

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title: AIDS-Presidential Envoy				
Staff Office-Individual: International Health Affairs-Bernard, Kenneth				
Original OA/ID Number: 3646				
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INTERNATIONAL AIDS EPIDEMTIC
July 19, 2000

***Background:** The human toll of AIDS is staggering: 50 million people worldwide have been infected, and AIDS is now the leading cause of death in Africa. HIV/AIDS has begun to reverse recent advances in life expectancy and economic growth, while perpetuating the cycle of sickness and poverty in the hardest hit regions. We have been pushing for increased international resources to fight this epidemic for over a decade – with USAID alone spending over \$1.4 billion in the last 15 years in foreign assistance for AIDS. The U.S. continues to provide more bilateral assistance for AIDS than all other donors combined. In the last two years, the President has more than doubled our investment in international prevention and care programs. This year he is asking Congress for \$325 million for international AIDS programs. Plans for further increases for prevention, and especially for treatment and care are under discussion.*

The Washington Post reports that turf battles within the administration have delayed the appointment of a Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation. Given the seriousness of the international epidemic, and the USG call for leadership why was this allowed to happen?

- First, we remain the international leader in generating global attention to this crisis and financing the battle against AIDS. This is why we put AIDS on the agenda of the UN Security Council in January, why it was a key topic during the U.S.-EU Summit, and why AIDS is a priority issue for the G-8 meeting in Okinawa. You might also note that the President has spoken frequently about AIDS in virtually every international forum he attends, from Davos to the Indian Parliament, to the EU Summit, and I can assure you, he will raise it in Okinawa. The President himself has taken on the major leadership role for the USG.
- The Presidential Envoy for AIDS proposal was considered earlier this year. Since then, State, Sandy Thurman's office and the NSC have been in ongoing discussions about a number of administrative and personnel details of the proposal. We hope to settle the issue soon – but if done, we want to do it correctly, with the right structure and the best person.

The Wall Street Journal and the New York Times both report that the Ex-Im Bank will offer \$1.0 billion in loans and guarantees to Sub-Saharan African countries to purchase HIV/AIDS drugs and services. Will this help?

- President Clinton takes the issue of accessibility to drugs for HIV/AIDS affected populations in Africa very seriously. On May 10, he signed an Executive Order to reduce trade barriers and make HIV/AIDS related drugs more affordable and accessible in Sub-Saharan African countries. The Administration welcomes the new initiatives by pharmaceutical manufacturers to deeply discount prices of anti-retroviral drugs for developing countries. And the US-sponsored Cologne Debt Initiative specifically makes resources freed from debt obligations in HIPC countries available for health, especially AIDS prevention and treatment.
- The Ex-Im announcement, expected today, is another positive step in increasing access and availability of HIV/AIDS medicines and services in Africa. ExIm's initiative represents the kind of innovative proposals that are needed to make a real difference – especially when

taken together with the President's call for increased bilateral assistance for AIDS, and increased World Bank, foundation, and private sector resources devoted to care and treatment.

We understand that the Administration was skeptical of the proposal and tried to block the announcement. Is this true?

- No. This is a new proposal from Ex-Im, and we, along with State, Treasury and others, support efforts to make needed drugs more accessible to Africa. However, the issues involved in creating innovative financing packages to make drugs and services more accessible and affordable in developing countries are complex and require careful consideration. We support the Ex-Im Bank's efforts within the context of its pilot program to explore new approaches that might be effective in this regard. We will closely monitor the progress of the initial pilot program and continue to work with developing countries in expanding the range of our cooperation on AIDS prevention and treatment efforts, guided by developing countries themselves on this issue.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 7, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today I am pleased to name Sandra L. Thurman Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation -- the first U.S. Envoy to deal exclusively with a global health issue.

AIDS is now the leading cause of death in Africa, and increasingly threatens Asia and the former Soviet Union. It is reversing hard-won advances in life expectancy and economic growth, and imperils the stability and security of nations.

Sandy Thurman has joined the battle against AIDS in every capacity from community activist, to national policy director, to international policy advocate.

Since I appointed her Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy -- a position she will retain -- she has traveled repeatedly to Africa, and met with leaders from President Mandela of South Africa, to President Museveni of Uganda, to President Obasanjo of Nigeria. She led the U.S. delegation to the International AIDS conference in Durban, and co-chaired its session on prevention.

Sandy will be an inspiring envoy. She combines the passion of an advocate with the skill of a diplomat.

One of her top priorities as AIDS Policy Director was to expand America's commitment to fighting global AIDS. Now, Sandy will use America's growing efforts as leverage to encourage other countries to expand financial commitments, to step up prevention efforts, and to increase access to care and treatment worldwide. Sandy has an extraordinary record of service on this issue, and I am proud to make her America's first envoy in the global fight against AIDS.

Keenan, Josefine (Chris) (HEALTH)

From: Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2000 7:01 PM
To: @HEALTH - International Health Affairs
Subject: FW: AIDS/Washington Post [UNCLASSIFIED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2000 7:01 PM
To: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @NSCComm; @PRESS - Public Affairs
Subject: FW: AIDS/Washington Post [UNCLASSIFIED]

Pass to Jim/Mara:

Bart Gellman's piece in today's Post, "Turf Battles Slow Appointment of U.S. AIDS Envoy," was not the hardball we expected (you have press points for clearance). We were called by State (G) staff this morning. Frank Loy is angry, insisting that there was no turf battle -- says the decision to push Thurman for the job is a reversal of our "agreed position" (!?) that the PEAC would be a senior official (likely a diplomat) reporting to both ONAP Director and, through Loy, to Secstate. He instructed his press person (John Brinkley) to write "if asked" guidance blaming the White House for the latest delay, referring reporters here for further information. (NB. It was not needed today).

I convinced State to back off on this original guidance, noting that the press would love to pit offices against one-another to no benefit - and it would hurt our international AIDS leadership initiatives. But Loy is reportedly still fuming about Gellman's story. His (firm) "if asked" guidance now says:

"There had been no ongoing bureaucratic turf battle delaying the appointment of a Presidential AIDS Envoy. There has long been a consensus that the appointment of an Envoy could enhance the effectiveness of our international AIDS policy. Discussion had focused on defining the Envoy's mission, determining the appropriate structure and selecting the right person. In the course of finding that person, however, there has been some reconsideration of these issues. We hope to resolve them as soon as possible." The remainder of State's Q&As are similar to ours, taking note of our current international activities.

All this being said, it hasn't come up in Lockhart's briefings, is unlikely to come up at State's, and therefore the press part of this may be moot.

--Ken



"Eddy, Randolph" <EddyR@state.gov>

09/05/2000 11:52:18 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Kenneth W. Bernard/NSC/EOP

cc:

Subject: Coordination of Upcoming AIDS Events

Ken,
per out telcon. To be given to French.
will let you know how mtg goes

<<Coordination of Upcoming AIDS Events.doc>>



- Coordination of Upcoming AIDS Events.doc

INFORMAL DRAFT NOTE
Coordination of Upcoming AIDS Events

What?	When?	Focus?
UN Millennium Summit	9/2000	Discuss road ahead, sequence of events, conferences. US: discuss PEACs, UNGASS UNAIDS note on PEACs
US-EU Summit	12/2000	Disparity in funding; solidify int. will, resource base
Japan post- G-8	12/2000	Disparity in funding; solidify int. will, resource base
Nigeria Conf.	4/2001?	African coordination (?)
Conf. On Care and Treatment	2001	Access to care and treatment in developing countries. Public-Private Partnership.
Announcement of PEACs	Need not be an "event"	High level coordination; increased intensity; no new bureaucracy;
UNGASS	5-9/2001?	"Coordinate and intensify int. efforts to combat..."
First PEACs Forum		UNAIDS secretariat; Ultimate goals: national plans leading to international plans, synergies, donor partnerships; donor goals;

UNGASS Goals

- 1) Minimal Prep-Con Process
 - a) "President's Consultations" (Finland: UNGA President)
- 2) Very Specific Deliverables:
 - a) High-level participation at UNGASS (PEACs?)
 - b) Agree to UNAIDS real world goals (e.g. reduce transmission in youth by 2005, etc.)
 - c) Mechanisms to increase coordination and political commitment:
 - i) Increase resources
 - ii) High-level national leadership
 - iii) Partnerships

KEN - CONCURRENCE REQUESTED!



United States Department of State

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Timothy W. Smith *TWS*

Office of Emerging Infectious Diseases

OES/EID Room 5806

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Email: tsmith@state.gov

Date: 9/22/00

Number of Pages: 3

To: Sandra Thurman, ONAP _____

Ken Bernard, NSC _____

Office Phone: 456-2959 // 456-9391 _____ FAX: 456-2439 // 456-9390 _____

Attached for your clearance is a draft version of the cable we are transmitting to all diplomatic and consular posts announcing the PEAC. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

UNCLASSIFIED

Domestic OutGoing Cable

Status: Draft

Classification UNCLASSIFIED

Date 09/22/2000

DRAFTER/APPROVER INFORMATION

Drafter Info:

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Approver Info:

Office OES/PDAS Name KBRILL

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MESSAGE/HEADER INFORMATION

Special Handling Captions:

Other Captions:

FreeForm Captions: NSC FOR KEN BERNARD

WHITE HOUSE FOR ONAP

TAGS: KHIV, SENV, PREL

Subject Line: PRESIDENT

APPOINTS PRESIDENTIAL

ENVOY FOR AIDS

COOPERATION

Reference:

Message Text:

1. (U) This telegram has been cleared by M/P(SEP).

UNCLASSIFIED

2. (U) On August xx, 2000, President Clinton named Sandra L. Thurman as Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation (PEAC.) Prior to and concurrently to her appointment as PEAC, Ms. Thurman has functioned as the Administration's ~~envoy~~ for AIDS issues as the director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP). As PEAC, she will serve as the President's representative for HIV/AIDS to other governments, stressing the need for heightened leadership commitment for increased action and funding for this urgent issue. The PEAC will also help promote continued cooperation and increased collaboration on intensifying the international campaign that will be needed to fight HIV/AIDS effectively.

*senior
coordination*

3. (U) The Department places a very high priority on the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Secretary and other Department principals have raised the issue personally and through our missions abroad with leaders throughout the world. We have encouraged other nations to appoint similar top level representatives to promote international coordination and to work with the U.S. to provide high level support for addressing HIV/AIDS. We also urge increased financial commitment from governments for AIDS prevention, care, and treatment.

4. (U) As an active member of the interagency team that has worked on the issue of HIV/AIDS throughout the life of the administration, the Department will continue to work closely with Ms. Thurman in her new capacity. In cooperation with the PEAC and the interagency community the Department will work to implement the U.S. diplomatic strategy to raise awareness and increase the international commitment to fighting AIDS around the globe.

5. (U) Minimize considered.