NAPLAN PATTEN
SCHWARTZ
SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO

Identifier: M4233680
InfoAddres: ////
Line1: RAAUZYUW RUEHGIA0015 0061551-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: R 061551Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
Originator: AMEMBASSY BANGUI
Precedence: ROUTINE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
CABLES
FELDMAND
GUARNIEV
MCLEANM
NAPLAN
PATTENW
SCHWARTZ
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHGI
StationSerialNumber: 0015
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 10:57:19 ET

UNCLAS BANGUI 000015

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, XA, UNSC
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC

REF: STATE 01299

1. PER REFTTEL, POST ADVISES THAT THERE IS NO KNOWN CASES OF JOB OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION FOR HIV/AIDS INFECTED PATIENTS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. HOWEVER, THE CAR GOVERNMENT SET UP IN 1985 A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR FIGHT AGAINST AIDS ("PROGRAMME NATIONALE DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA" - PNLS). THE RATE OF INFECTION AMONG THE POPULATION IS ABOUT 30%.

3. TESTING IS MANDATORY FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN MILITARY AND POLICE, ESPECIALLY BEFORE ANY RECRUITMENT. THE RATE IS NOT KNOWN, BUT IS MUCH HIGHER THAN IN THE OTHER POPULATION

STRATA. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR THE CAR MILITARY, BUT VARIOUS CAMPAIGNS ARE IN PLACE TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE PREVENTION OF THE DISEASE.

FRANCIS

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 10:29 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 IN THE GAMBIA

ActionAddrees: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0270
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0553

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061433Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY SMITHG
Identifier: M4233564
InfoAddrees: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0104
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHJLA0028 0061433-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061433Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL
Originator: AMEMBASSY BANJUL
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
SMITHG

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHJL
StationSerialNumber: 0028
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 10:28:20 ET

UNCLAS BANJUL 000028

DEPT FOR AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO,UNSC, ML
SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS IN THE GAMBIA

REF: SECSTATE 01299

1. THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS ARE KEYED TO REFTEL.
2. NO: DISCRIMINATION BASED ON HIV STATUS IS NOT PREVALENT IN THE GAMBIA, BUT NO LAWS EXIST TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS WITH AIDS OR WHO ARE HIV POSITIVE.
3. NO: PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED.
4. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR EDUCATION'S "FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM," PRODUCES TELEVISION AND RADIO SHOWS DEALING WITH HIV/AIDS PROTECTION.
5. GOTG'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES A ONE TO TWO PERCENT HIV INFECTION RATE; HOWEVER, NO LARGE-SCALE STUDIES HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN. IN 1991, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TESTED OVER 3000 BLOOD SAMPLES OF PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 49, REVEALING A 2.2 PERCENT HIV RATE. A 1994/95/97 SURVEY USED BLOOD SAMPLES OF 29,670 PREGNANT WOMEN, AND SHOWED A 1.7 PERCENT HIV RATE.
6. GOTG MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE NOT TESTED PRIOR TO INDUCTION OR AT ANY TIME IN THEIR CAREER.
7. NEITHER THE POLICE NOR THE MILITARY UNDERGO

MANDATORY HIV/AIDS TESTING.

8. THE RATE OF INFECTION IS NOT KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY OR POLICE.
9. THERE ARE NO MILITARY OR POLICE-SPECIFIC HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMS.

HALEY

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 10:34 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: ERITREA: INFORMATION FOR UNSC SESSION ON Q HIV/AIDS
ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6378
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 1695
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0146
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0307
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061807Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO
Identifier: M4233636
InfoAddres: ////
Line1: RAAUZYUW RUEHAEA0101 0061807-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: R 061807Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY ASMARA
Originator: AMEMBASSY ASMARA
Precedence: ROUTINE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHAE
StationSerialNumber: 0101
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 10:33:00 ET

UNCLAS ASMARA 000101

NAIROBI FOR USAID/REDSO

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TRIO, UNSC, ER, XA
SUBJECT: ERITREA: INFORMATION FOR UNSC SESSION ON
Q HIV/AIDS

REF: STATE 1299

1. PER REQUEST IN REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION ON
HIV/AIDS IN ERITREA:

Q. IF A PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS,
DO LAWS EXIST IN ERITREA TO PROTECT THAT PERSON AGAINST
JOB AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION?

A. THERE ARE NO LAWS SPECIFIC TO HIV/AIDS THAT WOULD
PROTECT AGAINST JOB OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION.

Q. ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS?
IS SUCH TESTING VOLUNTARY?

A. PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS.

VOLUNTARY TESTING IS AVAILABLE, AND SOME SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE TESTING HAS BEEN DONE.

Q. WHAT PROGRAMS EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS?

A. BOTH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL NATIONAL UNION OF ERITREAN YOUTH AND STUDENTS (NUEYS) CARRY OUT PROGRAMS OF INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS AIMED AT HIV/AIDS PREVENTION. WITH USAID SUPPORT, NUEYS AND POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL ARE CONDUCTING A CONDOM SOCIAL MARKETING PROGRAM TO PREVENT HIV/AIDS AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS COLLABORATING IN A CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROJECT ON HIV/AIDS, PEER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, AND ANTI-AIDS CLUBS FOR STUDENTS.

Q. WHAT IS THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION?

A. THERE HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPREHENSIVE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEYS, BUT THE PREVALENCE HAS BEEN ESTIMATED TO BE 1.5 PER CENT OF THE ADULT POPULATION (15-49 YEARS OLD) NATIONWIDE. STUDIES AND SCREENING OF BLOOD DONORS AROUND 1995 HAVE SHOW CONSIDERABLY HIGHER PREVALENCES IN URBAN AREAS (AROUND 4%) AND HIGH RISK GROUPS (10-25 PER CENT). THE PREVALENCE IS BELIEVED TO BE INCREASING.

Q. THE U.S. MILITARY TESTS ITS PERSONNEL PRIOR TO INDUCTION, PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT, AND PERIODICALLY DURING THEIR SERVICE. IS THERE SIMILAR MANDATORY TESTING OF THE MILITARY IN ERITREA?

A. ERITREA IS AT WAR, AND THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF PUBLIC INFORMATION. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT HIV/AIDS TESTING HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT FOR PERSONNEL ENTERING MILITARY PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE TREMENDOUS EXPANSION OF THE ERITREAN ARMED FORCES IN RESPONSE TO THE WAR WITH ETHIOPIA, IT IS NOT CLEAR IF ALL NEW PERSONNEL ARE STILL BEING TESTED. WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER TESTING IS CARRIED OUT AFTER ENTRY INTO THE MILITARY.

Q. IF NOT, IS THERE ANY TESTING OF MILITARY OR POLICE IN HOST COUNTRY?

A. VOLUNTARY TESTING IS AVAILABLE.

Q. IS THE RATE OF INFECTION KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY? WITHIN THE POLICE?

A. IT IS LIKELY THAT SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE HAS BEEN CONDUCTED TO INFORM THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF THE MILITARY, BUT SUCH DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC INFORMATION.

Q. ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY OR POLICE?

A. YES. INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS ON HIV/AIDS PREVENTION ARE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE MILITARY PEOPLE AND CONDOMS ARE PROVIDED. THERE ARE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PRE-AND POST-TEST COUNSELING, INCLUDING PEER EDUCATION TRAINING.

CLARKE

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 10:35 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: AIDS INFO FROM ANGOLA FOR UN/AFRICA

ActionAddres: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 4018
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1745

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061505Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233634
InfoAddres: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHLUA0064 0061505-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061505Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY LUANDA
Originator: AMEMBASSY LUANDA
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
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BYRNEC
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SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHLU
StationSerialNumber: 0064
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 10:34:55 ET

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LUANDA 000064

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, EAID, AO
SUBJECT: AIDS INFO FROM ANGOLA FOR UN/AFRICA

REF: STATE 1299

1. REPSONSES TO REFTEL QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED BELOW,
CORRESPONDING TO THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE ASKED.

2. QUESTIONS ON THE AIDS EPIDEMIC:

--LABOR AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS TO PROTECT
PERSONS INFECTED WITH HIV/AIDS ARE NON-EXISTENT.
EFFORTS ON THE PART OF A WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS GROUP
LED TO THE CREATION IN 1999 OF AN AIDS SUB-COMMISSION
IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ONE OF THE GOALS OF THIS
SUB-COMMISSION IS TO DEVELOP LEGISLATION, INCLUDING
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND LABOR-RELATED LAWS. THE SUB-
COMMISSION IS VERY INTERESTED IN NAMIBIA'S AIDS
LEGISLATION AND MAY USE IT AS A MODEL FOR ANGOLAN
LEGISLATION. AT PRESENT, THE ONLY PIECE OF LEGISLATION
ON HIV/AIDS IN ANGOLA IS THE MANDATE FOR THE CREATION
OF A NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HIV/AIDS/STDs. THE
PLAN WAS DEVELOPED IN JULY 1999 AND APPROVED IN
DECEMBER 1999.

--PREGNANT WOMEN ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV. HOWEVER, THE FEW PREVALENCE STUDIES CARRIED OUT TO DATE HAVE TESTED WOMEN ATTENDING PRENATAL CLINICS TO ESTIMATE THE PREVALENCE IN THE GENERAL, SEXUALLY ACTIVE POPULATION. THESE STUDIES WERE DONE ON AN ANONYMOUS BUT NOT VOLUNTARY BASIS.

--COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION ARE NOT YET IN PLACE. THE NATIONAL AIDS PROGRAM (PNLS), DESPITE SERIOUS LACK OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, IS COMMITTED TO AIDS PREVENTION IN ANGOLA AND IS SEEKING PARTNERSHIPS WITH DIFFERENT DONORS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS/STD STRATEGIC PLAN. UNICEF, UNESCO, SIDA ALL HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS AREA, AND USE OF THE MEDIA COULD BE GREATLY IMPROVED. USAID HOPES TO RECEIVE APPROVAL TO INITIATE A MORE FOCUSED AWARENESS/PREVENTION PROGRAM IN MID/LATE 2000. UNHCR IS TAKING THE LEAD IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING PREVENTION PROGRAMS AMONG DISPLACED POPULATIONS. CONDOM USAGE AND AVAILABILITY ARE LOW. PNLS CURRENT STOCK IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT (FROM A 2 MILLION DONATION BY PSI IN 1998). PHARMACY PRICES ARE AROUND US \$1 FOR A PACK OF THREE, AND CONSIDERED TO BE EXPENSIVE.

--THERE ARE NO COMPREHENSIVE OR RELIABLE ESTIMATES OF THE HIV INFECTION RATE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION. STUDIES HAVE ESTIMATED THE PREVALENCE OF HIV INFECTION IN SPECIFIC GROUPS AS FOLLOWS: 3.4 PERCENT AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN LUANDA AND 8 PERCENT AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN CABINDA (1999); AND, JUST UNDER 30 PERCENT AMONG SEX WORKERS IN LUANDA (1999, UNPUBLISHED). THE MAJORITY OF AIDS CASES HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED IN LUANDA AND CABINDA. ANGOLA IS EXPECTED TO REACH A RATE OF 10 PERCENT PREVALENCE IN THE GENERAL ADULT POPULATION BY 2009, AT WHICH TIME THE NUMBER OF AIDS ORPHANS IS ESTIMATED TO REACH 300,000 PLUS (FROM AROUND 20,000 AT PRESENT). THE PREVALENCE OF STDs IS VERY HIGH (OVER 30 PERCENT FOR SOME STDs).

3. QUESTIONS ON AIDS IN THE MILITARY:

--ACCORDING TO THE ARMY'S CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, GENERAL HENDRICK, THE ANGOLAN MILITARY DOES NOT TEST NEW RECRUITS FOR HIV.

--THERE IS NO ROUTINE HIV/AIDS TESTING IN THE MILITARY, ALTHOUGH TESTING MAY BE DONE IN CASES OF ILLNESS OR OTHER MEDICAL PROBLEMS. THE MILITARY USES ITS OWN MEDICAL SERVICES FOR SUCH NON-ROUTINE TESTING. WE ARE TOLD THE MILITARY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST HIV POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS, BUT FREQUENTLY ATTEMPTS TO FIND THEM ALTERNATIVE JOBS WITHIN THE MILITARY SYSTEM. THE PROCEDURES IN THE POLICE FORCE ARE SIMILAR (NO TESTING OF RECRUITS, AND NO ROUTINE TESTING).

--THE RATES OF INFECTION IN THE MILITARY/POLICE FORCE ARE UNKNOWN, BUT SUSPECTED TO BE HIGHER THAN IN THE GENERAL ADULT POPULATION. A PAPER BY LYERLY, BARRY AND MILLER REPORTED 5.7 PERCENT PREVALENCE FOR HIV-1 AND 6.7 PERCENT FOR HIV-2 IN 1987, AT WHICH TIME PREVALENCE IN LOW RISK GROUPS WAS RESPECTIVELY 0 PERCENT AND 2.3 PERCENT.

--NO SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS EXIST FOR THE MILITARY AND THE POLICE FORCE. HOWEVER, THERE IS SOME INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE ARMY'S MEDICAL OFFICERS AND A NUMBER OF MEETINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BOTH WITH USAID AND UNAIDS. A FEW ARMY MEDICAL OFFICERS ARE

INVOLVED ON A REGULAR BASIS IN AIDS-RELATED
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LUANDA 000064

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, EAID, AO

SUBJECT: AIDS INFO FROM ANGOLA FOR UN/AFRICA

ACTIVITIES.

SULLIVAN

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 10:37 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: REQUESTED AIDS INFORMATION FOR CHAD
ActionAddressee: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2760
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061529Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO
Identifier: M4233646
InfoAddressee: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0112
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Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061529Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
Originator: AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
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CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHNJ
StationSerialNumber: 0037
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 10:36:34 ET

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 000037

STATE FOR AF/EP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, CD
SUBJECT: REQUESTED AIDS INFORMATION FOR CHAD

REFTEL: A) STATE 1299 B) 99 NDJAMENA 2434

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTTEL A, POST OFFERS THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES:

IF A PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS, DO LAWS EXIST IN CHAD TO PROTECT THAT PERSON AGAINST JOB AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION?

ANSWER: NOT AT THIS TIME. THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THESE WILL COVER HIV/AIDS. TESTING FOR HIV/AIDS AS A CONDITION FOR EMPLOYMENT IS NOT PERMITTED BY LAW. POST NOTES THAT REFTTEL B PROVIDES SOME INFORMATION ON THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HOMOSEXUALS THAT EXISTS WITHIN CHAD WITH RESPECT TO HIV/AIDS.

ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS?

ANSWER: THERE ARE SEVEN PRENATAL CLINICS WHERE PREGNANT MOTHERS MAY UNDERGO VOLUNTARY TESTING. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT KNOWN WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE EXPECTANT MOTHER POPULATION TAKES ADVANTAGE OF VOLUNTARY TESTING.

WHAT PROGRAMS EXIST IN CHAD FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS?

ANSWER: THERE IS A NATIONAL HIV/AIDS POLICY THAT WAS REFORMULATED IN 1999. THE PRIVATE MEDIA WRITES ABOUT HIV/AIDS AND ONE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FEATURES CONDOM ADVERTISEMENTS IN EACH ISSUE. AN ESTIMATED 600,000 CONDOMS ARE DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY. 600 TEACHERS HAVE RECEIVED HIV/AIDS TRAINING AND THE GOC INTENDS TO TRAIN MORE. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AGENTS HAVE RECEIVED HIV/AIDS PREVENTION TRAINING TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING SUCH INFORMATION TO RURAL CHADIANS (80 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION). IN TOTAL, SEVEN MINISTRIES ARE INVOLVED IN HIV/AIDS TRAINING/EDUCATION AS ARE FIVE NGOS.

WHAT IS THE INFECTION RATE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION?

ANSWER: ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A WORLD BANK-FUNDED PROJECT TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS, THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION IN 1999 WAS 6-10 PERCENT. GOC OFFICIALS HAVE PLACED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF KNOWN AIDS PATIENTS AT ROUGHLY 10,000. THIS FIGURE, HOWEVER, IS AN UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF THE ESTIMATED RATE OF INFECTION.

THE U.S. MILITARY TESTS ITS PERSONNEL PRIOR TO INDUCTION, PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT, AND PERIODICALLY DURING THEIR SERVICE. IS THERE SIMILAR MANDATORY TESTING OF THE MILITARY IN CHAD?

ANSWER: NO. MANDATORY MILITARY TESTING FOR HIV/AIDS DOES NOT EXIST IN CHAD.

IS THE RATE OF INFECTION KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY AND POLICE?

ANSWER: TWO PREVALENCE RATE SAMPLING TESTS OF MILITARY MEMBERS IN NDJAMENA AND MOUNDOU INDICATE THAT HIV/AIDS IS ROUGHLY THE SAME AS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. TEN PERCENT OF THOSE TESTED IN NDJAMENA WERE FOUND TO HAVE HIV/AIDS AND EIGHT PERCENT OF THOSE IN MOUNDOU HAD HIV/AIDS. (NOTE: TOTAL NUMBER OF SOLDIERS TESTED IN BOTH STUDIES NOT KNOWN. END NOTE.) POST DOES NOT HAVE SEPARATE DATA FOR THE POLICE.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY OR POLICE?

ANSWER: YES. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS AN ANTI-AIDS PROGRAM FOR THE MILITARY.

GOLDTHWAIT

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 10:58 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Cables; Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI); Guarnieri, Valerie N. (MULTI); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0885
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0025
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0145

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061551Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard NSC FELDMAN GUARNIERI MCLEAN NAPLAN PATTEN
SCHWARTZ
SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO

Identifier: M4233680
InfoAddres: ///

Line1: RAAUZYUW RUEHGIA0015 0061551-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: R 061551Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
Originator: AMEMBASSY BANGUI
Precedence: ROUTINE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
CABLES
FELDMAND
GUARNIEV
MCLEANM
NAPLANS
PATTENW
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHGI
StationSerialNumber: 0015
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 10:57:19 ET

UNCLAS BANGUI 000015

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, XA, UNSC
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC

REF: STATE 01299

1. PER REFTTEL, POST ADVISES THAT THERE IS NO KNOWN CASES OF JOB OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION FOR HIV/AIDS INFECTED PATIENTS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. HOWEVERS1)xf THE CAR GOVERNMENT SET UP IN 1985 A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR FIGHT AGAINST AIDS ("PROGRAMME NATIONALE DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA" - PNLS). THE RATE OF INFECTION AMONG THE POPULATION IS ABOUT 30%.

3. TESTING IS MANDATORY FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN MILITARY AND POLICE, ESPECIALLY BEFORE ANY RECRUITMENT. THE RATE IS NOT KNOWN, BUT IS MUCH HIGHER THAN IN THE OTHER POPULATION

STRATA. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR THE CAR MILITARY, BUT VARIOUS CAMPAIGNS ARE IN PLACE TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE PREVENTION OF THE DISEASE.

FRANCIS

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 11:25 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI); Guarnieri, Valerie N. (MULTI); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: HIV/AIDS IN GUINEA

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0727
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0012
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061608Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY FELDMAN GUARNIERI MCLEAN NAPLAN
PATTEN SCHWARTZ SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO
Identifier: M4233725
InfoAddres: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0012
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHRYA0057 0061608-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061608Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
Originator: AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
FELDMAND
GUARNIEV
MCLEANM
NAPLAN
PATTENW
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHRY
StationSerialNumber: 0057
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 11:24:23 ET

UNCLAS CONAKRY 000057

DEPT FOR AF/W, AF/EP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, GV
SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS IN GUINEA

REF: STATE 1299

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN REF A.
2. WE KNOW OF NO LAW PROTECTING PERSONS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR HIV/AIDS FROM JOB OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION IN GUINEA.
3. WE KNOW OF NO ROUTINE TESTING OF PREGNANT MOTHERS FOR HIV/AIDS MAINLY BECAUSE BASIC HEALTH CARE IS SO SCARCE THAT MANY DO NOT RECEIVE PRE-NATAL CARE OF ANY KIND. FOR THOSE WHO DO RECEIVE SOME KIND OF PRE-NATAL CARE, HIV/AIDS TESTING IS NOT MANDATORY. THERE IS ONLY ONE PUBLIC CARE PROVIDER IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY (DONKA HOSPITAL IN CONAKRY) EQUIPPED TO

PERFORM HIV/AIDS TESTING.

4. USAID CARRIES OUT ONGOING ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND PRODUCTS TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES THROUGH SUPPORT OF NGOS, SUCH AS POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (PSI) AND PRISM. WITH PSI, THE MISSION HAS TRACKED ACCESS TO PREVENTION SERVICES THROUGH SALES POINTS OF CONTRACEPTIVES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IN 1996, ONLY TWELVE PERCENT OF THE SUB-PREFECTURES HAD CONTRACEPTIVES AVAILABLE FOR SALE. IN 1998, THE PERCENTAGE OF SUB-PREFECTURES WITH SALES POINTS HAD INCREASED TO SEVENTY-THREE PERCENT. PRISM TRAINS LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES IN PREVENTION, COUNSELING, SCREENING, AND TREATMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES, INCLUDING HIV/AIDS. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN THE HEALTH EDUCATION SECTOR WORK WITH LOCAL HEALTH POSTS TO INCLUDE HIV/AIDS PREVENTION IN THEIR

UNCLASSIFIED

2

OUTREACH PROGRAMS. MANY PCVS SPONSOR "AIDS AWARENESS ACTIVITIES" ON AIDS DAY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. PRM-SUPPORTED NGOS, SUCH AS THE AMERICAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE AND INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, WORK WITH REFUGEE POPULATIONS IN GUINEA AND INCLUDE HIV/AIDS PREVENTION MESSAGES IN BASIC EDUCATION AND SPECIAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

5. THE RATE OF INFECTION REPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IS ESTIMATED BELOW TWO PERCENT (FROM A LIMITED STUDY OF PREGNANT WOMEN), ALTHOUGH MANY DONORS BELIEVE THIS FIGURE GREATLY UNDERSTATES THE TRUE FIGURE. A 1999 USAID-SPONSORED DEMOGRAPHIC HEALTH SURVEY FOUND THAT ONLY TWENTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF MALES IN GUINEA REPORTED USING A CONDOM IN THEIR LAST SEXUAL ENCOUNTER WITH A NON-REGULAR PARTNER, AND ONLY TWENTY-THREE PERCENT OF WOMEN (AGES 15-49) KNEW THAT CONDOMS HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS.
6. THERE WAS NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME ON HIV/AIDS IN THE MILITARY OR POLICE. POST AGREES THAT THE MILITARY IS A HIGH-RISK GROUP.

LEADER

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 12:20 PM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UGANDA AIDS INFORMATION FOR UNSC

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7657
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0181
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0295

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061414Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233860
InfoAddrees: ////
Line1: PAAUZYUW RUEHKMA0080 0061414-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: P 061414Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
Originator: AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
Precedence: PRIORITY
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHKM
StationSerialNumber: 0080
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 12:19:25 ET

UNCLAS KAMPALA 000080

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, UG
SUBJECT: UGANDA AIDS INFORMATION FOR UNSC

REF: A) STATE 1299 B) USUN NEW YORK 4 C) 99 USUN NEW YORK 3268

1. PER REFTEL A, POST PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON AIOS AND AIOS TREATMENT IN UGANDA, KEYED TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED.

--THERE ARE NO LAWS CURRENTLY IN FORCE IN UGANDA WHICH SPECIFICALLY PROTECT HIV/AIDS POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS FROM DISCRIMINATION.

--PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED IN UGANDA. TESTING AND TREATMENT CENTERS ARE AVAILABLE TO WOMEN (SEVERAL WITH SUPPORT FROM USAID) WHO WISH TO BE TESTED VOLUNTARILY.

--SEVERAL EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS EXIST IN THE COUNTRY. THE AIDS SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (TASO) IS THE FIRST ORGANIZATION OF ITS KIND AND IS RECOGNIZED AS THE PREMIER AIDS SUPPORT AGENCY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. AS OF MID-1999, TASO HAS PROVIDED CARE FOR OVER 50,000 CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND TRAINED THOUSANDS OF

AIDS COUNSELORS IN UGANDA AND ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. THE AIDS INFORMATION CENTRE (AIC) IS THE FIRST VOLUNTARY AND ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING PROGRAM IN AFRICA, AND TODAY, IT IS THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD TO USE NEW RAPID TESTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE, SAME DAY RESULTS. AS OF MID-1999, AIC HAD CONDUCTED OVER 500,000 HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING SESSIONS, AN ASTONISHING ACCOMPLISHMENT NOT YET MATCHED ELSEWHERE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. USAID ALSO SUPPORTS CONDOM EDUCATION AND DISTRIBUTION, AND IN 1998 ALONE MORE THAN 8 MILLION USAID SUBSIDIZED CONDOMS WERE SOLD.

--THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION IN UGANDA IS TODAY ESTIMATED AT 10% NATIONALLY.

--POTENTIAL ARMY RECRUITS ARE TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS DURING THEIR SCREENING PHYSICALS. THOSE WITH POSITIVE RESULTS ARE NOT INDUCTED INTO THE ARMY.

--TESTING IS MANDATORY UPON INDUCTION, AND AVAILABLE ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS SUBSEQUENTLY. UGANDAN SOLDIERS HAVE ALSO PARTICIPATED BROADLY ON HIV RESEARCH PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE FIRST HIV VACCINE TRIALS IN AFRICA.

--THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE UGANDAN MILITARY IS NOW ESTIMATED AT 26%, DOWN SUBSTANTIALLY FROM A FIGURE IN EXCESS OF 45% IN THE EARLY 1990S.

--UGANDA MAINTAINS ONE OF THE WORLD'S FIRST AND MOST EFFECTIVE HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY. AIDS PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS IN THE ARMY HAVE INCLUDED HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING, HEALTH EDUCATION, STD TREATMENT AND PREVENTION, CONDOM PROMOTION AND DISTRIBUTION, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POST-TEST CLUBS. THE ARMY'S HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT, WITH SUPPORT FROM WORLD LEARNING, INC. BEGAN IN APRIL 1994 WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING HIV TRANSMISSION AMONG TARGET ARMY PERSONNEL IN FOUR ARMY DIVISIONS TOGETHER WITH THEIR CIVILIAN DEPENDENTS AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT, 2000 SOLDIERS WERE TRAINED AS PEER EDUCATORS AND OVER 53,000 SOLDIERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS RECEIVED HIV/AIDS SENSITIZATION.

2. POST WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE WAR ON AIDS IN UGANDA IF NEEDED.

BRENNAN

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 12:20 PM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0885
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0025
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0145

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061551Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233864
InfoAddrees: ////
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Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: R 061551Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
Originator: AMEMBASSY BANGUI
Precedence: ROUTINE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
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VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHGI
StationSerialNumber: 0015
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 12:19:52 ET

UNCLAS BANGUI 000015

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, XA, UNSC
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC

REF: STATE 01299

1. PER REFTTEL, POST ADVISES THAT THERE IS NO KNOWN CASES OF JOB OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION FOR HIV/AIDS INFECTED PATIENTS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. HOWEVER, THERE ARE ALSO NO LAWS WHICH PROTECT AGAINST SUCH DISCRIMINATION.

2. WITH ANY AND EVERY PRENATAL APPOINTMENT AT A HOSPITAL OR CLINICS, WOMEN ARE SYSTEMATICALLY TESTED FOR HIV. THE CAR GOVERNMENT SET UP IN 1985 A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR FIGHT AGAINST AIDS ("PROGRAMME NATIONALE DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA" - PNLS). THE RATE OF INFECTION AMONG THE POPULATION IS ABOUT 30%.

3. TESTING IS MANDATORY FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN MILITARY AND POLICE, ESPECIALLY BEFORE ANY RECRUITMENT; THE

RATE IS
NOT KNOWN, BUT IS MUCH HIGHER THAN IN THE OTHER
POPULATION
STRATA. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR
THE
CAR MILITARY, BUT VARIOUS CAMPAIGNS ARE IN PLACE TO
INCREASE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE PREVENTION OF THE
DISEASE.

FRANCIS

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 12:24 PM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: ERITREA: INFORMATION FOR UNSC SESSION ON Q HIV/AIDS

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6378
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 1695
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0146
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0307

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061807Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233876
InfoAddrees: ////
Line1: RAAUZYUW RUEHAEA0101 0061807-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: R 061807Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY ASMARA
Originator: AMEMBASSY ASMARA
Precedence: ROUTINE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHAE
StationSerialNumber: 0101
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 12:23:11 ET

UNCLAS ASMARA 000101

NAIROBI FOR USAID/REDSO

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TRIO, UNSC, ER, XA
SUBJECT: ERITREA: INFORMATION FOR UNSC SESSION ON
Q HIV/AIDS

REF: STATE 1299

1. PER REQUEST IN REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION ON
HIV/AIDS IN ERITREA:

Q. IF A PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS,
DO LAWS EXIST IN ERITREA TO PROTECT THAT PERSON AGAINST
JOB AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION?

A. THERE ARE NO LAWS SPECIFIC TO HIV/AIDS THAT WOULD
PROTECT AGAINST JOB OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION.

Q. ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS?
IS SUCH TESTING VOLUNTARY?

A. PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS.

VOLUNTARY TESTING IS AVAILABLE, AND SOME SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE TESTING HAS BEEN DONE.

Q. WHAT PROGRAMS EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS?

A. BOTH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL NATIONAL UNION OF ERITREAN YOUTH AND STUDENTS (NUEYS) CARRY OUT PROGRAMS OF INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS AIMED AT HIV/AIDS PREVENTION. WITH USAID SUPPORT, NUEYS AND POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL ARE CONDUCTING A CONDOM SOCIAL MARKETING PROGRAM TO PREVENT HIV/AIDS AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS COLLABORATING IN A CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROJECT ON HIV/AIDS, PEER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, AND ANTI-AIDS CLUBS FOR STUDENTS.

Q. WHAT IS THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION?

A. THERE HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPREHENSIVE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEYS, BUT THE PREVALENCE HAS BEEN ESTIMATED TO BE 1.5 PER CENT OF THE ADULT POPULATION (15-49 YEARS OLD) NATIONWIDE. STUDIES AND SCREENING OF BLOOD DONORS AROUND 1995 HAVE SHOW CONSIDERABLY HIGHER PREVALENCES IN URBAN AREAS (AROUND 4%) AND HIGH RISK GROUPS (10-25 PER CENT). THE PREVALENCE IS BELIEVED TO BE INCREASING.

Q. THE U.S. MILITARY TESTS ITS PERSONNEL PRIOR TO INDUCTION, PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT, AND PERIODICALLY DURING THEIR SERVICE. IS THERE SIMILAR MANDATORY TESTING OF THE MILITARY IN ERITREA?

A. ERITREA IS AT WAR, AND THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF PUBLIC INFORMATION. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT HIV/AIDS TESTING HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT FOR PERSONNEL ENTERING MILITARY PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE TREMENDOUS EXPANSION OF THE ERITREAN ARMED FORCES IN RESPONSE TO THE WAR WITH ETHIOPIA, IT IS NOT CLEAR IF ALL NEW PERSONNEL ARE STILL BEING TESTED. WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER TESTING IS CARRIED OUT AFTER ENTRY INTO THE MILITARY.

Q, IF NOT, IS THERE ANY TESTING OF MILITARY OR POLICE IN HOST COUNTRY?

A. VOLUNTARY TESTING IS AVAILABLE.

Q. IS THE RATE OF INFECTION KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY? WITHIN THE POLICE?

A. IT IS LIKELY THAT SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE HAS BEEN CONDUCTED TO INFORM THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF THE MILITARY, BUT SUCH DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC INFORMATION.

Q. ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY OR POLICE?

A. YES. INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS ON HIV/AIDS PREVENTION ARE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE MILITARY PEOPLE AND CONDOMS ARE PROVIDED. THERE ARE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PRE-AND POST-TEST COUNSELING, INCLUDING PEER EDUCATION TRAINING.

CLARKE

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Malawi] (3 pages)	01/06/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Cables related to AIDS - 2000 [4]

2007-1550-F
ke2032

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]

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

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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]

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 2:14 PM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UNSC - AIDS INFORMATION ON AFRICA
ActionAddres: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6194
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061812Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO
Identifier: M4234049
InfoAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0720
Line1: RAAUZYUW RUEHGVA0112 0061812-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHGV
StationSerialNumber: 0112
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 14:13:20 ET

UNCLAS GENEVA 000112

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI TBIO, UNSC, UNAIDS
SUBJECT: UNSC - AIDS INFORMATION ON AFRICA

REF: USUN 001299

1. SUMMARY. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, MISSION CONTACTED UNAIDS FOR INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ASKED IN REFTEL. UNAIDS SENIOR OFFICIALS SAID THAT THEY WILL PROVIDE AFRICA COUNTRY FACT SHEETS, BUT CANNOT DO SO UNTIL THE MORNING OF JANUARY 7. UNAIDS OFFICIALS SAID THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE RELIABLE INFORMATION TO ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED BY USUN AND THAT, AT THIS TIME, THE INFORMATION THjy?gROTS ON HIV/AIDS IN EACH AFRICAN COUNTRY. WHEN MISSION'S HEALTH ATTACHE ASKED IF THESE ARE THE SAME FACT SHEETS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE UNAIDS INTERNET SITE, THE ANSWER WAS "YES," ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME UPDATES BUT THAT ANY UPDATES WOULD NOT INCLUDE DATA CHANGES. ATTACHE NOTED THAT THE FACT SHEETS CURRENTLY ON THE UNAIDS WEB SITE HAVE 1998 DATA AND DO NOT HAVE 1999 DATA. UNAIDS OFFICIAL SAID THAT FINAL, APPROVED 1999 DATA IS SIMPLY NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. THE OFFICIAL NOTED THAT COUNTRIES ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO THE PUBLICATION OF DATA ON THEIR RESPECTIVE SITUATIONS UNTIL THEY HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO CONCUR WITH ITS PUBLICATION.

3. UNAIDS COMMENTS ON OTHER QUESTIONS FOLLOW:

-- DO LAWS EXIST TO PROTECT HIV POSITIVE PEOPLE FROM DISCRIMINATION?

RESPONSE: MOST COUNTRIES HAVE NO SUCH LAWS. ANY LAWS THAT MIGHT BE APPLICABLE REGARDING DISCRIMINATION IN GENERAL ARE USUALLY NOT ENFORCED IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY WITH RESPECT TO HIV/AIDS..

-- ARE PREGNANT WOMEN TESTED FOR HIV AND IS IT VOLUNTARY?

RESPONSE: NO COUNTRY IN AFRICA TESTS ALL PREGNANT WOMEN FOR HIV. THERE ARE MAJOR SHORTAGES OF DIAGNOSTICS AND LABORATORY EXPERTISE. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SENTINEL SITES IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES (E.G. KENYA) IN WHICH PREGNANT WOMEN ARE TESTED. UNAIDS DOES NOT HAVE ACCURATE INFORMATION ON WHETHER THERE IS INFORMED CONSENT. UNAIDS VIEW IS THAT SUCH TESTING SHOULD BE VOLUNTARY AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE INFORMED CONSENT, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY NOT UNIFORMLY THE CASE.

-- WHAT HIV/AIDS EDUCATION/PREVENTION PROGRAMS EXIST?

RESPONSE: PER UNAIDS, ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE SOME TYPE OF EDUCATION/PREVENTION PROGRAMS. THESE MAY BE IMPLEMENTED BY GOVERNMENTS, NGO'S, SCHOOLS, AND OTHERS. THE TYPE AND EFFECTIVENESS VARIES FROM COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY.

-- RATE OF INFECTION IN GENERAL POPULATION?

RESPONSE: THE RATE OF INFECTION WILL BE COVERED IN THE FACT SHEETS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE TOMORROW. USUN CAN PULL THE FACT SHEETS THAT ARE POSTED AND INCLUDE 1998 DATA FROM THE UNAIDS WEB SITE AT:
[HTTP://WWW.UNAIDS.ORG/HIVAIDSINFO/STATISTICS..](http://www.unaids.org/hivaidsinfo/statistics..)

-- IS THERE MANDATORY TESTING IN THE MILITARY AND THE POLICE?

RESPONSE: UNAIDS STAFF IS CHECKING FILES ON COUNTRIES TO PULL OUT WHAT INFORMATION MAY BE THERE. UNAIDS BELIEVES THAT THE RESPONSES SENT IN BY U.S. EMBASSIES IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES MAY WELL BE THE MOST ACCURATE AT THIS JUNCTURE.

-- ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY/POLICE?

RESPONSE. INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT UNAIDS HEADQUARTERS IS NOT COMPLETE. COUNTRY-LEVEL AWARENESS PROGRAMS IN THE MILITARY WOULD, IN GENERAL, MIRROR THE COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF THEIR POPULATION AS A WHOLE.

4. MISSION REGRETS THAT DETAILED INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO ALL QUESTIONS. THIS IS, NO DOUBT, A REFLECTION OF STAFF CONSTRAINTS AT UNAIDS AND THE SHORT LEAD-TIME AVAILABLE TO PULL INFORMATION TOGETHER FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES. DR. PETER PIOT WILL, WE UNDERSTAND, BE AT THE UN FOR THIS SESSION. MISSION ENCOURAGES USUN TO ACCESS COUNTRY FACT SHEETS AND IN SUCH DOCUMENTS AS THE UNAIDS/W.H.O. "REPORT ON THE GLOBAL HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC JUNE 1998" THROUGH THE WEB SITE. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE SENT AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

5. MISSION WOULD WELCOME INFORMATION ON THE FORMAT FOR THE UNSC BRIEFING AND FEEDBACK ON IT, SINCE UNAIDS AND W.H.O. ARE LOCATED HERE AND, THUS FAR, WE HAVE HAD AN INFORMAL QUERY FROM ONE MISSION (NORWAY) ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE JANUARY 10 MEETING AND WHAT MAY BE PLANNED OVER THE LONGER TERM.
MOOSE

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 2:43 PM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: AIDS INFORMATION FOR UNSC: SIERRA LEONE

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0701
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0009

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061921Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4234081
InfoAddres: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0007
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHFNA0053 0061921-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061921Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
Originator: AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHFN
StationSerialNumber: 0053
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 14:42:54 ET

UNCLAS FREETOWN 000053

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, SL
SUBJECT: AIDS INFORMATION FOR UNSC: SIERRA LEONE

REF: STATE 1299

1. FOLLOWING PARA 2 ARE BRIEF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL. THE ANSWERS SHOULD BE VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A DECADE OF CIVIL CONFLICT IN SIERRA LEONE, WHICH HAS DRAMATICALLY, NEGATIVELY AFFECTED THE RESOURCES AND ABILITIES OF SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS A WIDE RANGE OF SOCIAL CONCERNS, INCLUDING HIV/AIDS.

2. IF A PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS, DO LAWS EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY TO PROTECT THAT PERSON AGAINST JOB AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION?
-- NO, THERE ARE NO LAWS ON THE MATTER IN SIERRA LEONE.

ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS? IS SUCH TESTING VOLUNTARY?
-- THERE IS NO ROUTINE TESTING; IF ANY IS DONE, IT IS AT THE REQUEST OF THE EXPECTANT MOTHER.

WHAT PROGRAMS EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS?

-- THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS A MODEST PROGRAM OF PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION, WHICH INCLUDES THE HANDING OUT OF CONDOMS. SOME NGO'S IN COUNTRY ALSO HAVE, AT LEAST IN THE PAST, ALSO HAD HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMS. ALL EFFORTS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN REDUCED DURING THE LAST DECADE, AS THE CIVIL CONFLICT ABSORBED RESOURCES AND DESTROYED THE ECONOMY (AND THEREFORE GOVERNMENT REVENUES.) BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL CONFLICT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE THE GOSL HAS NOT HAD SAFE PHYSICAL ACCESS TO MUCH OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY FOR YEARS, AND WHAT FEW GOVERNMENT EFFORTS THERE ARE HAVE BEEN OF NECESSITY DIRECTED AT ACCESSIBLE URBAN POPULATIONS, PRIMARILY IN THE CAPITAL OF FREETOWN.

WHAT IS THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION?

-- NO ONE KNOWS. CONFIRMED CASES (AND RECORDED DEATHS) FROM HIV/AIDS NUMBER IN THE LOW HUNDREDS. HOWEVER, ALL HEALTH WORKERS, INCLUDING THE LOCAL WHO OFFICE, BELIEVE THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ALREADY INFECTED BY THE VIRUS IS MANY TIMES HIGHER - PERHAPS VERY MANY TIMES HIGHER -- THAN THAT NUMBER, AS ARE THE NUMBER OF DEATHS. A RATE WOULD BE NOTHING BUT A GUESSTIMATE, AS THERE IS VERY LITTLE TESTING DONE.

THE U.S. MILITARY TESTS ITS PERSONNEL PRIOR TO INDUCTION, PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT, AND PERIODICALLY DURING THEIR SERVICE. IS THERE SIMILAR MANDATORY TESTING OF THE MILITARY IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY?

-- NO.

IF NOT, IS THERE ANY TESTING OF MILITARY OR POLICE IN HOST COUNTRY?

-- NO.

IS THE RATE OF INFECTION KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY? WITHIN THE POLICE?

-- THERE ARE NO KNOWN RATES OF INFECTION FOR ANY SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION, INCLUDING THE MILITARY AND POLICE.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY OR POLICE?

-- NO.

MELROSE

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 4:56 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA; AIDS IN ZAMBIA

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0132
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0978

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 060944Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233092
InfoAddrees: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
Line1: RAAUZYUW RUEHLSA0037 0060944-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: R 060944Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
Originator: AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
Precedence: ROUTINE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHLS
StationSerialNumber: 0037
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 04:55:11 ET

UNCLAS LUSAKA 000037

DEPT FOR AF/EPS, AF/S

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, EAID, ZA
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA; AIDS IN ZAMBIA

REF: STATE 1299

1. THE ANSWERS BELOW ARE KEYED TO THE REFTEL QUESTIONS.

2. REFTEL PARA 3:

- NO ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS EXIST REGARDING POSITIVE HIV/AIDS TEST RESULTS.

- PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED, ALTHOUGH VOLUNTARY TESTING EXISTS AT THE ANTENATAL CLINICS AT MANY DISTRICT HOSPITALS.

- THE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR HIV/AIDS ARE MANY AND VARIED, HOWEVER, VIRTUALLY ALL ARE FUNDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY. USAID, FOR EXAMPLE, FUNDS SEVERAL PROJECTS INCLUDING MALE AND FEMALE CONDOM PROMOTION, YOUTH AND SCHOOL EDUCATION PROJECTS, MEN'S INVOLVEMENT EDUCATION, AND PROJECTS FOCUSED ON COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION WORKERS AND COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS. THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA DEVELOPED A NATIONAL

STRATEGIC PLAN ON HIV/AIDS AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS PROPOSED THAT PARLIAMENT CREATE A NATIONAL SECRETARIAT ON HIV/AIDS. EACH DISTRICT ALSO HAS A POINT PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR HIV/AIDS ISSUES.

- THE LATEST SURVEY INDICATES THAT 19.7 PERCENT OF THE 15-44 YEAR OLD AGE GROUP IS HIV POSITIVE. THIS SURVEY INCLUDES BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, URBAN AND RURAL.

3. REFTTEL PARA 4:

- NO.

- YES, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT MANDATORY. A DRAFT PROPOSAL IS CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY BY EACH OF THE MILITARY BRANCHES TO REQUIRE HIV/AIDS TESTS FOR ALL RECRUITS BEFORE ENTRY INTO SERVICE. INFORMALLY, MOST RECRUITS ARE CURRENTLY TESTED.

- NO.

- MILITARY HEALTH CLINICS DISPLAY CONDOM AND HIV/AIDS AWARENESS POSTERS IN THEIR FACILITIES, AND COUNSELING IS AVAILABLE IF REQUESTED. HIV/AIDS EDUCATION THROUGH SEMINARS IS CONDUCTED ON AN AD HOC BASIS. THE ZAMBIAN ARMY HAS AN OFFICER WITH A FULL-TIME PORTFOLIO OF HIV/AIDS SENSITIZATION.

WHITEHEAD

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 8:18 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI); Guarnieri, Valerie N. (MULTI); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA: HIV/AIDS IN TOGO

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8784
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0328
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061258Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY FELDMAN GUARNIERI MCLEAN NAPLAN
PATTEN SCHWARTZ SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO
Identifier: M4233340
InfoAddres: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0040
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHPCA0046 0061258-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061258Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY LOME
Originator: AMEMBASSY LOME
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
FELDMAND
GUARNIEV
MCLEANM
NAPLAN
PATTENW
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHPC
StationSerialNumber: 0046
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 08:17:30 ET

UNCLAS LOME 000046

DEPT FOR AF/EPS AND AF/W

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, EAID, UNSC, TO
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: HIV/AIDS IN TOGO

REF: STATE 01299

THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS ARE KEYED TO REFTEL:

1. (U) NO LAW PROTECTS PERSONS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR HIV/AIDS FROM JOB OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, GUIDELINES (ADOPTED FROM FRENCH LABOR STANDARDS) FOR RE-ASSIGNING AN EMPLOYEE WITH AIDS TO A POSITION WHERE HIS/HER HEALTH CONDITION IS LESS AGGRAVATED AND LESS CONTAGIOUS. AN EMPLOYEE DISMISSED FOR AIDS MAY SUE AN EMPLOYER, WITH SOME CHANCE OF SUCCESS, IF FIRED SOLELY FOR THE MEDICAL

CONDITION AND NOT FOR JOB PERFORMANCE.

2. (U) PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS. THEY MAY ELECT TO BE TESTED.

3. (U) THERE ARE SEVERAL PROGRAMS IN TOGO FOR AIDS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION. AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL, THERE IS THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR AIDS PREVENTION (PNLS - PROGRAMME NATIONAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA) WHICH RUNS AN HIV/AIDS TESTING AND COUNSELING CENTER IN LOMI. SEVERAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN THIS AREA INCLUDE, NOTABLY, "FAMILY HEALTH AND AIDS PREVENTION" (SFPS) AND "POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL" (PSI). THE ACTIVITIES OF SFPS AND PSI IN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION ARE FUNDED BY USAID, ALTHOUGH THAT FUNDING IS REPORTEDLY BEING REDUCED IN FY 2000. (IN 1999, AS PART OF ITS USAID-FUNDED PROGRAM, PSI DISTRIBUTED 6.5 MILLION SOCIALLY-MARKETED CONDOMS IN TOGO. THE DEMAND FOR THESE US-MADE CONDOMS IS INCREASING; HOWEVER, CONTINUED SUPPLY IS NOW UNCERTAIN.)

4. (U) THERE ARE SEVERAL STATISTICS RELATED TO THE RATE OF INFECTION, WHICH CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

- GENERAL POPULATION: 3-4 PERCENT HIV POSITIVE;
- POPULATION AGE 15-80: 6 PERCENT HIV POSITIVE;
- POPULATION AGE 15-49: 8.5 PERCENT HIV POSITIVE;
- CAPITAL CITY LOW-RISK GROUPS: 6.8 PERCENT HIV;
- CAPITAL CITY HIGH-RISK GROUPS: OVER 40 PERCENT HIV.

REAL PERCENTAGES ARE HIGHER, SINCE THESE STATISTICS ARE BASED ON DECLARED CASES.

5. (U) THERE IS NO MANDATORY TESTING OF MILITARY RECRUITS.

6. (U) MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES MAY BE TESTED AS PART OF THEIR DIAGNOSIS WHEN THEY REPORT SICK.

7. (U) THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE MILITARY, IF KNOWN, IS NOT KNOWN BY US AT THIS TIME, DESPITE OUR INQUIRIES. COMPOSED PREDOMINANTLY OF YOUNG MEN OFTEN POSTED AWAY FROM SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS, THE MILITARY MAY CONSTITUTE A HIGH-RISK CATEGORY (SEE PARA 4).

8. (U) THERE ARE PERIODIC AWARENESS PROGRAMS CONDUCTED IN THE MILITARY (NONE, REPEAT: NONE, SPONSORED BY USG FUNDS). THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR AIDS PREVENTION (PNLS), IN FACT, IS AN ACTIVE MILITARY MEDICAL OFFICER, COL. KPANTE BASSABI. SCHOONOVER

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 8:20 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI); Guarnieri, Valerie N. (MULTI); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: AIDS INFORMATION FOR UNSC

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4956
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0136
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061312Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY FELDMAN GUARNIERI MCLEAN NAPLAN
PATTEN SCHWARTZ SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO
Identifier: M4233360
InfoAddrees: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0069
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHLGB0027 0061312-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061312Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
Originator: AMEMBASSY KIGALI
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
FELDMAND
GUARNIEV
MCLEANM
NAPLAN
PATTENW
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHLGB
StationSerialNumber: 0027
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 08:19:24 ET

UNCLAS KIGALI 000027

STATE FOR AF/EP
PASS TO USAID FOR AF/EA AND G/HPN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, XA, UNSC, EAID, RW
SUBJECT: AIDS INFORMATION FOR UNSC

REF: (A) STATE 1299 (B) KIGALI 0023

1. INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL (A) REGARDING
AIDS IN RWANDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

ANSWERS TO REF A PARAGRAPH THREE QUESTIONS -

NO, BUT THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED
IN PARLIAMENT AND PLANS ARE SET TO ENACT SUCH
A LAW AND ALSO ONE TO PUNISH THOSE WHO
KNOWINGLY SPREAD AIDS.

- ONLY AT 10 SENTINEL SITES. YES.

- NATIONWIDE PROGRAM ON NATIONAL

RADIO, COUNSELING CENTERS AT EACH REGIONAL HOSPITAL (PREFECTURE), SCHOOL HOUSE PROGRAM AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR USE. THIS HAS INCREASED THE NEED FOR VOLUNTARY TESTING BEYOND PRESENT CAPACITY.

- GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES 10 PERCENT FOR THE 12 TO 45 AGE GROUP.

4. THE ANSWERS TO PARAGRAPH 4 REF (A) ARE FOR THE RWANDAN MILITARY (INCLUDING GENDARMERIES); A CIVIL POLICE FORCE IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING FORMED.

- NO.

- ONLY WHEN LEAVING RWANDA TO ATTEND COURSES.

- NO, IT IS ESTIMATED TO BE MUCH HIGHER THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION.

- YES, ALL BARRACKS HAVE COUNSELING AND EDUCATION SERVICES. TESTING FACILITIES EXIST AT THE MAIN MILITARY HOSPITAL.

2. POST HAS JUST PREPARED A COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE ON THE AIDS SITUATION IN RWANDA (REF B) WHICH USUN MAY ALSO FIND BENEFICIAL.
STAPLES

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 8:40 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO FOR UNSC

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4070
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0292

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061329Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233370
InfoAddres: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0105
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 9224
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0610
RUEHZO/OAU COLLECTIVE

Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHANA0035 0061329-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061329Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
Originator: AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHAN
StationSerialNumber: 0035
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 08:38:56 ET

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 000035

STATE FOR AF/EPS AND FOR AF/E - FERRILL AND YAMAMOTO
STATE ALSO FOR OES/S -- NANCY CARTER-FOSTER
STATE PASS TO AID FOR AFR/EA - FRED WITTHANS
ALSO FOR DAA KEITH BROWN
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS
BRUSSELS FOR ROBYN HINSON-JONES

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, EAID, UNSC, MA
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO FOR UNSC

REF: STATE 1299

1. THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REFTEL APPEARS BELOW:

2. REFTEL PARAGRAPH 3 QUESTIONS:

A. CURRENTLY MADAGASCAR DOES NOT HAVE LAWS TO PROTECT PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE IS STILL LOW IN MADAGASCAR, CONSEQUENTLY LAWS TO PROTECT PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION OR INJUSTICE HAVE NOT BEEN A HIGH PRIORITY FOR POLICY MAKERS.
B. THERE IS NO ROUTINE TESTING FOR PREGNANT WOMEN IN MADAGASCAR.

C. SINCE 1997, USAID HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN SUPPORTING NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM PRIORITIES. USAID SUPPORTS CONDOM PROMOTION AND IMPROVED STD MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALGORITHMS AND STRENGTHENING STD DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, COUNSELING AND MANAGEMENT. USAID ALSO WORKS ON TARGETED EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE INTERVENTIONS WITH YOUTH AND PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK, AS WELL AS ON IMPROVING PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION TO ENABLE BETTER DECISION MAKING. OTHER PARTNERS, SUCH AS THE EU, FRENCH COOPERATION AND UN AGENCIES (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, AND UNDP) SUPPORT EDUCATION AND PREVENTION ACTIVITIES WITH YOUTH AND WOMEN. MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL DONORS WORK WITH A NUMBER OF MINISTRIES, INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM, AND THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORTS, POPULATION, AGRICULTURE, AND ARMED FORCES, AS WELL AS WITH RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NGOS.

D. AS OF DECEMBER 1998, THE HIV PREVALENCE AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION WAS 0.09 PERCENT. HOWEVER, THE PREVALENCE OF CLASSIC SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES IS HIGH. SYPHILIS RATES AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN ARE AS HIGH AS 14.8 PERCENT IN SOME REGIONS, AND AS HIGH AS 35.7 PERCENT

AMONG HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS.

3. REFTEL PARAGRAPH 4 QUESTIONS:

A. THERE IS NO MANDATORY TESTING OF MILITARY IN MADAGASCAR.

B. THERE IS NO TESTING OF MILITARY OR POLICE IN MADAGASCAR, ON A VOLUNTARY OR OTHER BASIS (WE DID NOT RECEIVE RESPONSES FROM THE GENDARMERIE IN TIME TO INCLUDE IN THIS CABLE). DONATED BLOOD IS SCREENED FOR HIV/AIDS, HOWEVER, THIS IS DONE REGARDLESS OF THE DONOR'S PROFESSION.

C. THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE MILITARY AND POLICE IS UNKNOWN.

D. THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY OR POLICE. HOWEVER, THE MILITARY PARTICIPATES IN THE NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM TO IMPROVE AWARENESS AND THE POLICE ARE DEVELOPING AN AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAM.

BARNES

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 8:43 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: TANZANIA-AIDS INFO FOR UNSC

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8819
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0648

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061333Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233381
InfoAddres: ////

Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHDRA0040 0061333-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061333Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
Originator: AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHDR
StationSerialNumber: 0040
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 08:42:28 ET

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 000040

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, TZ
SUBJECT: TANZANIA-AIDS INFO FOR UNSC

REF: SECSTATE 1299

1. PER REFTEL POST PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN TANZANIA:

--NO LAWS EXIST IN TANZANIA TO PROTECT AN HIV/AIDS POSITIVE PERSON FROM JOB AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION.

--PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT/NOT ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS.

--HIV/AIDS EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS ARE LARGELY LOCALIZED AND RUN BY TANZANIAN NGOS WHO FOCUS ON FACE-TO-FACE EDUCATION AND COUNSELING. THE GOT NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON AIDS ALSO SUPPORTS A MASS MEDIA (RADIO AND POSTER) EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

--THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION IS CURRENTLY REPORTED TO BE TWELVE PERCENT (ACCORDING TO USAID).

--THE TANZANIAN MILITARY DOES HAVE MANDATORY TESTING PRIOR TO INDUCTION. AFTER THAT THE TESTING IS ARBITRARY AND CONDUCTED WHEN HEALTH OFFICIALS HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE A SOLDIER IS SICK.

--THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE TANZANIAN PEOPLE'S DEFENSE FORCES IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON HIV/AIDS AND DOES CONDUCT AN EDUCATION/AWARENESS PROGRAM.

--THE RATE OF INFECTION WITHIN THE MILITARY IS NOT KNOWN.
STITH

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 8:43 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: TANZANIA-AIDS INFO FOR UNSC

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8819
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0648

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061333Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233381
InfoAddrees: ////

Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHDRA0040 0061333-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061333Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
Originator: AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHDR
StationSerialNumber: 0040
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 08:42:28 ET

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 000040

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, TZ
SUBJECT: TANZANIA-AIDS INFO FOR UNSC

REF: SECSTATE 1299

1. PER REFTEL POST PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN TANZANIA:

--NO LAWS EXIST IN TANZANIA TO PROTECT AN HIV/AIDS POSITIVE PERSON FROM JOB AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION.

--PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT/NOT ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS.

--HIV/AIDS EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS ARE LARGELY LOCALIZED AND RUN BY TANZANIAN NGOS WHO FOCUS ON FACE-TO-FACE EDUCATION AND COUNSELING. THE GOT NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON AIDS ALSO SUPPORTS A MASS MEDIA (RADIO AND POSTER) EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

--THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION IS CURRENTLY REPORTED TO BE TWELVE PERCENT (ACCORDING TO USAID).

--THE TANZANIAN MILITARY DOES HAVE MANDATORY TESTING PRIOR TO INDUCTION. AFTER THAT THE TESTING IS ARBITRARY AND CONDUCTED WHEN HEALTH OFFICIALS HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE A SOLDIER IS SICK.

--THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE TANZANIAN PEOPLE'S DEFENSE FORCES IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON HIV/AIDS AND DOES CONDUCT AN EDUCATION/AWARENESS PROGRAM.

--THE RATE OF INFECTION WITHIN THE MILITARY IS NOT KNOWN.
STITH

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 10:37 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: REQUESTED AIDS INFORMATION FOR CHAD

ActionAddressee: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2760
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061529Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO

Identifier: M4233646
InfoAddressee: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0112
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHNJA0037 0061529-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061529Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
Originator: AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHNJ
StationSerialNumber: 0037
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 10:36:34 ET

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 000037

STATE FOR AF/EP5

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, CD
SUBJECT: REQUESTED AIDS INFORMATION FOR CHAD

REFTEL: A) STATE 1299 B) 99 NDJAMENA 2434

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL A, POST OFFERS THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES:

IF A PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS, DO LAWS EXIST IN CHAD TO PROTECT THAT PERSON AGAINST JOB AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION?

ANSWER: NOT AT THIS TIME. THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THESE WILL COVER HIV/AIDS. TESTING FOR HIV/AIDS AS A CONDITION FOR EMPLOYMENT IS NOT PERMITTED BY LAW. POST NOTES THAT REFTEL B PROVIDES SOME INFORMATION ON THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HOMOSEXUALS THAT EXISTS WITHIN CHAD WITH RESPECT TO HIV/AIDS.

ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS?

ANSWER: THERE ARE SEVEN PRENATAL CLINICS WHERE PREGNANT MOTHERS MAY UNDERGO VOLUNTARY TESTING. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT KNOWN WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE EXPECTANT MOTHER POPULATION TAKES ADVANTAGE OF VOLUNTARY TESTING.

WHAT PROGRAMS EXIST IN CHAD FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS?

ANSWER: THERE IS A NATIONAL HIV/AIDS POLICY THAT WAS REFORMULATED IN 1999. THE PRIVATE MEDIA WRITES ABOUT HIV/AIDS AND ONE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FEATURES CONDOM ADVERTISEMENTS IN EACH ISSUE. AN ESTIMATED 600,000 CONDO
600 TEACHERS HAVE RECEIVED HIV/AIDS TRAINING AND THE GOC INTENDS TO TRAIN MORE. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AGENTS HAVE RECEIVED HIV/AIDS PREVENTION TRAINING TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING SUCH INFORMATION TO RURAL CHADIANS (80 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION). IN TOTAL, SEVEN MINISTRIES ARE INVOLVED IN HIV/AIDS TRAINING/EDUCATION AS ARE FIVE NGOS.

WHAT IS THE INFECTION RATE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION?

ANSWER: ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A WORLD BANK-FUNDED PROJECT TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS, THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION IN 1999 WAS 6-10 PERCENT. GOC OFFICIALS HAVE PLACED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF KNOWN AIDS PATIENTS AT ROUGHLY 10,000. THIS FIGURE, HOWEVER, IS AN UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF THE ESTIMATED RATE OF INFECTION.

THE U.S. MILITARY TESTS ITS PERSONNEL PRIOR TO INDUCTION, PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT, AND PERIODICALLY DURING THEIR SERVICE. IS THERE SIMILAR MANDATORY TESTING OF THE MILITARY IN CHAD?

ANSWER: NO. MANDATORY MILITARY TESTING FOR HIV/AIDS DOES NOT EXIST IN CHAD.

IS THE RATE OF INFECTION KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY AND POLICE?

ANSWER: TWO PREVALENCE RATE SAMPLING TESTS OF MILITARY MEMBERS IN NDJAMENA AND MOUNDOU INDICATE THAT HIV/AIDS IS ROUGHLY THE SAME AS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. TEN PERCENT OF THOSE TESTED IN NDJAMENA WERE FOUND TO HAVE HIV/AIDS AND EIGHT PERCENT OF THOSE IN MOUNDOU HAD HIV/AIDS. (NOTE: TOTAL NUMBER OF SOLDIERS TESTED IN BOTH STUDIES NOT KNOWN. END NOTE.) POST DOES NOT HAVE SEPARATE DATA FOR THE POLICE.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY OR POLICE?

ANSWER: YES. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS AN ANTI-AIDS PROGRAM FOR THE MILITARY.

GOLDTHWAIT

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 10:35 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: AIDS INFO FROM ANGOLA FOR UN/AFRICA
ActionAddrees: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 4018
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1745
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061505Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO
Identifier: M4233634
InfoAddrees: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHLUA0064 0061505-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061505Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY LUANDA
Originator: AMEMBASSY LUANDA
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
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CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHLU
StationSerialNumber: 0064
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 10:34:55 ET

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LUANDA 000064

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, EAID, AO
SUBJECT: AIDS INFO FROM ANGOLA FOR UN/AFRICA

REF: STATE 1299

1. REPSONSES TO REFTEL QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED BELOW,
CORRESPONDING TO THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE ASKED.

2. QUESTIONS ON THE AIDS EPIDEMIC:

--LABOR AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS TO PROTECT
PERSONS INFECTED WITH HIV/AIDS ARE NON-EXISTENT.
EFFORTS ON THE PART OF A WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS GROUP
LED TO THE CREATION IN 1999 OF AN AIDS SUB-COMMISSION
IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ONE OF THE GOALS OF THIS
SUB-COMMISSION IS TO DEVELOP LEGISLATION, INCLUDING
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND LABOR-RELATED LAWS. THE SUB-
COMMISSION IS VERY INTERESTED IN NAMIBIA'S AIDS
LEGISLATION AND MAY USE IT AS A MODEL FOR ANGOLAN
LEGISLATION. AT PRESENT, THE ONLY PIECE OF LEGISLATION
ON HIV/AIDS IN ANGOLA IS THE MANDATE FOR THE CREATION
OF A NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HIV/AIDS/STDs. THE
PLAN WAS DEVELOPED IN JULY 1999 AND APPROVED IN
DECEMBER 1999.

--PREGNANT WOMEN ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV. HOWEVER, THE FEW PREVALENCE STUDIES CARRIED OUT TO DATE HAVE TESTED WOMEN ATTENDING PRENATAL CLINICS TO ESTIMATE THE PREVALENCE IN THE GENERAL, SEXUALLY ACTIVE POPULATION. THESE STUDIES WERE DONE ON AN ANONYMOUS BUT NOT VOLUNTARY BASIS.

--COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION ARE NOT YET IN PLACE. THE NATIONAL AIDS PROGRAM (PNLS), DESPITE SERIOUS LACK OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, IS COMMITTED TO AIDS PREVENTION IN ANGOLA AND IS SEEKING PARTNERSHIPS WITH DIFFERENT DONORS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS/STD STRATEGIC PLAN. UNICEF, UNESCO, SIDA ALL HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS AREA, AND USE OF THE MEDIA COULD BE GREATLY IMPROVED. USAID HOPES TO RECEIVE APPROVAL TO INITIATE A MORE FOCUSED AWARENESS/PREVENTION PROGRAM IN MID/LATE 2000. UNHCR IS TAKING THE LEAD IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING PREVENTION PROGRAMS AMONG DISPLACED POPULATIONS. CONDOM USAGE AND AVAILABILITY ARE LOW. PNLS CURRENT STOCK IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT (FROM A 2 MILLION DONATION BY PSI IN 1998). PHARMACY PRICES ARE AROUND US \$1 FOR A PACK OF THREE, AND CONSIDERED TO BE EXPENSIVE.

--THERE ARE NO COMPREHENSIVE OR RELIABLE ESTIMATES OF THE HIV INFECTION RATE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION. STUDIES HAVE ESTIMATED THE PREVALENCE OF HIV INFECTION IN SPECIFIC GROUPS AS FOLLOWS: 3.4 PERCENT AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN LUANDA AND 8 PERCENT AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN CABINDA (1999); AND, JUST UNDER 30 PERCENT AMONG SEX WORKERS IN LUANDA (1999, UNPUBLISHED). THE MAJORITY OF AIDS CASES HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED IN LUANDA AND CABINDA. ANGOLA IS EXPECTED TO REACH A RATE OF 10 PERCENT PREVALENCE IN THE GENERAL ADULT POPULATION BY 2009, AT WHICH TIME THE NUMBER OF AIDS ORPHANS IS ESTIMATED TO REACH 300,000 PLUS (FROM AROUND 20,000 AT PRESENT). THE PREVALENCE OF STDs IS VERY HIGH (OVER 30 PERCENT FOR SOME STDs).

3. QUESTIONS ON AIDS IN THE MILITARY:

--ACCORDING TO THE ARMY'S CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, GENERAL HENDRICK, THE ANGOLAN MILITARY DOES NOT TEST NEW RECRUITS FOR HIV.

--THERE IS NO ROUTINE HIV/AIDS TESTING IN THE MILITARY, ALTHOUGH TESTING MAY BE DONE IN CASES OF ILLNESS OR OTHER MEDICAL PROBLEMS. THE MILITARY USES ITS OWN MEDICAL SERVICES FOR SUCH NON-ROUTINE TESTING. WE ARE TOLD THE MILITARY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST HIV POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS, BUT FREQUENTLY ATTEMPTS TO FIND THEM ALTERNATIVE JOBS WITHIN THE MILITARY SYSTEM. THE PROCEDURES IN THE POLICE FORCE ARE SIMILAR (NO TESTING OF RECRUITS, AND NO ROUTINE TESTING).

--THE RATES OF INFECTION IN THE MILITARY/POLICE FORCE ARE UNKNOWN, BUT SUSPECTED TO BE HIGHER THAN IN THE GENERAL ADULT POPULATION. A PAPER BY LYERLY, BARRY AND MILLER REPORTED 5.7 PERCENT PREVALENCE FOR HIV-1 AND 6.7 PERCENT FOR HIV-2 IN 1987, AT WHICH TIME PREVALENCE IN LOW RISK GROUPS WAS RESPECTIVELY 0 PERCENT AND 2.3 PERCENT.

--NO SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS EXIST FOR THE MILITARY AND THE POLICE FORCE. HOWEVER, THERE IS SOME INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE ARMY'S MEDICAL OFFICERS AND A NUMBER OF MEETINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BOTH WITH USAID AND UNAIDS. A FEW ARMY MEDICAL OFFICERS ARE

INVOLVED ON A REGULAR BASIS IN AIDS-RELATED
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LUANDA 000064

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, EAID, AO

SUBJECT: AIDS INFO FROM ANGOLA FOR UN/AFRICA

ACTIVITIES.

SULLIVAN

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 10:34 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: ERITREA: INFORMATION FOR UNSC SESSION ON Q HIV/AIDS

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6378
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 1695
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0146
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0307

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061807Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG
STROMSETH
VACCARO

Identifier: M4233636
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Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: R 061807Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY ASMARA
Originator: AMEMBASSY ASMARA
Precedence: ROUTINE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHAE
StationSerialNumber: 0101
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 10:33:00 ET

UNCLAS ASMARA 000101

NAIROBI FOR USAID/REDSO

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TRIO, UNSC, ER, XA
SUBJECT: ERITREA: INFORMATION FOR UNSC SESSION ON
Q HIV/AIDS

REF: STATE 1299

1. PER REQUEST IN REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION ON
HIV/AIDS IN ERITREA:

Q. IF A PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS,
DO LAWS EXIST IN ERITREA TO PROTECT THAT PERSON AGAINST
JOB AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION?

A. THERE ARE NO LAWS SPECIFIC TO HIV/AIDS THAT WOULD
PROTECT AGAINST JOB OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION.

Q. ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS?
IS SUCH TESTING VOLUNTARY?

A. PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS.

VOLUNTARY TESTING IS AVAILABLE, AND SOME SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE TESTING HAS BEEN DONE.

Q. WHAT PROGRAMS EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS?

A. BOTH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL NATIONAL UNION OF ERITREAN YOUTH AND STUDENTS (NUEYS) CARRY OUT PROGRAMS OF INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS AIMED AT HIV/AIDS PREVENTION. WITH USAID SUPPORT, NUEYS AND POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL ARE CONDUCTING A CONDOM SOCIAL MARKETING PROGRAM TO PREVENT HIV/AIDS AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS COLLABORATING IN A CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROJECT ON HIV/AIDS, PEER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, AND ANTI-AIDS CLUBS FOR STUDENTS.

Q. WHAT IS THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION?

A. THERE HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPREHENSIVE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEYS, BUT THE PREVALENCE HAS BEEN ESTIMATED TO BE 1.5 PER CENT OF THE ADULT POPULATION (15-49 YEARS OLD) NATIONWIDE. STUDIES AND SCREENING OF BLOOD DONORS AROUND 1995 HAVE SHOW CONSIDERABLY HIGHER PREVALENCES IN URBAN AREAS (AROUND 4%) AND HIGH RISK GROUPS (10-25 PER CENT). THE PREVALENCE IS BELIEVED TO BE INCREASING.

Q. THE U.S. MILITARY TESTS ITS PERSONNEL PRIOR TO INDUCTION, PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT, AND PERIODICALLY DURING THEIR SERVICE. IS THERE SIMILAR MANDATORY TESTING OF THE MILITARY IN ERITREA?

A. ERITREA IS AT WAR, AND THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF PUBLIC INFORMATION. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT HIV/AIDS TESTING HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT FOR PERSONNEL ENTERING MILITARY PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE TREMENDOUS EXPANSION OF THE ERITREAN ARMED FORCES IN RESPONSE TO THE WAR WITH ETHIOPIA, IT IS NOT CLEAR IF ALL NEW PERSONNEL ARE STILL BEING TESTED. WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER TESTING IS CARRIED OUT AFTER ENTRY INTO THE MILITARY.

Q. IF NOT, IS THERE ANY TESTING OF MILITARY OR POLICE IN HOST COUNTRY?

A. VOLUNTARY TESTING IS AVAILABLE.

Q. IS THE RATE OF INFECTION KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY? WITHIN THE POLICE?

A. IT IS LIKELY THAT SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE HAS BEEN CONDUCTED TO INFORM THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF THE MILITARY, BUT SUCH DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC INFORMATION.

Q. ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY OR POLICE?

A. YES. INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS ON HIV/AIDS PREVENTION ARE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE MILITARY PEOPLE AND CONDOMS ARE PROVIDED. THERE ARE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PRE-AND POST-TEST COUNSELING, INCLUDING PEER EDUCATION TRAINING.

CLARKE

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 10:29 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 IN THE GAMBIA

ActionAddrees: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0270
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0553

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061433Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY SMITHG
Identifier: M4233564
InfoAddrees: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0104
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

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Line3: O 061433Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL
Originator: AMEMBASSY BANJUL
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
SMITHG

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHJL
StationSerialNumber: 0028
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 10:28:20 ET

UNCLAS BANJUL 000028

DEPT FOR AF/EPS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO,UNSC, ML
SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS IN THE GAMBIA

REF: SECSTATE 01299

1. THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS ARE KEYED TO REFTEL.
2. NO: DISCRIMINATION BASED ON HIV STATUS IS NOT PREVALENT IN THE GAMBIA, BUT NO LAWS EXIST TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS WITH AIDS OR WHO ARE HIV POSITIVE.
3. NO: PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED.
4. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR EDUCATION'S "FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM," PRODUCES TELEVISION AND RADIO SHOWS DEALING WITH HIV/AIDS PROTECTION.
5. GOTG'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES A ONE TO TWO PERCENT HIV INFECTION RATE; HOWEVER, NO LARGE-SCALE STUDIES HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN. IN 1991, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TESTED OVER 3000 BLOOD SAMPLES OF PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 49, REVEALING A 2.2 PERCENT HIV RATE. A 1994/95/97 SURVEY USED BLOOD SAMPLES OF 29,670 PREGNANT WOMEN, AND SHOWED A 1.7 PERCENT HIV RATE.
6. GOTG MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE NOT TESTED PRIOR TO INDUCTION OR AT ANY TIME IN THEIR CAREER.
7. NEITHER THE POLICE NOR THE MILITARY UNDERGO

MANDATORY HIV/AIDS TESTING.

8. THE RATE OF INFECTION IS NOT KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY OR POLICE.
9. THERE ARE NO MILITARY OR POLICE-SPECIFIC HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMS.

HALEY

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2000 9:30 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO FOR ZIMBABWE

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4892
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061349Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY MCLEAN SCHWARTZ SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO

Identifier: M4233399
InfoAddrees: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0225 RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0146

Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHSBA0023 0061349-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 061349Z JAN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
Originator: AMEMBASSY HARARE
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
MCLEANM
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ

StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHSB
StationSerialNumber: 0023
TimeOfReceipt: 01/06/2000 09:29:21 ET

UNCLAS HARARE 000023

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, UNSC, ZI
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO FOR ZIMBABWE

REF: STATE 01299

1. FOLLOWING ARE POST'S ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 OF REFTEL:

PARAGRAPH 3

-- IF A PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS, ZIMBABWE CURRENTLY HAS NO LAWS TO PROTECT THAT PERSON AGAINST JOB OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION. ON WORLD AIDS DAY (DEC. 1, 1999), HOWEVER, PRESIDENT MUGABE LAUNCHED ZIMBABWE'S "NATIONAL AIDS POLICY." ALTHOUGH PARLIAMENT HAS NOT YET TRANSFORMED THE POLICY INTO LAW AND THEREFORE CHANGES ARE POSSIBLE, THE PROGRAM DOES CONTAIN PROVISIONS TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FROM DISCRIMINATION FOR HIV POSITIVE ZIMBABWEANS.

-- PREGNANT MOTHERS ARE NOT ROUTINELY TESTED FOR THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS. THERE IS NO MANDATORY TESTING REQUIREMENT, AND ANY TESTING THAT TAKES PLACE IS VOLUNTARY OR DONE ON A RANDOM, BLIND SAMPLING BASIS IN

CONJUNCTION WITH RESEARCH PROJECTS.

-- MANY PROGRAMS EXIST IN ZIMBABWE FOR HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND EDUCATION, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE GOZ'S NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATION PROGRAM, LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NGOS, CHURCHES, THE DONOR COMMUNITY (INCLUDING THE U.S. MISSION IN HARARE THROUGH USAID), AND PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES. IN 1999, FOR EXAMPLE, USAID FUNDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FIVE VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING CENTERS (VCTS) THROUGHOUT ZIMBABWE, WITH FOUR ADDITIONAL VCTS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN THE YEAR 2000. THE VCTS OFFER A STATE-OF-THE-ART HIV/AIDS INTERVENTION PROGRAM THAT FOCUSES ON BEHAVIOR CHANGE AND LOWERING THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH HIV/AIDS.

-- THE RATE OF HIV/AIDS INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION IS ESTIMATED TO BE 10 PERCENT; THE RATE OF INFECTION IN ZIMBABWE'S ADULT POPULATION IS ESTIMATED TO BE AT LEAST 25 PERCENT.

PARAGRAPH 4

-- NO MANDATORY TESTING FOR HIV/AIDS EXISTS IN ZIMBABWE'S MILITARY.

-- THERE IS NO ROUTINE HIV/AIDS TESTING IN EITHER THE MILITARY OR POLICE. AS REQUIRED BY THE U.S., HOWEVER, ZIMBABWEAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE TESTED PRIOR TO ATTENDING TRAINING PROGRAMS IN THE U.S.

-- THE RATES OF INFECTION IN THE MILITARY AND POLICE ARE NOT KNOWN, THOUGH THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE AT LEAST, IF NOT HIGHER THAN, THE ESTIMATED LEVEL OF THE GENERAL ADULT POPULATION, I.E. 25 PERCENT OR HIGHER.

-- NEITHER THE MILITARY NOR THE POLICE PROVIDE ANY AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

MCDONALD

Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2000 5:07 PM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH); Byrne, Catherine E. (AF); Cables; Dempsey, Nora B. (AF); Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI); Guarnieri, Valerie N. (MULTI); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Smith, Gayle E. (AF); Stromseth, Jane E. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Subject: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC
ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE ASHDC IMMEDIATE 6850
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVAIMMEDIATE 4205
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 032056Z JAN 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT Bernard BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY FELDMAN GUARNIERI MCLEAN NAPLAN
SCHWARTZ SMITHG STROMSETH VACCARO
Identifier: M4229002
InfoAddrees: ////
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUCNDTA0004 0032056-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 032056Z JAN 00
Line4: FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
Originator: USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BERNARDK
BYRNEC
CABLES
DEMPSEYN
FELDMAND
GUARNIEV
MCLEANM
NAPLANS
SCHWARTE
SMITHG
STROMSEJ
VACCAROJ
StationRoutingIndicator: RUCNDT
StationSerialNumber: 0004
TimeOfReceipt: 01/03/2000 17:06:42 ET

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 000004

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO ALL AFRICAN POSTS
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, TBIO, USC, XA
SUBJECT: UN/AFRICA: AIDS INFO NEEDED FOR UNSC

REF: USUN 3268 (NOTAL)

1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE FOR ALL AFRICAN POSTS AND
USMISSION GENEVA.

2. AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE, AS PRESIDENT OF THE UN SECURITY
COUNCIL DURING JANUARY, WILL HOLD A SERIES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS
ON VARIOUS AFRICAN TOPICS. ON JANUARY 10, VICE PRESIDENT
GORE WILL CHAIR AN HISTORIC FIRST-TIME SC SESSION ON THE
IMPACT THAT THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IN AFRICA HAS ON THE REGION'S
SECURITY. THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS MEETING ARE TO FOCUS
INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON THE AIDS PROBLEM, DE-STIGMATIZE
AIDS VICTIMS, AND INSPIRE THE COMMITMENT OF ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES TO TREATING AIDS IN AFRICA. IN ORDER TO MAKE U.S.
PARTICIPATION IN THIS MEETING MOST MEANINGFUL, USUN SEEKS THE
HELP OF AFRICAN POSTS IN FINDING THE ANSWERS TO A NUMBER OF
AIDS-RELATED QUESTIONS (SEE BELOW) BY OOB THURSDAY, JANUARY 6.

3. BELOW ARE SEVERAL QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE AIDS EPIDEMIC.

- IF A PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS, DO LAWS EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY TO PROTECT THAT PERSON AGAINST JOB AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION?
- ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS ROUTINELY TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS? IS SUCH TESTING VOLUNTARY?
- WHAT PROGRAMS EXIST IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS?
- WHAT IS THE RATE OF INFECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION?

4. BELOW ARE QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO AIDS IN THE MILITARY (ONE OF THE GROUPS MOST AT RISK).

- THE U.S. MILITARY TESTS ITS PERSONNEL PRIOR TO INDUCTION, PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT, AND PERIODICALLY DURING THEIR SERVICE. IS THERE SIMILAR MANDATORY TESTING OF THE MILITARY IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY?
- IF NOT, IS THERE ANY TESTING OF MILITARY OR POLICE IN HOST COUNTRY?
- IS THE RATE OF INFECTION KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY? WITHIN THE POLICE?
- ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AIDS-PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY OR POLICE?

5. ACTION REQUESTED: AFRICAN POSTS PLEASE PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 ABOVE BY OOB JANUARY

6. FOR GENEVA: PLEASE PROVIDE WHATEVER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM UNAIDS IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS. POSTS' COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

HOLBROOKE

Keenan, Josefine (Chris) (HEALTH)

From: WHSR
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 1999 5:09 AM
To: Cables
Subject: AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION DIRECTORS REAFFIRM OUR REGIONAL COMMITMENT

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4619
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 0279
RUEHKE/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 0288
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0515

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 170952Z NOV 99
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT BERNARD BYRNE DEMPSEY FRAZER SMITHG
SIT: NSC

Identifier: 991117044845 M4154240
InfoAddres: RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0016
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 0016
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0014
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0014
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0019
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC
Originator: AMEMBASSY HARARE
Precedence: ROUTINE
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHSB
StationSerialNumber: 7005

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 13 HARARE 007005
DEPT FOR AF/S, AF/EPS, OES, AND DRL
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
NAIROBI FOR REDSO
AFRICAN POSTS FOR AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION DIRECTORS
CDC FOR DR. HELENE GAYLE
HHS FOR SECRETARY DONNA SHALALA

PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AA/AFR, DAA/AFR NEWTON AND AFR/SA M/HR, LINDA LION
STATE DIRECTOR GENERAL AMBASSADOR GNEHM
PASS DHHS/NIH/FIC FOR SHARON HRYNKOW

TAGS: TBIO, EAID, SOCI, ZI
E.O. 12958: N/A
SUBJECT: AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION DIRECTORS REAFFIRM OUR REGIONAL COMMITMENT

REF: (A) LUSAKA 05681 (B) LUSAKA 05223,(C)KAMPALA 01767

1. THIS IS BOTH A REPORTING AND AN ACTION CABLE.
ACTION FOR WASHINGTON IS NOTED IN PARA 30.

2. THIS CABLE HAS BEEN CLEARED BY EMBASSIES HARARE, PRETORIA, AND LUSAKA.

SUMMARY

3. U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ZIMBABWE TOM MCDONALD HOSTED A "CHIEFS OF MISSION/USAID MISSION DIRECTORS' SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL HIV/AIDS WORKSHOP," OCTOBER 22-23, 1999, IN HARARE. A TOTAL OF 33 USG OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT, INCLUDING SEVEN AMBASSADORS (TOM MCDONALD, DEAN CURRAN OF MOZAMBIQUE, DAVID DUNN OF ZAMBIA, ELLEN SHIPPY OF MALAWI, CHARLES STITH OF TANZANIA, ROBERT KRUEGER OF BOTSWANA, AND KATHERINE PETERSON OF LESOTHO), NINE USAID MISSION DIRECTORS, AND USAID TECHNICAL EXPERTS. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO REVIEW THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO DEEPEN THE RESPONSE TO THE EPIDEMIC IN THE REGION. THE WORKSHOP FOCUSED SPECIFICALLY ON GENERATING IDEAS TO HELP CHIEFS OF MISSION (COM) BETTER PROMOTE HIV/AIDS ACTIVELY AT THEIR POSTS AND ACROSS THE REGION. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND A COORDINATED USG APPROACH ARE INVALUABLE TO WAGING A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THEY DECIDED TO HOLD ANOTHER MEETING ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE U.S.-SADC FORUM, TO BE HELD AS EARLY AS THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2000.

4. THE GROUP PRODUCED A DETAILED LIST OF IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES BY WHICH COMS CAN ENGAGE HOST COUNTRIES, THE COUNTRY TEAM, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND THE MEDIA TO BETTER PROMOTE HIV/AIDS ACTIVISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (SEE PARAS 23-27). IN LIGHT OF THE IMPACT OF THE EPIDEMIC ON POST OPERATION, THEY NOTED THE NEED FOR A WASHINGTON REVIEW OF USG WORKPLACE POLICY, (SEE PARA 30) PARTICIPANTS ALSO PRODUCED A "CONFERENCE WRAP-UP" DOCUMENT THAT IDENTIFIES SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN POSTS AND WASHINGTON AGENCIES (SEE PARAGRAPH 37). END SUMMARY.

SCOPE OF THE EPIDEMIC

5. DR. KEN YAMASHITA, USAID/SOUTH AFRICA'S HEALTH OFFICER, SUMMARIZED THE STAGGERING HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS 'BAD AND GETTING WORSE'. IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER 2,000 NEW INFECTIONS OCCUR EVERY DAY, NEARLY 800,000 EVERY YEAR. THIS COMPARES TO APPROXIMATELY 40,000 NEW INFECTIONS WHICH OCCUR IN THE U.S. EVERY YEAR. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA IS THE REGION WHICH HAS BEEN MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE EPIDEMIC. OF THE TOTAL WORLDWIDE NUMBER OF HIV/AIDS CASES, TWO THIRDS OCCUR IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. EIGHT OUT OF TEN AIDS DEATHS WORLDWIDE OCCUR IN SUB-SAHARAN
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 13 HARARE 007005

DEPT FOR AF/S, AF/EPS, OES, AND DRL
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
NAIROBI FOR REDSO
AFRICAN POSTS FOR AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION DIRECTORS
CDC FOR DR. HELENE GAYLE
HHS FOR SECRETARY DONNA SHALALA

PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AA/AFR, DAA/AFR NEWTON AND AFR/SA M/HR, LINDA LION
STATE DIRECTOR GENERAL AMBASSADOR GNEHM
PASS DHHS/NIH/FIC FOR SHARON HRYNKOW

TAGS: TBIO, EAID, SOCI, ZI

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: AMBASSADORS AND USAID
MISSION DIRECTORS REAFFIRM OUR REGIONAL COMMITMENT

AFRICA, AND NINE OUT OF TEN AIDS ORPHANS WORLDWIDE LIVE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. RESEARCHERS HAVE FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE EPIDEMIC WILL REACH A "NATURAL" PLATEAU AND LEVEL OFF IN THE NEAR FUTURE. INDEED, MANY EXPERTS PREDICT THAT THE EPIDEMIC WILL CONTINUE TO WORSEN OVER THE NEXT 15-20 YEARS.

6. YAMASHITA DESCRIBED THE COMPLEX AND SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THAT THE EPIDEMIC HAS ON ECONOMIES IN THE REGION. THE EFFECTS ARE SHOWING ACROSS INDUSTRIAL SECTORS AND AMONG INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSES IN THE FORM OF LOST SKILLED AND UNSKILLED LABOR, AND SKYROCKETING INSURANCE COSTS. THE EPIDEMIC'S IMPACT WAS THE MOST DRAMATIC ON HOUSEHOLDS WHERE THE MAIN WAGE EARNER IS NO LONGER ABLE TO GENERATE INCOME FOR THE FAMILY. THE SPOUSE MUST THEN TAKE TIME OFF FROM WORK, AND/OR CHILDREN AND FREQUENTLY THE GIRL CHILD MUST STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, TO CARE FOR SICK FAMILY MEMBERS. GIVEN THE TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE DISEASE AND ITS PREDICTED LONGEVITY IN THE REGION, THE GROUP AGREED THAT USG HIV/AIDS POLICIES IN THE REGION MUST BE WELL COORDINATED WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS AND INCLUDE LONG-TERM, SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAMMING.

7. YAMASHITA PRESENTED SOME FUNDING NEEDS PROJECTIONS ISSUED BY UNAIDS, USAID, AND OTHER AGENCIES. IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT OVER US\$1.0 BILLION PER YEAR WOULD BE NEEDED TO SIGNIFICANTLY SLOW THE CURRENT EPIDEMIC. SUCH FUNDING LEVELS WILL REQUIRE STRONG COMMITMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND DONORS. YET EVEN AT THE LEVEL OF REQUIRED FUNDING OF US\$1.0 BILLION, THE LEVEL OF INVESTMENT PALES IN COMPARISON WITH THE USG COMMITMENT TO DOMESTIC HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS, WHICH IN 1998 TOTALED NEARLY US\$7 BILLION. THE GROUP NOTED THIS STAGGERING DIFFERENCE, AND COMMENTED ON THE CHALLENGE AHEAD FOR GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE SECTOR, AND DONORS TO PROVIDE THE FUNDING NEEDED.

USG RESPONSE TO THE EPIDEMIC IN WASHINGTON

8. MR. WILLIAM JEFFERS, DIRECTOR OF AFR/SA, USAID/WASHINGTON, BRIEFED PARTICIPANTS ON CURRENT FEDERAL INITIATIVES TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA. JEFFERS DESCRIBED SEVERAL NEW WASHINGTON INITIATIVES:

--IN JULY 1999, THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THE PRESIDENT'S "LEADERSHIP AND INVESTMENT IN FIGHTING AN EPIDEMIC" (LIFE) INITIATIVE, WHICH FEATURED A REQUESTED BUDGET INCREASE OF U.S.\$100 MILLION TO SUPPORT HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND INDIA. THE INITIATIVE RELIES ON CLOSE COLLABORATION AMONG USAID, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, WITH USAID TAKING THE LEAD AS THE COORDINATING AGENCY. THE INITIATIVE CONTAINS FOUR MAIN PROGRAM ELEMENTS: (1) PRIMARY PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS; (2) COMMUNITY AND HOME-BASED CARE AND TREATMENT; (3) CARING FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS; AND (4) CAPACITY BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT. WHILE THE OUTCOME OF THE FY 2000 FOREIGN OPERATIONS FUNDING BILL WAS NOT CERTAIN AT THE TIME OF THE CONFERENCE, UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 13 HARARE 007005

DEPT FOR AF/S, AF/EPS, OES, AND DRL

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
NAIROBI FOR REDSO
AFRICAN POSTS FOR AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION
DIRECTORS
CDC FOR DR. HELENE GAYLE
HHS FOR SECRETARY DONNA SHALALA

PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AA/AFR, DAA/AFR NEWTON AND AFR/SA
M/HR, LINDA LION
STATE DIRECTOR GENERAL AMBASSADOR GNEHM
PASS DHHS/NIH/FIC FOR SHARON HRYNKOW

TAGS: TBIO, EAID, SOCI, ZI

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: AMBASSADORS AND USAID
MISSION DIRECTORS REAFFIRM OUR REGIONAL COMMITMENT

INDICATIONS WERE THAT NO INCREMENTAL USAID FUNDS WOULD
BE AVAILABLE AND ITS BUDGET FOR HIV/AIDS WOULD BE
INCREASED THROUGH OFF-SETTING REDUCTIONS IN UNEARMARKED
ACCOUNTS. OTHER AGENCIES' COMPONENTS, E.G., DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE (DOD) AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS),
MAY BENEFIT FROM INCREMENTAL FUNDING.

--REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA LEE (D-CA) WILL SUBMIT A BILL
TO CONGRESS IN EARLY 2000 THAT WOULD CALL FOR MATCHING
PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND USG FUNDS OF U.S.\$200
MILLION ANNUALLY FOR INTERNATIONAL HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS.
UNDER THE PROPOSED "AIDS MARSHALL PLAN," A NEW
GOVERNMENT AGENCY WOULD BE CREATED TO ADMINISTER THE
FUND.

--ORGANIZERS OF FUTURE U.S.-SADC FORUMS WILL INCLUDE AN
HIV/AIDS COMPONENT IN CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING.

--AN INITIATIVE BY U.S. CONGLOMERATE BRISTOL MYERS-
SQUIBB WILL OFFER TRAINING AND SERVICE DELIVERY TO
COMPANIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA THAT ALREADY HAVE, OR
WISH TO DEVELOP, HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS IN THE WORKPLACE.

9. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS RESPONDED WITH CONCERN TO
THE NEWS THAT THE "LIFE" INITIATIVE IS NOT LIKELY TO
RESULT IN INCREASED USAID FUNDING AND THAT IN PARTICULAR
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEMOCRACY/GOVERNANCE FUNDS WERE
LIKELY FY 2000 SOURCES FOR "LIFE." PARTICIPANTS AGREED
THAT USAID NEEDS MORE FLEXIBILITY TO USE EXISTING
FUNDING TO EXPAND HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS. ONE EXAMPLE CITED
WAS THE CHILD SURVIVAL EARMARK WITHIN THE CHILD SURVIVAL
AND DISEASE ACCOUNT, WHICH CURRENTLY ENTAILS A
DEFINITION THAT LIMITS HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES.
PARTICIPANTS UNDERTOOK TO SEND A JOINT MEMO PRESENTING
THEIR CONCERN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND
USAID/WASHINGTON. (SEE "CONFERENCE WRAP-UP" FOR AN
ACTION ITEM REGARDING JOINT MEMO.)

USG RESPONSE TO THE EPIDEMIC IN THE REGION

10. WALTER NORTH, DIRECTOR OF USAID/ZAMBIA, DESCRIBED
THE BACKGROUND OF THE HIV/AIDS SOUTHERN AFRICA PROGRAM,
AN INITIATIVE INTRODUCED IN 1998 BY USAID REGIONAL
TECHNICAL OFFICERS TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED USAID
APPROACH TO COMBATING HIV/AIDS IN THE REGION. HE
EXPLAINED THAT THE PROGRAM WAS, IN REALITY, VERY NEW,
WITH ONLY US\$950,000 OF FY99 FUNDING (CONTRIBUTED BY

AFR/SD) OBLIGATED ON 9/30/99. PARTICIPANTS HAVE
CONVENED ON FIVE OCCASIONS.

11. ROBERT CLAY, PHN DIRECTOR, USAID/ZAMBIA REVIEWED
THE PROGRESS OF THE FOUR COMPONENTS OF THE REGIONAL
PROGRAM. 1) "CORRIDORS OF RISK, CORRIDORS OF HOPE," AN
HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR TRUCKERS AND COMMERCIAL
SEX WORKERS: ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AT FOUR
BORDER SITES AND DETAILED FINDINGS WERE SHARED WITH THE
GROUP. IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE
ASSESSMENTS WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY, 2000; (2) POLICY AND
POLITICAL ADVOCACY: A POLICY-LEVEL WORKSHOP WAS HELD
BEFORE THE ICASA CONFERENCE WITH OVER 25 PARTICIPANTS
UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 13 HARARE 007005

DEPT FOR AF/S, AF/EPS, OES, AND DRL
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
NAIROBI FOR REDSO
AFRICAN POSTS FOR AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION
DIRECTORS
CDC FOR DR. HELENE GAYLE
HHS FOR SECRETARY DONNA SHALALA

PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AA/AFR, DAA/AFR NEWTON AND AFR/SA
M/HR, LINDA LION
STATE DIRECTOR GENERAL AMBASSADOR GNEHM
PASS DHHS/NIH/FIC FOR SHARON HRYNKOW

TAGS: TBIO, EAID, SOCI, ZI
E.O. 12958: N/A
SUBJECT: AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: AMBASSADORS AND USAID
MISSION DIRECTORS REAFFIRM OUR REGIONAL COMMITMENT

FROM 11 COUNTRIES FOCUSING ON KEY POLICY ISSUES IN
VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING (VCT), MOTHER-TO-CHILD
TRANSMISSION (MTCT), AND IMPLEMENTING A MULTISECTORAL
APPROACH. FOLLOW-UP IDEAS ARE CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED
BY THE TECHNICAL TEAM; (3) HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE: A
GRANT HAS BEEN MADE TO WHO/AFR TO HELP COORDINATE
SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION; AND (4)
INFORMATION SHARING ON HIV/AIDS: A REGIONAL ADVISOR IS
BEING RECRUITED AND TECHNICAL SHARING BETWEEN COUNTRIES
HAS INCREASED THROUGH THE REGIONAL WORK.

12. A REGIONAL USG ADVISOR ON HIV/AIDS, TO BE BASED IN
PRETORIA, SHOULD BE SELECTED BY THE END OF NOVEMBER.
THE ADVISOR'S DUTIES WILL BE TO RUN THE DAILY OPERATIONS
OF THE PROGRAM; PROVIDE TECHNICAL BACKSTOPPING TO THE
NON-PRESENCE COUNTRIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (BOTSWANA,
LESOTHO, AND SWAZILAND); ACT AS A CONDUIT OF INFORMATION
AMONG REGIONAL POSTS; AND HELP POSTS DEVELOP COORDINATED
HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS.

13. AMBASSADOR DAVID DUNN FROM ZAMBIA BRIEFED
PARTICIPANTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS AND
STDs IN AFRICA (ICASA) WHICH OCCURRED IN LUSAKA (REF A &
B). AMBASSADOR DUNN NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE CONFERENCE
WAS WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE A SUCCESS, THE ABSENCE OF
HEADS OF STATE FROM ZAMBIA AND PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
SENT A POOR MESSAGE ABOUT THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS'
COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC. MUCH
ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY RESPONSES, AND THE
ROLES OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS, YOUTH, WOMEN, AND
ORPHANS WERE HIGHLIGHTED. THE NEXT HIV/AIDS CONFERENCE
WILL BE THE BI-ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL HIV/AIDS CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD IN DURBAN, JULY 9-14, 2000, WHILE THE NEXT

ICASA WILL TAKE PLACE IN BURKINA FASO IN 2001. TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE DURBAN CONFERENCE, INCLUDING A U.S. DELEGATION OF APPROXIMATELY 20 PEOPLE LED BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DONNA SHALALA. FULL DETAILS OF THE ICASA ARE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A AND B.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

14. THE FOLLOWING SECTION HIGHLIGHTS SEVERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TOPICS, INCLUDING VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING, PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT, THE MEDIA AND ORPHANS.

VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING

15. DRS. ELIZABETH MARUM AND PATRICK OSEWE, BOTH USAID TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON HIV/AIDS, BRIEFED PARTICIPANTS ON USAID-FUNDED VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING (VCT) PROGRAMS NOW OPERATING IN UGANDA AND ZIMBABWE. PARTICIPANTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE HOME LESSONS LEARNED REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF VCT IN AN INTEGRATED HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

16. DR. MARUM, WHO CURRENTLY IS POSTED TO MALAWI BUT UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 13 HARARE 007005

DEPT FOR AF/S, AF/EPS, OES, AND DRL
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
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HHS FOR SECRETARY DONNA SHALALA

PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AA/AFR, DAA/AFR NEWTON AND AFR/SA M/HR, LINDA LION
STATE DIRECTOR GENERAL AMBASSADOR GNEHM
PASS DHHS/NIH/FIC FOR SHARON HRYNKOW

TAGS: TBIO, EAID, SOCI, ZI
E.O. 12958: N/A
SUBJECT: AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION DIRECTORS REAFFIRM OUR REGIONAL COMMITMENT

SERVED FOR MANY YEARS IN UGANDA, OFFERED THE HEARTENING FACT THAT, IN THE MIDST OF A CONTINENT-WIDE EPIDEMIC, THE HIV INFECTION RATE IN UGANDA HAS DECLINED STEADILY SINCE 1992 (SEE REF C). A KEY ELEMENT TO USAID'S SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM IN UGANDA HAS BEEN THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF VCT CENTERS. USAID/ZIMBABWE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED ITS VCT PROGRAM, WHICH ALREADY IS MEETING WITH STRONG LOCAL DEMAND. DR. OSEWE EXPLAINED THAT FIVE VCT CENTERS CURRENTLY ARE OPERATING IN ZIMBABWE, WITH FIVE MORE TO BE OPENED BY THE END OF 1999. THE "NEW START" CENTERS IN ZIMBABWE, LIKE THOSE IN UGANDA, PROVIDE COUNSELING AND TESTING TO CLIENTS THAT IS CONFIDENTIAL AND ANONYMOUS; ACCESSIBLE (WITH LATE CLINIC HOURS); AND AFFORDABLE (US\$1.32, PER CLIENT, WITH INDIGENT CLIENTS BEING TESTED FOR FREE).

17. THE GOAL OF VCT PROGRAMS IS TO REDUCE HIGH RISK

BEHAVIOR AMONG CLIENTS, AND TO REDUCE THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH HIV/AIDS BY ENCOURAGING OPEN DISCUSSION. DRS. MARUM AND OSEWE NOTED THAT UGANDA'S VCT PROGRAM IS ENJOYING TREMENDOUS INTEREST AND SUSTAINED ATTENDANCE, TESTING AN AVERAGE OF 450,000 CLIENTS EACH YEAR, WHILE THE FIVE VCT CENTERS OPENED IN ZIMBABWE SINCE AUGUST 1998 ARE RECEIVING INCREASING NUMBERS OF CLIENTS EACH MONTH. DESPITE THESE SUCCESS STORIES, DR. MARUM NOTED SOME CHALLENGES FOR THE VCT PROGRAM IN THE FUTURE, INCLUDING THE RELATIVELY HIGH COSTS OF THE INTERVENTION, THE NEED TO INCREASE ITS AVAILABILITY IN RURAL AREAS, AND THE NEED TO ENSURE ITS SUSTAINABILITY.

PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

18. MR. TOM WALTER, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MOBIL OIL IN ZIMBABWE, DESCRIBED THE DIFFICULTIES HIS COMPANY FACED IN EARLY 1998 WHEN, IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN COUNTRY, MOBIL LOST THREE OF ITS SENIOR MANAGERS TO AIDS. WALTER SAID THAT, AS HE WATCHED PROFITS DROP, HE BECAME ACUTELY AWARE OF THE IMPACT THAT THE VACUUM OF EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE HAD ON PRODUCTIVITY. IN THE WAKE OF THE PERSONNEL LOSSES, WALTER WORKED WITH A LOCAL NGO TO IMPLEMENT AN HIV/AIDS WORKPLACE PROGRAM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT TO ACHIEVE RESULTS COMPANIES AND NGOS MUST CLEARLY OUTLINE PROJECT GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND TIMETABLES BEFORE EMBARKING ON AN HIV/AIDS WORKPLACE PROGRAM. (SEE PARA 26 FOR OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITIES.)

THE MEDIA

19. MR. ANDREW MUTANDWA, A FREELANCE ZIMBABWEAN JOURNALIST AND FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AT THE ZIMBABWEAN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, POSTS, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ADDRESSED THE GROUP AT LUNCH ON OCTOBER 22. HIS PERSUASIVE COMMENTS HELPED THE GROUP UNDERSTAND WHY ACCURATE AND SUSTAINED HIV/AIDS REPORTING

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 13 HARARE 007005

DEPT FOR AF/S, AF/EPS, OES, AND DRL
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
NAIROBI FOR REDSO
AFRICAN POSTS FOR AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION DIRECTORS
CDC FOR DR. HELENE GAYLE
HHS FOR SECRETARY DONNA SHALALA

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IS SO SCARCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. MUTANDWA REFERRED TO

THE COMPETITION AMONG NEWSPAPERS FOR READERSHIP AND ADVERTISING DOLLARS THAT OFTEN DRIVES EDITORS TO BUMP A GOOD HIV/AIDS STORY FROM THE FRONT PAGE -- OR EVEN FROM THE PAPER ALTOGETHER -- TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE SENSATIONAL NEWS ABOUT POLITICIANS AND CELEBRITIES.

20. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE MEDIA IN MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES IS EMERGING FROM A TRADITION OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL. MUTANDWA ASSERTED THAT ZIMBABWEAN JOURNALISTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED ZIMBABWE NEWSPAPERS AND THE ZIMBABWE BROADCASTING CORPORATION, FEEL PRESSURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO AVOID CERTAIN CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS, INCLUDING THE HIGHLY STIGMATIZED SUBJECT OF HIV/AIDS.

21. MUTANDWA SUGGESTED THAT COMS CAN MOTIVATE LOCAL JOURNALISTS AND ADVOCATE BETTER REPORTING BY INSTITUTING AWARDS PROGRAMS FOR REPORTERS, EDITORS AND NEWS ORGANIZATIONS. ACCORDING TO MUTANDWA, "THIS WOULD CREATE THAT COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH JOURNALISTS OFTEN THRIVE." HE ADDED THAT COMS SHOULD FACILITATE MORE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FOR JOURNALISTS, AS THESE ARE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE IN EDUCATING REPORTERS ON HIV/AIDS. AS A FORMER IV, MUTANDWA ACKNOWLEDGED THE POSITIVE IMPACT THAT THE EXCHANGE HAD ON HIS REPORTING.

ORPHANS

22. THE CONFERENCE DREW SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF ORPHANS IN AFRICA WHOSE PARENTS DIED FROM HIV/AIDS-RELATED ILLNESSES AND THE NEED FOR THE USG TO ADDRESS THIS INCREASINGLY SERIOUS PROBLEM IN INNOVATIVE WAYS. PANELISTS FROM A USAID GRANTEE (PACT) AS WELL AS DR. GREGG POWELL OF THE ZIMBABWE CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY, A LOCAL NGO, DESCRIBED THE INABILITY OF MOST AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM AND OFFERED SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE USG INTERVENTION.

23. MOST AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS AGREE THAT KEEPING ORPHANS IN THEIR EXTENDED FAMILIES IS BY FAR THE PREFERABLE OPTION. INSTITUTIONAL CARE IS A LAST RESORT. ALTHOUGH MOST SOUTHERN AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE ORPHANS' AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN PLACE, MOST ARE NOT BEING - IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY DUE TO A LACK OF STAFF AND RESOURCES. CARE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR ORPHANS ARE PRIMARILY BEING IMPLEMENTED BY NGOS WITH VERY LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

24. PANELISTS STRESSED THAT POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND INCOME GENERATION PROJECTS--WHICH ARE WELL MANAGED AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ADDRESSING THE ORPHAN ISSUE. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF HOUSEHOLDS TO SUPPORT ORPHANS BOTH FINANCIALLY, AND WITH PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IS CRITICAL. PANELISTS NOTED THAT EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE BEST ENTRY POINTS AND SUGGESTED THAT DONORS PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT IN EXCHANGE FOR TUITION WAIVERS FOR "CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES" RATHER THAN "AIDS ORPHANS."

UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 13 HARARE 007005

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NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
NAIROBI FOR REDSO
AFRICAN POSTS FOR AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION

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TAGS: TBIO, EAID, SOCI, ZI

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USG RESPONSE TO THE EPIDEMIC IN EACH COUNTRY: WHAT CAN
AMBASSADORS DO?

25. THE GROUP BRAINSTORMED THROUGHOUT THE TWO-DAY
CONFERENCE TO IDENTIFY ACTIVITIES THAT COMS CAN DO TO
ENHANCE THE USG RESPONSE TO THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC. MOST
OF THE SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES CAN BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. THE LIST IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A
GUIDE OF REQUIRED ACTIONS BUT RATHER AN ILLUSTRATIVE
MENU OF ACTIONS THAT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN AS APPROPRIATE TO
THE COUNTRY SETTING. THE FOUR BROAD CATEGORIES FOLLOW
IN PARAGRAPHS 24-27 WITH SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES LISTED IN
EACH.

26. AMBASSADORS CAN MAKE HIV/AIDS A COUNTRY TEAM
PRIORITY, INVOLVING ALL MEMBERS IN STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT,
BY:

--PERSONALLY LEADING AND COORDINATING COUNTRY TEAM
EFFORTS REGARDING HIV/AIDS;

--TALKING ABOUT THE EPIDEMIC IN THE MANAGEMENT TEAM;

--BEING THE POST'S SENIOR ADVOCATE FOR OBTAINING
RESOURCES FROM WASHINGTON;

--USING THE MISSION PROGRAM PLAN (MPP) TO FLAG THE
IMPORTANCE OF HIV/AIDS AS A GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ISSUE
AND ENSURE USG SUPPORT FOR HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS;

--INCORPORATING HIV/AIDS INTO PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS
BY: (1) BRINGING IN HIGH-LEVEL HIV/AIDS SPEAKERS; (2)
ESTABLISHING A MEDIA AWARD PROGRAM FOR HIV/AIDS
REPORTING TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINED LOCAL
MEDIA COVERAGE; (3) INCORPORATING UNIVERSITY-BASED
HIV/AIDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS INTO THE PROGRAMS OF
FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS AND VISITING RESEARCHERS;

--DISCUSSING THE EPIDEMIC WITH THE DEFENSE ATTACHE
OFFICE TO SEEK WAYS FOR THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
TO ADDRESS HIV/AIDS WITHIN THE HOST COUNTRY SECURITY
ESTABLISHMENT BY: (1) WORKING WITH DEFENSE COUNTERPARTS
TO INCORPORATE HIV/AIDS MESSAGES INTO DEMINING TRAINING
AND CONTRACTS; AND (2) ENCOURAGING HIV/AIDS EDUCATION AT
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS;

--CONSIDERING WHETHER IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEER TEACHERS TO PROMOTE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS IN
RURAL SCHOOLS AND THROUGH ANTI-AIDS CLUBS, RECOGNIZING
THE LIKELY SENSITIVITY OF LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS;

--INSTRUCTING THE POLITICAL SECTION TO CONSIDER USING

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDS TO SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS THAT PERFORM HIV/AIDS ADVOCACY;

--INSTRUCTING THE ECONOMIC SECTION TO: (1) EMPHASIZE COMMUNITY-BASED HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES IN THE AMBASSADOR'S SELF HELP PROGRAM; AND (2) INCLUDE HIV/AIDS ISSUES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. COMPANIES;
UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 13 HARARE 007005

DEPT FOR AF/S, AF/EP, OES, AND DRL
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
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--INSTRUCTING THE RSO TO ASSIST LOCAL POLICE AND SECURITY GUARD COMPANIES TO DEVELOP HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMS; AND

--INCLUDING HIV/AIDS ON THE AGENDAS OF VISITING CODELS AND STAFFDELS.

27. AMBASSADORS CAN USE THEIR PUBLIC POSITION TO PROMOTE HIV/AIDS ACTIVISM BY:

--BEING "OUT IN FRONT" AND NOT DELEGATING TO STAFF THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE HIV/AIDS ACTIVISM;

--SEIZING THEIR POSITION AS THE "PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE" TO ENSURE THAT THEY PERSONALLY REPRESENT PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES, COORDINATE ACCESS TO USG RESOURCES AND STRESS THAT THEY ARE ALSO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE;

--RAISING THE PROFILE OF THE ISSUE BY MENTIONING HIV/AIDS IN ALL MEETINGS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY PRESIDENT, CABINET MEMBERS, AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;

--BEING PROACTIVE IN CAPTURING MEDIA COVERAGE FOCUSING ATTENTION ON HIV/AIDS IN EVERY PUBLIC SPEECH, EVEN IF IT SEEMS UNRELATED;

--MOTIVATING AND MOBILIZING OTHER AMBASSADORS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, FOR EXAMPLE, BY HOSTING FORUM TO DISCUSS HIV/AIDS CHALLENGES;

--USING THE MEDIA TO ADVERTISE THE AMBASSADORS' SUPPORT FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH AIDS IN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS BY ATTENDING EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS HOSTED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND BY PERSONALLY VISITING AND HOLDING HANDS OF THOSE LIVING WITH AIDS;

--URGING HOST GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE TAX INCENTIVES TO COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORT LOCAL NGO HIV/AIDS INITIATIVES; AND

--STRESSING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THE IMPORTANCE OF FREE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS, RATHER THAN USING SCARCE DONOR FUNDS TO PURCHASE MEDIA SPOTS.

28. AMBASSADORS CAN ENGAGE U.S. AND LOCAL PRIVATE SECTORS COMPANIES ON HIV/AIDS ISSUES BY:

--PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY THROUGH AMCHAM OR THE LOCAL AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS;

--DEMONSTRATING TO COMPANIES THAT HIV/AIDS HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON BOTTOM LINE PROFITS, IN PART BY USING ANALYSES THAT SHOW THE COST OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS VERSUS THE COST OF COPING WITH HIV/AIDS IN THE WORKPLACE;

--HELPING TO ESTABLISH LINKS BETWEEN COMPANIES INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING HIV/AIDS WORKPLACE PROGRAMS AND HIV/AIDS NGOS THAT CAN ASSIST;
UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 13 HARARE 007005

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NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
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--CREATING A PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM TO SHARE HIV/AIDS PREVENTION BEST PRACTICES;

--PUBLICLY RECOGNIZING BUSINESSES THAT HAVE BEST PRACTICES, AND ENCOURAGING COMPANIES TO ADOPT SUCH PRACTICES WHEN MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS OCCUR;

--ENCOURAGING LOCAL ROTARY CLUBS TO PROMOTE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS AND WORKPLACE POLICIES;

--HELPING THE FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PREPARE AND DELIVER APPROPRIATELY BALANCED MESSAGES TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS, INCLUDING ACCURATE RISK ASSESSMENTS; AND
--ENCOURAGING PRIVATE SECTOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THREE WAYS: (1) ADOPTING PROGRESSIVE INTERNAL WORKPLACE POLICIES; (2) EXTRAMURAL FUNDING OF LOCAL HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CARE ACTIVITIES; (3) PROMOTING A PUBLIC IMAGE OF A BUSINESS THAT CARES ABOUT ITS EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC.

29. THE FOURTH CATEGORY OF SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES RELATES TO HIV/AIDS POLICY IN THE U.S. MISSION. PARTICIPANTS NOTED THAT CURRENTLY THERE IS A DOUBLE STANDARD FOR AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AND FSNS. AMERICANS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE ACCESS TO ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS, BUT FSNS DO NOT. USDH CAN DONATE LEAVE TO OTHER USDH BUT NOT TO FSNS. THE GROUP CHALLENGED ITSELF AND WASHINGTON TO DETERMINE HOW A STANDARD FOR "BEST PRACTICES" COULD BE SET SO THAT THE USG, PROBABLY THE LARGEST US EMPLOYER IN AFRICA, COULD BE A MODEL FOR OTHER EMPLOYERS. THE GROUP DISCUSSED WHETHER CERTAIN FSN POLICIES SHOULD BE DECENTRALIZED AND DELEGATED TO THE FIELD, OR IF WORLDWIDE STANDARDS WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE. ALTHOUGH COGNIZANT OF THE POSSIBLE COST AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS, THE GROUP CONCLUDED THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC WARRANTED ATTENTION ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS. PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT BOTH AMBASSADORS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON SHOULD REVIEW HIV/AIDS WORKPLACE POLICIES, CONSIDERING IN PARTICULAR:

- LEAVE POLICIES FOR SICK EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE AN UNDERLYING HIV INFECTION;
- EMPLOYMENT POLICY FOR HIV POSITIVE APPLICANTS;
- HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES;
- DEATH BENEFITS AND WILL PLANNING FOR HIV POSITIVE EMPLOYEES;
- MEDICAL ATTENTION AND FOLLOW-UP CARE FOR RAPE VICTIMS;
- OFFICIAL TRANSPORTATION POLICIES IN AREAS WHERE RAPE IS PREVALENT; AND
- POLICIES FOR INDIRECT STAFF SUCH AS LOCAL SECURITY GUARDS PROVIDED IN CONTRACTS;
- POLICIES IN DOUBLE ENCUMBERING POSITION CEILINGS AND DISABILITY.

30. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON IS REQUESTED TO INITIATE A REVIEW OF ITS PERSONNEL POLICIES IN THIS AREA
UNCLAS SECTION 10 OF 13 HARARE 007005

DEPT FOR AF/S, AF/EPS, OES, AND DRL
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
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AND IDENTIFY A TASK MANAGER FOR THE REVIEW. THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN MISSIONS WOULD BE GLAD TO ASSIST.

31. PARTICIPANTS ALSO DISCUSSED WORKPLACE PROGRAMS BEING PROMOTED IN USG MISSION IN THE REGION. ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

--HIV/AIDS EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR ALL MISSION STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, INCLUDING CHILDREN;

--USE OF NGOS, PARTICULARLY THOSE REPRESENTING PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS, TO PROVIDE WORKPLACE EDUCATION;

--CREATION OF FSN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS GROUPS;

--PROVISION OF FREE CONDOMS IN RESTROOMS AND CONSIDERATION FOR REIMBURSING PERSONNEL FOR VCT SERVICES;

--REVIEW OF LITERATURE SUCH AS THE UNAIDS AND OAU DOCUMENTS ON BEST PRACTICES IN THE WORKPLACE TO DETERMINE WHAT OTHER PROGRAMS ARE NEEDED; AND

--CROSS-TRAINING OF SENIOR FSNS TO FILL GAPS AS ILLNESS AND DEATH INCREASINGLY BECOME AN ISSUE.

OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST AT THE CONFERENCE

32. PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THE OVERARCHING NEED FOR BEHAVIOR CHANGE. THEY AGREED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS IS HIGH IN MOST COUNTRIES AND NEARLY UNIVERSAL IN SOME. THE CHALLENGE OF ENGENDERING BEHAVIOR CHANGE, HOWEVER, HAS NOT YET BEEN MET. TECHNICAL OFFICERS ARGUED THAT EVIDENCE FROM COUNTRIES LIKE UGANDA SHOWS THAT VCT IS A COMPLEMENTARY SERVICE TO EXISTING PROGRAMS THAT OFFERS THE BEST OPTION IN HIGH PREVALENCE SETTINGS FOR LOWERING STIGMA AND PROMOTING BEHAVIOR CHANGE.

33. THE GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED WAYS TO COMBAT THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC AT A STRATEGIC LEVEL. COM/DIRECTORS ASKED HOW THEY COULD USE A REGIONAL PLATFORM AND THEIR COLLECTIVE VOICE TO MAKE THE CASE THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NEEDED. PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THE CONCEPT OF FORMING "STRATEGIC ALLIANCES" AMONG USG ENTITIES, HOST COUNTRY INSTITUTIONS, NGOS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO HELP BRING ATTENTION TO AND FIND WAYS OF COMBATING THE EPIDEMIC.

34. USAID TECHNICAL STAFF AGREED THAT MANDATORY HIV TESTING NOT ONLY RAISES HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, BUT ALSO HAS NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES BECAUSE OF THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISEASE. IF ENFORCED, MANDATORY TESTING COULD NEGATE CURRENT SUCCESSES MAKING BEHAVIOR CHANGE AN EVEN MORE PROBLEMATIC GOAL. VOLUNTARY AND ANONYMOUS COUNSELING AND TESTING IS PREFERABLE, ESPECIALLY IF VIEWED AS A MEANS OF MAINTAINING A HEALTHY POPULATION.

35. WITH RESPECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING, MANDATORY TESTING DOES NOT GUARANTEE AN HIV/AIDS-FREE WORKPLACE, UNCLAS SECTION 11 OF 13 HARARE 007005

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BUT ONLY SCREENS OUT THOSE ALREADY INFECTED. THE MORE
APPROPRIATE FOCUS IS ON MAINTAINING A HEALTHY WORKFORCE.

36. A PANEL OF USAID TECHNICAL STAFF DISCUSSED SOME
ISSUES RELATED TO HIV/AIDS. THESE INCLUDED:

--AN UPDATE ON THE LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING DRUG
THERAPIES AND SOME ONGOING RESEARCH. PRESENTORS
STRESSED THAT CURRENT DRUG THERAPIES IN THE U.S. COST
US\$1,000/MONTH AND OFFER NO MAGIC CURE FOR AIDS.

--MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS IS AN
IMPORTANT AREA, BUT USG SHOULD MOVE FORWARD CAUTIOUSLY,
AS THERE ARE STILL MANY ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE FURTHER
RESEARCHED, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO SERVICE DELIVERY
CAPACITY AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY.

--THE NEED TO BE COGNIZANT OF THE MANY ETHICAL
CONSIDERATIONS SURROUNDING USG-SPONSORED RESEARCH.
THERE WAS RECOGNITION THAT SOME RESEARCH ACTIVITIES HAVE
THE POTENTIAL TO COMPROMISE RELATED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS,
PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF DRUG VACCINE RESEARCH. AS A
RESULT, COMS SHOULD REQUIRE THAT APPROVAL FROM LOCAL
ETHICAL AND RESEARCH COUNCILS SHOULD BE OBTAINED BEFORE
ANY USG-FUNDED RESEARCH COMMENCES. USAID MISSION
DIRECTOR JOHN GRAYZEL, REPRESENTING AMBASSADOR SWING,
STRESSED THAT WHILE DROC IS SEEN AS THE "RESEARCH VENUE"
FOR EVERY NEW DISEASE, NO HIV/AIDS PROGRAM ASSISTANCE IS
BEING PROVIDED. THIS ISSUE OF NEGLECT WAS PRESENTED AS
AN UNCONSCIONABLE POSITION.

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

37. THE GROUP PRODUCED A CONFERENCE SUMMARY DOCUMENT
THAT LISTS THE CONFERENCE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
IDENTIFIES SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS FOR AFRICAN POSTS AND
WASHINGTON AGENCIES.

BEGIN TEXT OF CONFERENCE SUMMARY DOCUMENT:

THE MEETING EXPRESSED THE STRONG SHARED CONCERN OF U.S.
AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION DIRECTORS ABOUT THE
DEVASTATING ECONOMIC AND POTENTIAL POLITICAL IMPACT OF
THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND ITS
ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE REGION'S PEOPLE AND U.S. INTERESTS
IN THE AREA.

THE MEETING ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVES OF DRAWING A
COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF THE PROBLEM AND OF USG HIV/AIDS
ASSISTANCE IN THE REGION; AND IDENTIFYING NEW IDEAS
ABOUT HOW U.S. AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION DIRECTORS
CAN ENHANCE THEIR JOINT EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HIV/AIDS IN
THEIR DAILY WORK AND ESTABLISH COUNTRY TEAM-BASED ACTION
PROGRAMS FOR THE FUTURE. THIS MEETING CAN SERVE AS A
MODEL FOR HOW TO CONDUCT POSITIVE INTERAGENCY
COOPERATION. PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THE GROUP WILL
MEET AGAIN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2000, PERHAPS AS PART
OF THE U.S.-SADC FORUM MEETING.

IT IS THE SENSE OF THIS MEETING THAT:
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NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
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STATE DIRECTOR GENERAL AMBASSADOR GNEHM
PASS DHHS/NIH/FIC FOR SHARON HRYNKOW

TAGS: TBIO, EAID, SOCI, ZI

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: AMBASSADORS AND USAID
MISSION DIRECTORS REAFFIRM OUR REGIONAL COMMITMENT

(1) THE USG SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
AND PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF EXISTING
FUNDS E.G. CHILD SURVIVAL EARMARKED/DISEASE) TO ADDRESS
THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. (LEAD:
AMBASSADOR MCDONALD, AMBASSADOR CURRAN, AMBASSADOR DUNN
AND CYNTHIA ROZELL)

--WASHINGTON TO PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC AND TRANSPARENT
INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S "LIFE" INITIATIVE, I.E.,
WHAT COUNTRIES WILL BE INCLUDED AND AT WHAT LEVEL. WE
STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT "LIFE" FUNDS BE ADDITIONAL TO
THE CURRENT USAID OPERATIONAL YEARLY BUDGET (OYB). IT
SHOULD NOT MEAN LESS ECONOMIC GROWTH OR DEMOCRACY FUNDS,
WHICH ALREADY ARE TOO SCARCE.

--U.S. AMBASSADORS TO SEND A JOINT MEMO TO THE SECRETARY
OF STATE AND THE USAID ADMINISTRATOR URGING EFFORTS WITH
THE CONGRESS TO ALLOW USAID TO USE EXISTING RESOURCES
MORE FLEXIBLY TO ADDRESS HIV/AIDS ISSUES.

(2) THERE ARE MANY IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES
PRIMARILY ADDRESSED BY U.S. AMBASSADORS WHICH MAY NOT
REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL RESOURCES. AN ANNOTATED
CHECKLIST OF POSSIBILITIES FOR U.S. AMBASSADORIAL
INTERVENTIONS (BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL) SHOULD BE
(SEE PARAS 25-28) DEVELOPED. (LEAD: AMBASSADOR CURRAN,
AMBASSADOR STITH, AMBASSADOR SHIPPY AND WALTER NORTH)

--MEETING TO ADOPT POSSIBLE OPTIONS ESTABLISHED FOR U.S.
AMBASSADORS AS DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE AND TO
CIRCULATE IT MORE BROADLY FOR COMMENT AND IMPROVEMENT.

--DEVELOP AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES ON DIPLOMATIC
INITIATIVES ON EACH OF THESE OPTIONS IDENTIFIED.

(3) REGIONAL COOPERATION AND SYNERGIES AMONG THE U.S.
POSTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ON HIV/AIDS ISSUES SHOULD BE
EXPANDED, AS IT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPACT OF
USG ASSISTANCE ACROSS THE REGION. (LEAD: AMBASSADOR
KRUEGER, AMBASSADOR PETERSON, STACY RHODES AND EDWARD
SPRIGGS)

--ESTABLISH SHARED VISION AMONG POSTS FOR CROSS-BORDER
BILATERAL ACTIVITIES FROM CONGO TO CAPE TOWN.

--CONTINUE TO SHARE INFORMATION ON USG HIV/AIDS EFFORTS AMONG ALL SOUTHERN AFRICAN POSTS.

--HIRE REGIONAL ADVISOR BASED IN PRETORIA TO GET REGIONAL PROGRAM OPERATIONAL IN NON-PRESENCE COUNTRIES AND KEEP AMBASSADORS IN THE LOOP.

--USAID TECHNICAL STAFF AT SOUTHERN AFRICAN POSTS TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS.

(4UVRKING ON NEW USG RESEARCH PROGRAMS. (LEAD: USAID WASHINGTON TECHNICAL TEAM IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION)
UNCLAS SECTION 13 OF 13 HARARE 007005

DEPT FOR AF/S, AF/EPS, OES, AND DRL
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP DIRECTOR SANDY THURMAN
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
NAIROBI FOR REDSO
AFRICAN POSTS FOR AMBASSADORS AND USAID MISSION DIRECTORS
CDC FOR DR. HELENE GAYLE
HHS FOR SECRETARY DONNA SHALALA

PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AA/AFR, DAA/AFR NEWTON AND AFR/SA M/HR, LINDA LION
STATE DIRECTOR GENERAL AMBASSADOR GNEHM
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--ESTABLISH MORE RELIABLE STATISTICS ON THE PARAMETERS OF THE PANDEMIC AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HOST COUNTRIES TO HIV/AIDS PROGRAM.

--EXPLORE AND ADVISE ON THE NATURE OF SUB-TYPE 'C' OF THE HIV/AIDS VIRUS (THE PREDOMINANT STRAIN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA), HOW IT RELATES TO VACCINE DEVELOPMENT, AND THE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF NAVIRPINE FOR REDUCTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION.

--ASSESS BEST STRATEGIES FOR ALLOCATION OF USG RESOURCES VIS-A-VIS ALTERNATIVE INTERVENTIONS IN PREVENTION (INFORMATION AND EDUCATION); VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING (VCT); LONG-TERM CARE AND SUPPORT; AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR CARE OF CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS WHO HAVE DIED FROM AIDS.

5)ADDRESS WITH WASHINGTON THE NEED TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE WORLDWIDE POLICY ON HIV/AIDS PERSONNEL ISSUES AT OVERSEAS MISSIONS.

END TEXT OF "WRAP-UP" DOCUMENT.

CONCLUSION

38. THE GROUP AGREED ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COORDINATED DIALOGUE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF HIV/AIDS, AS THIS GLOBAL EPIDEMIC DOES NOT RESPECT COUNTRY BORDERS. A LARGE NUMBER OF INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES WERE

RECOMMENDED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY COMS, MANY OF WHICH DONOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. ALL STATISTICS POINT TO THE FACT THAT THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC WILL GET WORSE AND THAT NO FORMULA EXISTS TO SOLVE THE CRISIS. PARTICIPANTS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT THE USG MUST BE CREATIVE ABOUT HOW BEST TO USE ITS SCARCE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE RESOURCES TO EFFECTIVELY COMBAT THE EPIDEMIC. THE MEETING WAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER CHIEFS OF MISSION, USAID DIRECTORS AND USAID TECHNICAL OFFICERS TO DISCUSS A COMMON REGIONAL PROBLEM. PARTICIPANTS SUGGEST THAT THIS MODEL HAS APPLICABILITY FOR OTHER HIGH PRIORITY FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES THAT CUT ACROSS FOREIGN AFFAIRS AGENCIES.

39. COMMENT BY AMBASSADOR MCDONALD: "NONE OF US LIVING IN THIS REGION CAN REMAIN SILENT IN THE FACE OF THE OVERWHELMING IMPACT THIS EPIDEMIC IS HAVING ON OUR OWN STAFFS, PROGRAMS, US FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES AND THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF THE COUNTRIES WE ARE LIVING IN. THIS MEETING HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPRESSIVE CONCERN AND COMMITMENT OF USG PERSONNEL IN THE REGION. THIS ISSUE WILL BE WITH US FOR SOME TIME TO COME. SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT IS CRITICAL TO SUCCESS IN CONTROLLING AND EVENTUALLY STOPPING THE EPIDEMIC. U.S. LEADERSHIP CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

MCDONALD