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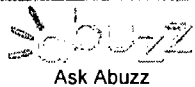
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MONDAY, MAY 22, 2000



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Transcript of Clinton, Mbeki Remarks After Arrival Ceremony

U.S.Newswire, 5/22/2000 11:54

To: National and International Desks

Contact: White House Press Office, 202-456-2100

WASHINGTON, May 22 /U.S. Newswire/ -- Following is a transcript of remarks made by President Clinton and South African President Thabo Mbeki today after the arrival ceremony:

The East Room

10:35 A.M. EDT

Q President Mbeki, do you think your government could be doing more to distribute the medicines for AIDS in South Africa?

PRESIDENT MBEKI: We are discussing that now with the U.N. aides and the WHO. Our health minister has just come back from Geneva. We want to look at all of those things so that we can move more effectively against AIDS.

Q Is it true that you don't consider AZT necessarily a good drug in fighting it?

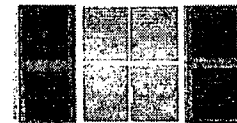
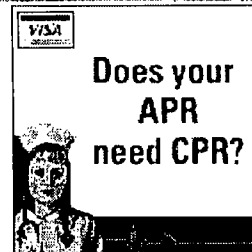
PRESIDENT MBEKI: I've never said that.

Q How does that come about?

PRESIDENT MBEKI: Pure invention. Pure invention.

Q So your position is what, now?

PRESIDENT MBEKI: I've never said that. No, what was said with regard to the antiretrovirus is that we need to ensure that we are able to cope with dispensing. Because the WHO says when you dispense them, you've got to have a strong enough medical infrastructure because of the potential toxicities and counterindications.



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You need to be able to supervise the patients close, but no, no, no -- so that's why it's in the aftermath of the announcement that the pharmaceuticals were reducing the prices. When we sent our health minister to Geneva to talk with the WHO -- so that we see how to respond to that. No, no, it said that there's a lot of stuff that's been written which is not true.

Q Mr. President, we were asking President Mbeki if he could do more to distribute the drugs that fight AIDS in South Africa. Do you think he could do more?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, we've got to get them to him. He's got to be able to afford them. And that's what my executive order was about. And you've got these five big pharmaceutical companies now who said they're going to help, and I think we're -- you know, in the next couple of months, we'll see if we really can get a break for him. But I'm very encouraged by what those pharmaceutical companies said.

And then, of course, if the Congress will pass my tax proposal to give a big tax credit to them to develop these vaccines, I think that will make a big difference.

Q So you think it's a question of money and not his belief in the drugs?

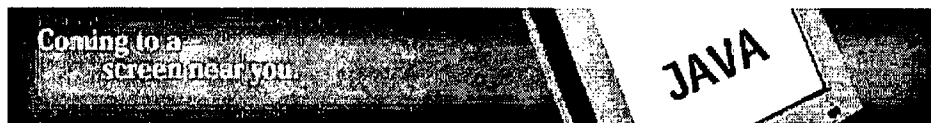
PRESIDENT CLINTON: Yes, I think -- there are some drugs out there now; we need to get them out there at affordable prices, and then we need to develop the vaccines. And I think we'll be able to do it.

Q How close are you on China?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, I'm hopeful. But we're making progress.

END 10:37 A.M. EDT

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May 10, 2000

PRESS BRIEFING BY JOE LOCKHART

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2000

PRESS BRIEFING BY
JOE LOCKHART

The James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:45 P.M. EDT

MR. LOCKHART: Let me start with a brief announcement today. On Friday, May 12th, the President will take his case to the American people for extending PNTR to China. He will travel to Ohio and to Minnesota. In Akron, Ohio, the President will meet with business and workers and community leaders interested in the impact of extending PNTR to China, and in Minnesota the President will make remarks on the benefits to American farmers of extending PNTR to China.

Q Where is that?

MR. LOCKHART: Shakopee, Minnesota, which is not far from Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Q Is he meeting again with the Governor?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't think he will be there that day. I know the representative from that area, David Minge will be there and hosting the President.

Questions?

Q Joe, what is the cost of the Democratic prescription drug plan?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't think it's been scored yet by CBO, so I don't know the exact cost. I think it's in the same general range as the proposal the President put forward. It might be slightly higher. We're going to look at what CBO does and we're taking a look at it now on what the costs are. But I think the important thing is that we think this

legislation will meet our budgetary framework of fiscal discipline, paying down the debt and investing in Medicare and Social Security, as well as provide an accessible universal and optional prescription drug benefit for Medicare.

Q Joe, is there some reason why the administration has waited this long to present language on this?

MR. LOCKHART: No, I think the President put forward in the budget in February the proposal for prescription drugs for Medicare. We have worked very hard with the leadership of Representative Gephardt and Senator Daschle to get consensus among Democrats. I think that was reflected in the event we had today that we have of all the good ideas on how to do this synthesized into a piece of legislation that's as well ahead of where the Republicans are. And we hope now that the momentum of today's event will crystallize into some action. Speaker Hastert has said he's willing to work with Democrats, provide prescription drug benefit. This legislation offers a blueprint for how to do it.

Q Chairman Archer says that he wants bipartisan cooperation on this. How does your plan compare with the Republican Plan?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, the Republicans don't really have a plan yet, they have a fact sheet. I know you've all seen it because they've handed it out to you. They haven't gone beyond that. The Democrats have been talking about this now for several years, are all ahead of where the Republicans have been. But I think today's legislation offers a blueprint for how we can move forward. The Democrats will reach out their hand in bipartisanship, and we hope the Republicans will take it.

Q Joe, when the President spoke, he called for the kind of bipartisan effort that you suggested. However, it seemed when Congressman Gephardt spoke, he started railing on all the bad things the Republicans have done on this issue. What are the prospects for actually reaching agreement, and for refraining from partisan point-scoring?

MR. LOCKHART: I think the Republicans have put forward a plan that is not workable, and that's one of the reasons why you don't see legislation, because right now it is more of a set -- an ideology. But we have seen over the last 18 months to two years a real shift in the Republican leadership and the Republican Party's view on this issue. They started out by saying, basically, not over our dead bodies. And they've moved and slowly shifted to the point now where they say they want to work with Democrats to provide a real prescription drug benefit.

So we've made a lot of progress, and it's been because of the leadership of the President and the Democratic leaders. We believe the Republican leadership when they say they want to work with us on a bipartisan basis. We have a bill now; we should get to work.

Q Just to follow up on that, what are the prospects for actually bridging the gap between the two proposals? The Republicans favor a method where essentially individuals get some kind of voucher and then try to buy insurance from different insurance companies, and you folks favor setting up one company and having --

MR. LOCKHART: Again, I think it's difficult to compare the two because you've got what is not even a proposal, just a set of ideas on a short piece of paper, as opposed to a full legislative proposal that the Democrats have put forward today. I think the Republican position has evolved on this. It's certainly our hope that what we have put down today will serve as the basis for a bipartisan agreement.

Q Joe, in the last couple weeks the Republicans have kind of

made some moves to push a lot of decisions into the next administration. There's the Kosovo deadline; Colombia funding was restricted to one year. Jesse Helms said don't bother to negotiate a new arms control treaty with the Russians, that will be for the next President. What is the White House's reaction to the fact that Congress seems to be limiting the scope of what the President can do to his term of office?

MR. LOCKHART: Let me just say that I think the Republicans believe they can put off things like a prescription drug benefit, a patients' bill of rights, a rise in the minimum wage and sensible gun safety laws, then they do it at their own political risk. These are issues that average Americans are quite concerned about. They want Congress to work on it this year. They want Congress to act on it this year.

And if they've made the political calculation that somehow this can all be put off to a future Congress when they think the situation might be better for them, then that's a decision they'll have to take. But I think it is a decision that comes with some political risk.

Q Joe, how damaging is it to fund Colombia -- to only have the money for one year, instead of the two the President asked for?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, certainly, I think it's important that we make the commitment over the two years that we asked for, because I think this shouldn't be looked at in a vacuum of just the United States. There are a number of international -- countries around the world that are working with Colombia, as you know, and Colombia is providing the bulk of the resources. So I think it's important that we send the message that we're committed to this.

I think, overall, what has the potential to cause damage, though, is the kind of process that we've got through here. It can best be described as a mess. You have the House moving this -- they moved it quite quickly in a supplemental. Now you have the Senate moving it in maybe one bill, maybe three bills; it may be 2000 money, it may be 2001 money. They haven't figured any of that out. These are urgent needs for the country. We don't need to play politics. We don't need to subject it to the kind of slow walking appropriations that we've seen over the last few years.

I think we firmly believe that the Senate leadership should bring this forward in a way that we can rapidly conclude this debate and pass the supplemental.

Q Do you actually think there's a chance that they'll regroup this into a stand-alone supplemental bill?

MR. LOCKHART: It's hard to know. I think even those who are devising the strategy are not quite sure what they've got now. I mean, when you can't explain whether it's 2000 or 2001 money, you can't explain whether it's going to go on one bill, three bills or four bills, then you have to recognize that the situation has gotten out of control and it's a mess. And often the best way, when you've dug a hole, is to stop digging and to figure out a way to get it done in a way that meets the country's needs.

Q How about the Republican move to loosen the embargo on Cuba?

MR. LOCKHART: I hadn't seen anything specifically on that. I can only reiterate that we have worked actively over the last few years to try to make sure that as far as things like humanitarian or medical needs of the Cuban American people we tried to address, but did not in a way that didn't provide any benefit to the Cuban government.

The President has some flexibility as far as how we can do that.

We've taken various steps over the last few years and that's something I think we should ensure that that flexibility remains.

Q Joe, the House is voting to extend the Internet tax moratorium by five years. The President said he doesn't like that, it's too long, it pushes some issues back. Would he veto a five year extension? And also, as part of that, he said that the states should solve the taxation issue by restructuring some of their tax policies. What's the federal role in sorting this all out?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, let me answer it in the negative first. The federal role in sorting this all out is not kicking the can down the road for another five years. There's a bit of phoniness in this debate, so let me be clear on where we stand.

We oppose -- and are for a permanent moratorium on any excess taxes, where we oppose any discriminatory taxes. But our concern is if you move, kick the can down the road for another five years, Congress states all the affected parties will find a way to put off the tough decisions that need to be made as far as how state and localities handle sales tax and their own tax issues.

So I think the federal government has a role and partnership with governors. I think the President talked about it the last time the governors were here, it was a big part of the conversation. We support a two-year extension because, obviously, our position is that we are opposed to discriminatory or access taxes. But we think if you go and extend out through five years you really run the risk of putting off some decisions that need to be made.

Q But you can't really veto that bill, can you? I mean, the high-tech community is very much for that. Can you really envision the President --

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I'm just not going to answer a hypothetical about something that's not down here yet.

Q I have a question back on prescription drugs. Does the President have some objection to the model the Republicans want to use, where an individual Medicare recipient could go out and buy prescription drug coverage? Is he insistent that all Medicare recipients have to be in the same government-run program?

MR. LOCKHART: Let me deal with that a couple of ways. One is, I think the major problem with the ideas the Republicans put forward is, the insurance industry has indicated they have no interest in participating in it. So that's -- there are two players on this, and if one player says they're not playing, there's no game.

Secondly, I think the kind of reform you can see in Medicare, the kind of discount and volume buying has to be done as a group. I don't think that 68-year-old John Smith is going to be particularly effective going into his pharmacist and saying, let's deal, let's make a deal here. Just like private -- whether they be HMOs or other health care groups can provide cheaper prescription drugs for their beneficiaries; within Medicare, we can do the same thing. I think the problem with the Republican plan for the President, for most of the Democrats is that we just don't think it will work.

Q It's not like all insurance companies or all HMOs negotiate together with the drug companies, they all set up their own individual agreements. Why couldn't there be room for multiple plans as opposed to one government plan?

MR. LOCKHART: Because I don't know any HMOs or insurance companies who have one or two beneficiaries. They represent large groups. There is an economy of scale; otherwise they wouldn't be in the business. There isn't like the front row here has their health plan and the second row has their health plan; that's just not the way it works.

Q Well, federal employees choose from dozens of different plans.

MR. LOCKHART: Right, and each -- well, I guess there is. If we can get Terry to move, but he wasn't even listening so he doesn't even know what I said. (Laughter.)

Q Joe, on China. The Chinese government has said that they cannot guarantee that they will not sell in the future missile and nuclear technology to other countries like Pakistan and Iran. Do you think it will affect in the Congress PNTR or --

MR. LOCKHART: Well, we have made our position on proliferation quite clear to the Chinese, and I think as a general point we believe we are better able to make our points and to articulate our national security concerns when we are engaged and we bring China into rules-based organizations, rather than by isolating China. So can I predict an impact? No. But should it have an impact? Not according to our judgment.

Q Is the President aware of the Washington Post story the other day that honored killings are continuing still in Pakistan?

MR. LOCKHART: Yes, I'm sorry, I didn't see that. I'd have to check on that for you.

Q I think Vladimir Putin just named a Prime Minister -- any reaction to this person? I guess he was on the previous government also. Do we know anything about him?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't know in particular what we know about him. I think, as a general principle -- we have congratulated Mr. Putin for the democratic transition -- the President did, in writing -- on the occasion of his inauguration. But as a general principle, we are less interested in the people that they put forward, rather more interested in the policies, the general move toward economic reform, the cleaning up of corruption, our bilateral issues of arms control and nonproliferation. So, again, I think -- I don't have a great deal of detail about the newly-appointed Prime Minister, but what's important is they follow the general policy outline and agenda that Putin talked about.

Q Joe, do you know what the practical impact will be of the executive order the President signed today on AIDS drugs in sub-Saharan Africa, and is it a change in administration policy, or does it formalize the existing policy?

MR. LOCKHART: I think the practical impact is that it will promote the accessibility of HIV-AIDS drugs into sub-Saharan Africa. I think over the last months there's been some focus on the crisis that exists there. I mean, some 80 percent of the deaths of AIDS right now are in sub-Saharan Africa, and over 11 million people have already died, 44 million I think are infected.

The executive order finds the balance between protecting intellectual property rights and also promoting accessibility of the drugs in this area, and allowing the companies to deal with the public health crisis that they face.

Q Does this mean that what countries like South Africa are

trying to do in sort of setting up I guess licensing agreements on their own to start producing AIDS drugs, maybe without the full permission of the companies involved --

MR. LOCKHART: What it does is it provides them flexibility within their own intellectual property construct, as long as they stay within the trips agreement within the WTO. I mean, I think the basic -- I think our intellectual property laws here are much more stringent than even within the WTO. And this allows sub-Saharan countries, a group of identified countries, flexibility for them to take steps in order to make these drugs more accessible.

Q Developing countries have been saying for years that intellectual property laws prevented them from getting badly-needed drugs at costs that they could afford. Doesn't this executive order prove that point?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't think that it proves that our intellectual property laws are too stringent. I think that this executive order recognizes the truly great public health crisis that exists now in sub-Saharan Africa, and I think it creates the flexibility that the countries there need to address the problem.

Q Joe, you mentioned the patients' bill of rights. Is there going to be a meeting tomorrow with the conferees?

MR. LOCKHART: It's still on, right? Let me check for you. It was tentatively set for tomorrow, and I just haven't checked since Monday. But I'll check for you.

Q One more question on prescription drugs. If you could respond to the two main criticisms of it -- the Republicans charge that it's going to be too costly, and consumer groups are saying that the administration is buckling to the pharmaceutical industry.

MR. LOCKHART: That puts us right in the middle, so I think it's normally a pretty good place. I think you'll find that the prescription drug program that the President laid out is affordable and fits within our budget framework, it pays down the debt by 2013, invests in Medicare, Social Security and our other urgent national needs.

As far as those who say we're buckling to the pharmaceutical companies, if we have, the pharmaceutical companies have shown a peculiar way of expressing their appreciation by opposing it.

Q What's the President's view of the lawsuit the DCCC filed against Tom Delay?

MR. LOCKHART: You know, I saw a couple of things on that in the paper this morning. I don't know, I haven't talked to him about it. I'll try to get his opinion.

Q Do you know, has anyone at the White House -- as you may have seen, a former White House official is quoted as saying, or wrote a piece saying he thought it was a bad idea. Did any input come from the White House --

MR. LOCKHART: No.

Q -- did DCCC check here before they did this, or was it just a --

MR. LOCKHART: Not that I'm aware. The first I saw of it was when I saw it in the newspaper.

Q Joe, how much political advice, if any, is the White House giving the Million Moms March organizers?

MR. LOCKHART: Political advice?

Q -- coordination and getting this thing together? I know they were here to meet with the President --

MR. LOCKHART: No, I think this, as has been reported, this came out of some mothers and groups that wanted to find a way to make a statement on Mother's Day. We have worked with them some this week, finding an appropriate way for the President to participate in the effort, but as far as political advice, I don't think they've come looking for that here.

Q Is he going to it or is there any plan for him to participate directly in it, speaking or by remote control?

MR. LOCKHART: We're still trying to work that out. We're battling the normal things that we have here, which is -- we represent a considerable logistical and security challenge to any organization. We want to find a way to participate that doesn't sort of fundamentally change the way this group wants to put on their event.

Q Joe, with crude oil prices rising again, is anyone here beginning to worry that the problem is not taken care of and more needs to be done?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think you've got -- if you look back on the price of gas at the pump, it went down six or seven weeks in a row, and went up slightly this week. So I don't know that I'm going to draw any grand conclusions from one week's report.

Thank you.

END

2:07 P.M. EDT

#193-05/10

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May 10, 2000

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO SENATOR DIANE FEINSTEIN

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2000

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO SENATOR DIANE FEINSTEIN

May 10, 2000

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am pleased to inform you that today I will sign an Executive Order that is intended to help make HIV/AIDS-related drugs and medical technologies more accessible and affordable in beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. The Executive Order, which is based in large part on your work in connection with the proposed Trade and Development Act of 2000, formalizes U.S. government policy in this area. It also directs other steps to be taken to address the spread of HIV and AIDS in Africa, one of the worst health crises the world faces.

As you know, the worldwide HIV/AIDS epidemic has taken a terrible toll in terms of human suffering. Nowhere has the suffering been as great as in Africa, where over 5,500 people per day are dying from AIDS. Approximately 34 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have been infected and, of those infected, approximately 11.5 million have died. These deaths represent more than 80 percent of the total HIV/AIDS-related deaths worldwide.

To help those countries most affected by HIV/AIDS fight this terrible disease, the Executive Order directs the U.S. Government to refrain from seeking, through negotiation or otherwise, the revocation or revision of any law or policy imposed by a beneficiary sub-Saharan government that promotes access to HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals and medical technologies. This order will give sub-Saharan governments the flexibility to bring life saving drugs and medical technologies to affected populations. At the same time, the order ensures that fundamental intellectual property rights of U.S. businesses and inventors are protected by requiring sub-Saharan governments to provide adequate and effective intellectual property protection consistent with World Trade Organization rules. In this way, the order strikes a proper balance between the need to enable sub-Saharan governments to increase access to HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals and medical technologies and the need to ensure that intellectual property is protected.

I know that you preferred that this policy be included in the Conference Report on the Trade and Development Act of 2000, as did I. However, through this Executive Order, the policy this Administration has pursued with your support will be implemented by the U.S. Government. The Executive Order will encourage beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries to build a better infrastructure to fight diseases like HIV/AIDS as they build better lives for their people. At the same time, the Trade and Development Act of 2000 will strengthen African economies, enhance African democracy, and expand U.S.-African trade. Together, these steps will enable the United States to forge closer ties with our African allies, broaden export opportunities for our workers and businesses, and promote our values around the world.

Thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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May 10, 2000

EXECUTIVE ORDER

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Immediate Release

May 10, 2000

For

EXECUTIVE ORDER

- - - - -

ACCESS TO HIV/AIDS PHARMACEUTICALS
AND MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 141 and chapter 1 of title III of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2171, 2411-2420), section 307 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 2421), and section 104 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2151b), and in accordance with executive branch policy on health-related intellectual property matters to promote access to essential medicines, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. (a) In administering sections 301-310 of the Trade Act of 1974, the United States shall not seek, through negotiation or otherwise, the revocation or revision of any intellectual property law or policy of a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, as determined by the President, that regulates HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals or medical technologies if the law or policy of the country:

(1) promotes access to HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals or medical technologies for affected populations in that country; and

(2) provides adequate and effective intellectual property protection consistent with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) referred to in section 101(d)(15) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(15)).

(b) The United States shall encourage all beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries to implement policies designed to address the underlying causes of the HIV/AIDS crisis by, among other things, making efforts to encourage practices that will prevent further transmission and infection and to stimulate development of the infrastructure necessary to deliver adequate health services, and by encouraging policies that provide an incentive for public and private research on, and development of, vaccines and other medical innovations that will combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa.

Sec. 2. Rationale: (a) This order finds that:

(1) since the onset of the worldwide HIV/AIDS epidemic, approximately 34 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa have been infected with the disease;

(2) of those infected, approximately 11.5 million have died;

(3) the deaths represent 83 percent of the total HIV/AIDS-related deaths worldwide; and

(4) access to effective therapeutics for HIV/AIDS is determined by issues of price, health system infrastructure for delivery, and sustainable financing.

(b) In light of these findings, this order recognizes that:

(1) it is in the interest of the United States to take all reasonable steps to prevent further spread of infectious disease, particularly HIV/AIDS;

(2) there is critical need for effective incentives to develop new pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and therapies to combat the HIV/AIDS crisis, including effective global intellectual property standards designed to foster pharmaceutical and medical innovation;

(3) the overriding priority for responding to the crisis of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa should be to improve public education and to encourage practices that will prevent further transmission and infection, and to stimulate development of the infrastructure necessary to deliver adequate health care services;

(4) the United States should work with individual countries in sub-Saharan Africa to assist them in development of effective public education campaigns aimed at the prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission and infection, and to improve their health care infrastructure to promote improved access to quality health care for their citizens in general, and particularly with respect to the HIV/AIDS epidemic;

(5) an effective United States response to the crisis in sub-Saharan Africa must focus in the short term on preventive programs designed to reduce the frequency of new infections and remove the stigma of the disease, and should place a priority on basic health services that can be used to treat opportunistic infections, sexually transmitted infections, and complications associated with HIV/AIDS so as to prolong the duration and improve the quality of life of those with the disease;

(6) an effective United States response to the crisis must also focus on the development of HIV/AIDS vaccines to prevent the spread of the disease;

(7) the innovative capacity of the United States in the commercial and public pharmaceutical research sectors is unmatched in the world, and the participation of both these sectors will be a critical element in any successful program to respond to the HIV/AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa;

(8) the TRIPS Agreement recognizes the importance of promoting effective and adequate protection of intellectual property rights and the right of countries to adopt measures necessary to protect public health;

(9) individual countries should have the ability to take measures to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic, provided that such measures are consistent with their international obligations; and

(10) successful initiatives will require effective partnerships and cooperation among governments, inter-national organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector, and greater consideration should be given to financial, legal, and other incentives that will promote improved prevention and treatment actions.

Sec. 3. Scope. (a) This order prohibits the United States Government from taking action pursuant to section 301(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to any law or policy in beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries that promotes access to HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals or medical technologies and that provides adequate and effective intellectual property protection consistent with the TRIPS Agreement. However, this order does not prohibit United States Government officials from evaluating, determining, or expressing concern about whether such a law or policy promotes access to HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals or medical technologies or provides adequate and effective intellectual property protection consistent with the TRIPS Agreement. In addition, this order does not prohibit United States Government officials from consulting with or otherwise discussing with sub-Saharan African governments whether such law or policy meets the conditions set forth in section 1(a) of this order. Moreover, this order does not prohibit the United States Government from invoking the dispute settlement procedures of the World Trade Organization to examine whether any such law or policy is consistent with the Uruguay Round Agreements, referred to in section 101(d) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

(b) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
May 10, 2000.

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NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT

May 2, 2000



The White House has declared the immune deficiency virus AIDS a national security threat. National Security Advisor Samuel Berger discusses why a disease has been added to the list for the first time.

The Health Unit is a partnership with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

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A Health Spotlight Report: The AIDS Crisis

Aug. 31, 1999: The National HIV Prevention Conference.

Feb. 2, 1999: The origin of AIDS and mother-to-infant transmission.

Dec. 2, 1998: AIDS rates continue to rise in South Africa.

Oct. 30, 1998: AIDS is lowering life-expectancy rates in Africa.

July 3, 1998: AIDS in developing countries

June 29, 1998: The results of the World AIDS Conference in Geneva.

December 1, 1997: Researchers find

JIM LEHRER: AIDS as a national security threat, and to Ray Suarez.

RAY SUAREZ: Over the past two decades, as the spread of the AIDS virus was recognized as a public health emergency in Europe and North America, its impact on the developing world has been far more catastrophic. Of the 33 million people with HIV Around the world, 95 percent are in developing countries, mostly Sub-Saharan Africa. Every day, 5,000 Africans are infected, primarily from heterosexual contact. In the West, the disease is spread mostly via drug use and homosexual contact. Statistically, the tragedy is most acute in Zimbabwe and Botswana, where one in four adults is HIV-positive.



The answer is no, I don't. I guess this is just the president trying to make an appeal to, you know, certain groups. But no, I don't view [AIDS] as a national security threat. Not to our national security interests, no.

SEN. TRENT LOTT



MARTHA AINSWORTH, The World Bank: AIDS is taking a terrible toll on developing countries. In Zimbabwe, life expectancy is 22 years shorter than it would have been in the absence of the AIDS epidemic. In Tanzania, AIDS is increasing poverty. Children are being pulled out of school to cope with the deaths of adults in their families.

RAY SUAREZ: But health and demography may not be the only dimensions of the



more people with
AIDS than
expected.

September
24, 1997:
The search for a
vaccine.

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problem. The Clinton administration has designated AIDS as a threat to national security. It's the first time an infectious disease has been added to a list that includes terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The AIDS news broke on Sunday, the same day hundreds of thousands of gay rights supporters rallied in Washington. One senior Republican said the timing was not a coincidence.



SPOKESMAN: Do you think AIDS is a national security threat?

Outside Links

National Security
Council

CIA Report on
AIDS Threat

UNAIDS

CDC Division of
HIV/AIDS
Prevention

JAMA: HIV/AIDS
Information Center



SEN. TRENT LOTT: I saw that in the *Washington Post* this morning. I mention that paper again, and I didn't see it in other papers, and the answer is no, I don't. I guess this is just

the president trying to make an appeal to, you know, certain groups. But no, I don't view that as a national security threat. Not to our national security interests, no.

RAY SUAREZ: That provoked this response from the White House.

JOE LOCKHART: To have this question put to him by a television interview, and to have him laugh at the AIDS problem as a national security issue... you know, I think this is a problem at home which we've addressed, this is a problem around the world that we have an interest in and we need to keep working on, and you can't just laugh it off.



How does AIDS threaten the U.S.?

RAY SUAREZ: And joining us now is the president's national security adviser, Samuel Berger. Welcome to the program.

SAMUEL BERGER: Good evening.

RAY SUAREZ: How is the suffering of people who have AIDS and other diseases in foreign countries a threat to the



If we had a famine that killed 2.2 million people last year in Africa, we would be very alarmed. President Bush sent troops to Somalia, a famine not nearly of that magnitude. If we don't address this as an urgent problem, we're going to have

national security of the United States?



SAMUEL BERGER, National Security Adviser: The AIDS epidemic has reached such proportions... Some of the statistics that you cited earlier, 50 million people in the world now infected with HIV, in some countries, in Africa 20 percent infected with HIV. In 1998, 200,000 people in Africa died from war; 2.2 million died from AIDS. In some countries now we have 30 percent of the military, 40 percent of teachers who are suffering from HIV. So what you have is an epidemic now which is eating at the very civil society of nations, their potential for economic prosperity. If we had a famine that killed 2.2 million people last year in Africa, we would be very alarmed. President Bush sent troops to Somalia, a famine not nearly of that magnitude. If we don't address this as an urgent problem, we're going to have increasing instability, increasing conflict and an implosion of many of the countries in the developing world.

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SAMUEL BERGER,
National Security
Adviser

RAY SUAREZ: But I think you get near universal agreement that this is a public health crisis, a human tragedy of the first rank. But how does it reach across the Atlantic to the United States and threaten this country?



SAMUEL BERGER: Well, we understand, I think, as global worlds, global age, and a global economy that instability in other parts of the world which can lead to war and conflict can have a direct effect on the United States.

And I think we have an obligation to act with others to try to both deal with the consequences and increase the degree of education and prevention to try to slow this down.

RAY SUAREZ: Does this bring on to the United States and our security apparatus some sort of obligation beyond one that the United States government may have already taken on to itself?

SAMUEL BERGER: No, but I do think it's incumbent on us to lead here and to make other countries in the world more aware of this, to join with us. And let me give you a few examples. We now have raised this in the United Nations Security Council, the nations of the U.N.



Security addressed this in January. When the president goes to Portugal in late May for the summit with the E.U., this will be one of the items on the agenda. When we go to the G-8 summit in Okinawa with the industrial countries, this will be one of the items on the agenda -- not to the exclusion of other items but to get countries to join together, as we have done, to devote resources to first treating the consequences, and second to try to stop the spread of the -- this epidemic.

Terrorism, weapons and AIDS

RAY SUAREZ: Is this the first time something like this has ever been done to talk about disease, not only AIDS but tuberculosis, malaria and others in the same way that you at the National Security Council talk about weapons, about terrorism, about terrorist acts?

SAMUEL BERGER:

For example, you know, we have been dealing with the international drug crisis as a foreign policy and national security issue for many years. It's a question not only of dealing with the demand side of that problem here in the United States, but also trying to stop it from the source and interdict it between here and there. Now, obviously different kinds of issues require different kinds of crisis. We're not suggesting here that this is something that calls for a military response. But it does call for a national response. It calls for us to lead with other nations. When you have large parts of the developing world whose capacity to grow, whose capacity to have militaries that can maintain stability, whose capacity to teach their children is really being called into question... In fact indeed their capacity to govern ultimately being called into question, a few ounces of prevention at this point will be I think well spent compared with what we could face in the future if we don't deal with it.



We're not suggesting here that this is something that calls for a military response. But it does call for a national response. It calls for us to lead with other nations. When you have large parts of the developing world whose capacity to grow, whose capacity to have militaries that can maintain stability, whose capacity to teach their children is really being called into question.

SAMUEL BERGER,
National Security
Advisor

RAY SUAREZ: As with government reports on other crisis abroad this one contains "best case" and "worst case" scenarios, epidemiological reports, health statistics. In a country, individual country let's say like Zimbabwe, which is so heavily affected by this disease, how would it become unstable from within when it has a lot of its people sick?



SAMUEL BERGER: Well, the countries, for example, that have had enjoyed solid growth in Africa now are beginning to see that growth erode because its work force is

 not able anymore to function in the economy and the cost of the disease to the government is becoming overwhelming. What happens? Those countries begin to unravel. They are unstable. They're more likely to engage in conflict with their neighbors. And before long, we have something, a situation which is really tumultuous. And so the most important thing we can do is first of all, work with other countries to try to apply collective resources; two, work with the leaders of these countries to try to change the dynamic. For example, in Uganda where President Museveni has been a real leader here and has been out front in terms of talking about this problem, dealing with education, dealing with prevention, the rates have begun to go down. So there are things we can do about this. And we've also finally tried to stimulate our pharmaceutical companies to develop the kinds of vaccines for problems in the developing world where the money is not there to buy the drugs and, therefore, justify the research for vaccines on certain strains of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

RAY SUAREZ: Do you expect to face skepticism on this? You heard Senator Lott before we began to talk.



SAMUEL BERGER: I think the facts speak for themselves. I think that the fact that 50 million people in the world now are effected by this epidemic; the facts that 2.2 million people last year died in Africa alone; the fact that

this is now a growing problem in Asia, in India and elsewhere ... India a country in South Asia with great potential and great promise but also in a very unstable area of the world, I think that as people look at the facts and as senators look at the facts you'll realize that a national response together with other countries is appropriate.

RAY SUAREZ: Samuel Berger, thanks for being with us.

SAMUEL BERGER: You're welcome.



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OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
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yesterday!

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OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2000

CONTACT: (202) 456-2959

**WHITE HOUSE AIDS CZAR CALLS FOR
CONTINUED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST AIDS**

Washington, D.C. - The US has been a strong leader in responding to the global AIDS pandemic and is the largest contributor to AIDS efforts around the world and to UNAIDS (the United Nations Joint Program on AIDS). The US contributed \$225 million in FY2000 for prevention and treatment programs worldwide. This enabled us to more than double our funding for AIDS programs in Africa. The President has requested an additional \$100 million in the FY2001 budget to further expand these essential efforts.

With the AIDS pandemic clearly outpacing all earlier projections, there is a growing understanding of the magnitude of this crisis. AIDS is not just a health issue, but a fundamental development issue, an economic issue, and a security and stability issue. When the Vice President addressed the UN Security Council in January, he clearly stated that AIDS is a national security crisis and encouraged all leaders around the world to treat it as such.

"In just a few short years, AIDS in Africa has wiped out decades of hard work and steady progress in development and will soon double infant mortality, triple child mortality, and slash life expectancy by 20 years or more," stated Sandra Thurman, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. "Clearly, as this crisis unfolds, it will have a terribly destabilizing effect, with untold economic, social and political consequences. As the National Intelligence Council's recent report warns as goes Africa, so will go India, Southeast Asia and the former Soviet Union. At the end of the day, this global pandemic will make the bubonic plague of the middle ages pale in comparison unless our response is finally commensurate with the magnitude of this emergency. Just as democrats and republicans have come together on issues of national security in the past, I am pleased that there is a growing bi-partisan consensus

on the need to dramatically expand US leadership in the battle against AIDS worldwide.”

This broader focus now enables us to move forward with the two key components necessary to win the war on AIDS: leadership and resources.

This effort will require billions of dollars and a sustained commitment if it is going to be effective. The United States Government clearly cannot, and should not, chart this course alone. It will require a major new investment from other donors in the developed world and the reprioritization of funds from nations hardest hit by the epidemic. It will also require increased engagement of the private sector and multilateral institutions.

To that end, the US is working on a four-point strategy which includes:

- **Increased bilateral assistance -**
Our direct contribution to AIDS efforts in other countries.
- **Multilateral coordination -**
Our ongoing commitment to UNAIDS and other multilateral institutions to support better coordination and support of global AIDS efforts.
- **Debt forgiveness -**
Support for the use of funds supplied by forgiveness of debt in the world's poorest nations for use in social and health programming including HIV/AIDS programs.
- **Engaging the private sector -**
Working with business and labor to increase their involvement in the fight against AIDS.



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*Compared
to what?*

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 17, 2000

PRESS BRIEFING BY
A SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL
ON AFRICA SUMMIT

The James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:25 P.M. EST

MR. FALLIN: Is everyone here for the background brief? This is that brief and, again, I will reiterate this is ON BACKGROUND as senior administration officials. Obviously, off camera. But before we go further, let me also take this opportunity to welcome your colleagues who happen to be listening from the continent of Africa. We have them wired in. And, although they won't be able to ask questions, I want to be able to take an opportunity to welcome them.

Q We all do.

MR. FALLIN: Good. With that as an opening remark, let me also point to the President's speech today. I think it was an extremely well-received speech by the President in which he articulated his strong feelings about furthering our partnership with the continent of Africa. And, with that, I think we will just go to questions.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Good afternoon, which is what I believe it is.

Q I wonder if I could start by asking about the President's comments about controlling the spread of AIDS in Africa. He spoke about the cultural and religious factors that make it difficult to tackle this issue. He said that we have to get over our hangups or problems with respect to that. What specifically was he referring to? Is he talking about sexual behavior and conduct among African people? Is he talking about sexual education in Africa?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think in many of the same ways that we've seen herein the United States, talking about HIV/AIDS prevention, which entails talking about behavior and all kinds of difficult issues, can often be difficult for religious or cultural reasons, or just because people are not inclined to talk about those issues in wide public fora. And I think his point, which went over extremely well, was that the hardest thing an adult can live through in life is to see the death of his or her child, and that if, indeed, the children of Africa are at risk of losing their lives to this disease, it is necessary that, despite the difficulties and the impediments that may exist to talking about some issues, that we all must do it in order to save the future of those children.

And I will say that across the board with African government officials and African private citizens present at the summit, his message absolutely resonated and I think there was total agreement with what he said.

Q Is there a resistance among African people to having --

against unprotected sex, or difficulty in stopping people from engaging in unprotected sex, I guess, is what I mean.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Again, I think changing behavior in Africa is no different than changing behavior anywhere else. And we have certainly learned and are still learning that it is a constant process of education. Now, one of the other factors in Africa is that the access to, whether it's the medical equipment that is needed to test or condoms or other things, is less available than it is, say, in the United States. So it is also a question of access.

Q What did the President say to President Moi in his meeting after the speech?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: They talked about a range of issues. President Moi talked about what he has been doing and what he hopes to do for Kenya to be a stable country in the future. They talked about corruption. They talked about Kenya's economic situation. They talked about the reform of the civil service. But they also talked about a number of other regional issues.

President Moi raised some of his concerns about conflicts in the Horn of Africa and more broadly across the continent. We also thanked him for the contribution that Kenya is making to the peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone.

Q Where was the meeting? What was the setting?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The meeting was maybe 30 minutes, a little bit longer, and it was in a meeting room at the Washington Convention Center, set up by the summit.

Q Now, it was suggested that the President gave him a stern tongue-lashing. What's your characterization of it?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think it was a frank and cordial exchange.

Q Did the President send the message that it's business as usual with Africa? Because during the Cold War, we were willing to overlook some of the behavior by Mobutu Sese Seko and, given Kenya's track record on corruption and abuse of human rights, you're basically saying, well, we're going to overlook that because you're helping out in the Horn of Africa.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, no, no, I don't think that's the message at all and we certainly haven't overlooked it. We have been extremely frank in public and in private with the government of Kenya about our concerns for many years now, including on the economic front and on the political front.

By the same token, when a government such as that in Kenya takes the steps that they've taken, for example, to appoint Richard Leakey the head of the Civil Service and to start a fairly arduous task of tackling corruption, that's, in fact, the kind of thing that we want to encourage.

Q Would the U.S. also be willing to talk about some of the problems in other African countries? I'm thinking specifically in Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe still says he's going to confiscate farmland without compensation. Clearly, this is annoying the IMF. I mean, is the U.S. going to point to these specific issues and say, this is not right?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The U.S. already is doing that. I would say that across Africa, we have extremely frank relationships with all governments, and those and other issues in Zimbabwe are a matter of regular discourse between our diplomats and the government of Zimbabwe.

Q It doesn't really seem to enter the public realm.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, we have made public statements. It was not mentioned this morning, although there were mentions by administration officials, of the referendum that took place in Zimbabwe last weekend, and the importance of the fact that people voted according to their views and that the government has recognized that vote, which, in fact, was a defeat for the government. But that was referenced by several administration officials in their comments.

Q Did President Clinton ask President Moi for any specific steps on corruption, on the economy, and what were they?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: President Moi himself spoke about his own efforts and the things he wishes to do in the next couple of years on Kenya. And President Clinton strongly encouraged him to take those steps and to move Kenya in a direction so that its ability to function within the rest of the region as a stable both economy and a peaceful country is enhanced.

Q Can you say what those steps were? What are we actually talking about here?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, there are a number of things. They have taken steps on civil service reform, and we encouraged that more of those need to be taken; that some of the issues that the IMF has raised, that it's important that the right direction be followed. We did not go into great detail of each specific step. It was not a terribly long meeting and it was much more a general meeting on the direction Kenya is going and the direction that we hope President Moi will take it.

Q In his speech, the President talked about the importance of the U.S. paying for this U.N. peace monitoring force in the Congo. What are you hearing? What kind of support does that have right now in the Congress? How much will it cost and what's the outlook for it?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We notified Congress, I believe, on the seventh, earlier this month, and have done a great deal of consultation with members of Congress about the importance of this operation. I think we are finding that there is understanding on the Hill of the importance of this operation, some good questions being asked by members of Congress about how the operation will indeed work. I can get you the figure on our estimated cost of what our shared would be.

Q It was just estimated at \$40 million in the last briefing.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, that sounds --

Q But, no, it would not be U.S. troops? It would --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, U.S. troops will not be involved.

Q -- be observers? What kind of involvement of U.S. personnel?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: At this point we have no plans for any involvement of U.S. personnel.

Q What would the money go for? Is it simply to pay for operations by others, or is it logistical support --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It's a U.N. peacekeeping operation, and so that it goes towards that entire observer mission.

Q But with no involvement of U.S. personnel in any way -- transport, logistics, intelligence, whatever?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: U.S. troops are not envisioned to be participating in this.

Q In the President's speech at the Convention Center today, he didn't seem to make too many direct references to Rwanda, but he did say, we no longer have the choice not to know, we only have the choice now whether to act or not to act. I asked David this just before -- I mean, is Rwanda the single, greatest regret of his presidency? Do you happen to know?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think the President spoke very eloquently about Rwanda when he went there in 1998. And what he said at the time was that the international community failed to do what it might have done in the case of Rwanda. And, obviously, that is something that everybody in the international community should regret.

I would just add I think, more importantly, is that there are lessons from Rwanda -- whether it be in terms of very closely monitoring events, raising some of the difficult issues that lead to that kind of conflict and massacres, or, in the case of Sierra Leone and Congo, doing everything we can to help implement and consolidate peace agreements, so that the conflicts that give rise to that level of violence are brought under control.

Q If a similar situation arose tomorrow, do you think knowing those lessons that you keep hearing about, that you'd be able to intervene -- forget the international community, let's talk about the United States of America.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm not going to say what exactly we will do or would do if a similar situation arose tomorrow. But I believe that certainly, if there is another such tragedy in Africa, that we will strongly urge that the international community do what it can to prevent it.

Q This might be for your colleague, on trade, I guess. The President called on Congress to get him that trade bill by the end of next month, I believe he said. What's the administration's sense of the outlook of that actually happening? And what is the administration doing to try and persuade the congressional Republicans to get him that bill?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, we remain very optimistic about the prospects for passage. The President has been very involved, as -- all the Cabinet members have been very engaged with members of Congress. There appears to be a lot of optimism on the Hill. So I think that we will see a bill. I feel very strongly about that.

Q Would the President sign a bill that I guess would include this issue where African exports would have to use, I guess, American imports of textiles? Would the President support a bill with that

provision?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think there are a range of options that are being discussed. And I think people are very pleased with the options that are now being discussed. I think that there is just broad consensus that we should have a commercially viable bill, and I think that people on the Hill, as well as the administration, are very pleased with the direction of the discussions.

Q But you can't say, rule in or out if the President could sign a bill with that included?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think that there hasn't been an agreement. I think that is something that we'll know in conference what the final outcome will look like on the textile and apparel provision.

Q Why has it taken so long to get this bill?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't know if I would say it's taking a very long time. I mean, our founding fathers certainly didn't make it easy to get legislation passed. I think that from the meetings that I've had and the consultations I've had on the Hill, there has been a lot of work done in terms of meetings, consultations, Senate and House discussions. And I think that we're in recess now, so that's one delay. But I think that we're on schedule to get this passed.

Q On schedule, you mean --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I mean by, I would hope -- it's hard to predict, but I would hope that we can get a bill passed by March or April.

Q You said the President regrets not taking action in Rwanda, but there are a number of places in Africa where bloody civil wars are taking place right now and, yet, the U.S. doesn't seem to take action -- in the Sudan, Angola. Why not do something more forceful if there is this true sense of regret?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: But I think it's important to go into some definition of what "taking action" means. The United States has been extremely actively involved in trying to get a resolution of the war in Sudan, and has been extremely outspoken on the issues of human rights that underlie that conflict. We're working very closely with the intergovernmental authority on development, which is leading a regional process.

And I think in each situation one has to look at the conditions on the ground. One has to look at what the regional players are doing, as well, and how to work with them and see what kind of action or intervention is most appropriate.

Q I guess I'm just a little bit skeptical because, I mean, for instance, in Angola we've had the civil war go on for 30 years. I mean, if the U.S. is taking action, it seems to take a while for it to take effect.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The United States was very involved in the process of the Lusaka Accords that were in place in Angola. They have not held.

We have continued, both through the Bilateral Consultative Commission and in partnership with the United Nations, countries of the sub-region, to try to craft ways that that conflict can indeed be

resolved. But I don't think that one automatically looks at intervention in each of these cases as a solution.

Q During the President's meetings at the summit, did it come up about the President being invited to come back to visit Africa? And how strong of a possibility is it that he could do that before --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It did not come up, and we'll see.

Q But it's accurate the President wants to make another visit to Africa before the end of his term?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I am sure he would love to.

Q There was another event yesterday, a signing in the Indian Treaty Room. Are you're going to review that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes. On yesterday, the United States Trade Representative and the Vice President of Nigeria signed a trade investment framework agreement which is another landmark agreement that we have concluded with Sub-Saharan African countries since President Clinton made the announcement in 1997 about his Partnership for Growth and Opportunity in Africa Initiative.

And this is an agreement that we now have with both Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa. And we've also concluded a bilateral investment treaty with Mozambique. So this was a very good day yesterday for U.S.-Africa relations, particularly with Nigeria, our second largest trading partner in the region.

Q We looked backward; let's look forward.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Let's look forward. Next Tuesday, we will be doing something unique and we certainly hope very constructive. Former South African President Nelson Mandela, as you may know, agreed when requested by leaders of the region, to take over mediation of the peace process in Burundi. And he initiated his mediation efforts in January.

The peace talks which have been going on for a couple of years now, formerly led by Julius Nyerere, the former President of Tanzania, who died in October, have taken place in Arusha, Tanzania. And next Tuesday, the President will join Nelson Mandela through a satellite live video hookup at President Mandela's event to open up the next round of negotiations in the Burundi process. So on the Arusha side, we will have representatives of the Burundian parties and President Mandela, very possibly other African leaders, communicating directly with President Clinton here, and he to them.

Q Is it going to be substantive? I mean, is he going to communicate with them? Is he going to take part in negotiations, or is it just a greeting?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: He will not take part in the negotiations themselves. These are extremely complex negotiations. And, in fact, after a couple of days during which President Mandela will be present, there will be far more intensive negotiations undertaken in Arusha.

This is something that President Mandela asked the President to do to convey to the parties in Burundi that the international community does care and stand with them in their efforts to come to an agreement in what is truly a very tragic and painful conflict. There

may be some back-and-forth between President Clinton and President Mandela. But it will be live.

Q I don't mean to be a pain about this, but --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: That's all right.
(Laughter.) I used to be a journalist, so I know how to be painful, too. Please.

Q Going back to the Rwanda situation, once the killing began in Rwanda, the only conceivable way of stopping it would have been direct intervention on the ground. And the President said, we should have done something. And I am just going back again -- and we talked about Angola. For 30 years, these people have been involved in a bloody civil war. The only way you're going to really stop that civil war is through direct intervention. What is different now than it was --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think a number of things are different. Rwanda was a case of genocide. Now, across Africa you have a number of conflicts -- Sierra Leone, Angola, Sudan, the Congo. And I am certainly not convinced that the best way to resolve those conflicts is to intervene militarily.

Q How else do you expect to have an effect on these conflicts?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, look at the fact that, however complex, there has been an agreement reached in Sierra Leone; there has been a cease-fire agreement reached among seven countries in the case of the Congo. We believe that that is a very, very significant step forward and that provides the basis for trying to, if you will, put things back together.

We were quite involved in both cases, but not unilaterally. We worked with the countries of ECOWAS, in the case of Sierra Leone, with SADC and their northern neighbors in the case of the Congo cease-fire agreement, to help them forge an agreement that could be the basis for resolving these conflicts. And I think that has been an enormous contribution and something that we will absolutely continue to do in the case of other conflicts.

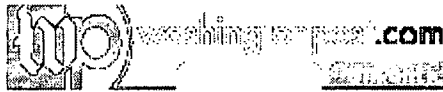
Q Do you regard it as a cynical point of view that we heard from some quarters during the Kosovo intervention that the reason we intervened in Kosovo was because of the color of the skin of people who were being slaughtered, and that the reason we didn't intervene in Rwanda was because of the color of the skin of the people being slaughtered there? Did you hear such things said, and what do you say to that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I read the newspapers, and I think it is a cynical view. I think the reason for the intervention in Kosovo is because of what was happening on the ground. And I think, again, no one has spoken more eloquently than the President on what happened in Rwanda in 1994. And he went to Kigali to do it. And I think the task at hand now is to take the lessons from that period and look forward.

Q Thank you.

END

2:43 P.M. EST


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S. African President Escalates AIDS Feud

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, April 19, 2000; Page A01

South African President Thabo Mbeki has stepped up an emotional controversy over his country's response to AIDS, saying Africans should chart their own course on the disease with help from, among others, scientists who dispute the prevailing views in the West on the causes and treatment of the disease.



South African President Thabo Mbeki (Reuters)

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At loggerheads for months with his own medical establishment over the pandemic that is killing millions of South Africans, Mbeki has now raised the dispute to the international arena with a passionate defense of his approach to the crisis in a letter dispatched this month by diplomatic pouch to President Clinton and other heads of state.

Avowing skepticism about the relevance of Western medical models to the "uniquely African catastrophe" of AIDS, Mbeki wrote in the hand-addressed letters that it "would constitute a criminal betrayal of our responsibility to our own people" to mimic foreign approaches to treating the disease. He insisted on South Africa's right to consult dissident scientists who deny that the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, causes AIDS. And he accused unnamed foreign critics of launching a "campaign of intellectual intimidation and terrorism" akin to medieval book-burnings and "the racist apartheid tyranny we opposed."

The African continent, where AIDS continues to spread exponentially, faces an unprecedented demographic upheaval caused by the disease. Recent estimates project that several sub-Saharan nations, including South Africa, will lose a quarter of their populations to AIDS by 2010. An estimated 4.2 million South Africans are infected with HIV, with 1,700 people newly infected every day.

— Full Text —

Text of the South African President Thabo Mbeki's letter to world leaders. [Read](#)

— On the Web —

- [AIDS Foundation of South Africa](#)
- [South Africa Department of Health: HIV/AIDS and STD Directorate](#)
- [United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS](#)
- [U.S. State Department: 1999 U.S. International Response To HIV/AIDS](#)

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Ad Entry

Several Clinton administration officials and foreign diplomats expressed dismay at Mbeki's decision to intensify what they see as a diversionary dispute and to bring it to a potentially volatile international forum. One official made a copy of the letter available to The Washington Post, and South Africa's U.N. ambassador, Dumisani Kumalo, confirmed its authenticity. Kumalo said it had been sent to Clinton and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, among others.

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Mbeki's words resonate widely because his nation's new democracy and advanced industry make it a natural leader on the continent, a status acknowledged in its selection as host of this year's international conference on AIDS. So stunned were some officials by the letter's tone and timing--during final preparations for July's conference in Durban--that at least two of them, according to diplomatic sources, felt obliged to check whether it was genuine.

"There has never been a significant international political controversy over AIDS," said one top-level multinational official. "This could be the seed of one."

Fearing just that, the Clinton administration restricted distribution of the five-page letter, dated April 3, in an effort to prevent it from becoming public. Asked for official comment, senior managers of U.S. policy toward Africa concentrated their remarks on areas of agreement with Mbeki.

"It was clearly impassioned in parts, but I thought much of its substance was quite logical and quite compelling," said Assistant Secretary of State Susan Rice, reached by phone in London. "I mean, he clearly acknowledges the severity of the HIV-AIDS problem in Africa and in South Africa in particular, and he goes through a persuasive description of the efforts that have been undertaken by his administration. . . . I don't read Mbeki's intent as trying to pit south versus north on the issue. He's making a pretty simple point, which is, 'This is a hell of a serious problem for Africa, and we don't want to be constrained in the universe of solutions that are available to us.' "

Behind the scenes, the administration--along with allies in foreign capitals and at the World Health Organization and U.N. AIDS program in Geneva--is trying to tamp down the rhetoric and ensure that Mbeki does not perceive fresh insults from abroad, officials said.

Sandra Thurman, director of the White House office of national AIDS policy, met Friday in Atlanta with South African Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang and Ambassador Makate Sisulu. Thurman would not comment on "any specific correspondence between the president and any other president," but she made clear that the substance of Mbeki's letter had been their focus.

"We did talk about how important it is to make sure we're spending most of our time and energy focused on doing the things we know how to do to stop this epidemic," she said. "We need to make sure the conversations we're having move us forward rather than polarizing us."

Mbeki's letter to foreign leaders begins with much the same point. He

describes former president Nelson Mandela's decision in 1998 to mobilize national efforts against AIDS, creating a ministerial task force and a national education campaign on the use of condoms and practice of safer sex. "Similarly," he said, "we are doing everything we can, within our very limited possibilities, to provide the necessary medicaments and care."

Medicine is at the heart of the problem for South Africa, as for all developing nations. In the wealthy nations of the West, "cocktails" of anti-retroviral drugs have made it possible--at a cost per patient exceeding \$10,000 a year--to live indefinitely with HIV. "In the rural parts of South Africa, where they can't even afford dinner, they're not going to buy cocktail drugs," Kumalo said.

Nor is the government planning to buy the expensive drugs. But activists at home are putting growing pressure on Mbeki to provide AZT or Nevirapine, two drugs that have been effective in preventing mother-to-child transmission, to rape victims and pregnant women without charge. More than one in five pregnant South Africans has HIV, and there is at present no effort to block infection of their children.

Perhaps because the Western treatments are budget-breakers, Mbeki is said by officials who know him well to have spent a great deal of time browsing the Internet for information on AIDS. Late last year he came across Web sites that popularize the theories of Berkeley biochemist Peter Duesberg, the best-known proponent of the view that HIV does not cause AIDS and that treatment with drugs such as AZT does more harm than good. Last month, Mbeki placed a call to Duesberg's ally, David Rasnick. Among virtually all public health professionals, Duesberg's and Rasnick's views are seen as discredited.

Even so, their work formed part of the basis for a speech Mbeki made to Parliament late last year and for more recent statements by his health minister blaming Nevirapine--against the judgment of most South African scientists--for a series of recent deaths in clinical trials. Those remarks came under harsh public attack from South African doctors and clergymen, and some foreign AIDS experts have begun to talk of boycotting the Durban conference.

Mbeki's letter, turning to this controversy, shifted abruptly in tone. "In an earlier period in human history," he wrote, speaking of the dissident scientists, "these would be the heretics that would be burnt at the stake! . . . The day may not be far off when we will, once again, see books burnt and their authors immolated by fire by those who believe that they have a duty to conduct a holy crusade against the infidels."

A trained economist who sprinkles speeches with poetry, Mbeki is widely seen by South Africans--black and white--as an intellectual with a mastery of policy detail. Unlike his predecessor, however, Mbeki is wary of all but his closest advisors, and some foreign officials say that frame of mind is central to the present dispute.

"It may be that these comments are extravagant," Mbeki writes near the close of the letter. "If they are, it is because in the very recent past, we had to fix our own eyes on the very face of tyranny."

Correspondent Jon Jeter in Johannesburg contributed to this report.

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MBEKI LETTER
April 19, 2000

Did South African President Mbeki send a letter to the President regarding the AIDS epidemic in his country? What did he say? Do we think that he is espousing a dangerous course of action that has been scientifically discredited? Has the President responded?

- South African President Thabo Mbeki has written to the President. The President has not yet responded. This was a private communication between two leaders and I don't want to comment specifically on the contents of the letter.
- There is no question that President Mbeki understands the depth of the health crisis facing much of Africa, including his own country. South Africa is doing a great deal, including appointing a senior government task force, an AIDS council between the public and private sector, and a country-wide education campaign.
- We recognize that the AIDS epidemic in Africa, including South Africa, is manifesting itself in different ways than it has in the United States. They are doing everything within their capacity to deal with this crisis. They don't have the same health care infrastructure that we do, so we recognize that there needs to be a different approach in Africa than there has been in the West.
- Do we agree with the views of every expert he's consulted. No, we don't and we have communicated that to the South African government. But we agree with his premise that more has to be done globally, and more needs to be done in Africa.
- We have to keep in mind the limited resources Africa has to deal with this. In a country like Uganda, for example, estimates are that it would take \$22B to mount an effective campaign against the effects of AIDS. Yet Uganda's entire government budget is but \$2B.
- There is no question that AIDS threatens the economic, political and social progress that Africa has made. That's the reason the Vice President and Ambassador Holbrooke put this issue front and center in the United Nations

Security Council in January and why we have an interagency working group studying how we can help Africa confront this major challenge.

HIV-AIDS in Africa

Background: AIDS is now the leading cause of death among all age groups in Africa, and threatens development, efforts to increase trade, democratization and, given the high rate of infection in African militaries, the continent's security. The U.S. provides more assistance to fight HIV-AIDS in African than any other bilateral donor, but international resources remain woefully inadequate. The AIDS Initiative launched by the White House in July includes a requested \$100 million increase in the FY 2000 budget to support HIV-AIDS prevention, basic care and treatment and children orphaned by AIDS, and the development of the infrastructure needed to accomplish these goals. We are also increasing our dialogue with African leaders. Ugandan President Museveni's leadership has led to an actual decline in the infection rate in Uganda, and at his inauguration, South African President Mbeki accurately highlighted fighting AIDS as a necessary priority. Under the Initiative, we will challenge our G7 partners to match our increased commitment, and coordinate with NGOs, the private sectors and multilateral institutions to maximize their contributions. The First Lady hosted a meeting with leaders of these groups on the global AIDS epidemic at the White House this month.

Issue: The CBC strongly supports our doing more to fight AIDS in Africa. Maxine Waters has been among the most forceful of the CBC's advocates on this issue. Some criticized the African Growth and Opportunity Act on the grounds that it did not include the provision of assistance to fight AIDS.

Points:

- Fighting AIDS in Africa is a top priority. Hope that you will fight hard for the \$100 million we're requesting as part of my new AIDS Initiative.
- We're also using U.S. leadership to generate increased commitments from our G7 partners, the multilateral institutions, and the private sector.
- Hillary met with leaders from these communities at the White House earlier this month, and all agreed that we need to increase international public attention - and support - for the fight against AIDS in Africa.
- African governments need to provide more leadership, which we're urging them to do. Want to work with Museveni, Mbeki

and other leaders who've taken on the issue to generate increased leadership across the continent.

- Know many of you were concerned that the Africa trade bill - which we're committed to getting passed this year - did not include a provision on AIDS. This budget request we're making does address those concerns, and we count on you to work with us to get the resources we need and raise the profile of this life and death issue.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S STATE OF THE UNION FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES

January 27, 2000

Leading the Global Campaign Against AIDS and Other Deadly Diseases

President Clinton and Vice President Gore continue to lead the international battle to prevent, treat, and search for a cure for AIDS, which has disproportionately afflicted our poorest nations. The United States has already pledged more than a billion dollars to wage this three-part strategy worldwide. The FY2001 budget that the President will send to Congress next month calls for a new \$150 million investment to combat AIDS and to contribute to international infectious disease prevention efforts. \$100 million of this sum will be targeted for prevention, care, public health infrastructure, and education in the African and Asian countries that have been hit the hardest by the disease. An additional \$50 million will go to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) to purchase existing vaccines for Hepatitis B, *Haemophilus influenzae* type B, and Yellow Fever. This initiative will be complemented by increased funding for the National Institute of Health to accelerate the development of vaccines for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other infectious killers.

Aiding Colombia in its Fight Against Drugs

The President recently announced his support for a bold new plan developed by Colombian President Andres Pastrana to both stem the tide of drugs entering the United States and to strengthen the Colombian economy and democracy. To assist the Colombians in this effort, the President has proposed a total of \$1.6 billion in funding over two years to help fight narcotics trafficking, provide economic alternatives for Colombian farmers who now grow coca and poppy plants, improve the judicial system, increase the protection of human rights, and crack down on money laundering. A portion of the investment will go to help train and equip special counter-narcotics battalions and to improve the Colombian capability to interdict traffickers by improving radar, aircraft, airfields, and intelligence-gathering equipment. The Administration will also propose \$96 million to purchase equipment to enable the Colombian National Police to eradicate more coca and poppy fields, and \$93 million for new programs to help the judicial system and promote the peace process. The aid from the United States is expected to be supplemented by multilateral agencies and our allies.

Combating International Crime

In his State of the Union address, President Clinton highlighted new measures to combat international money laundering, which facilitates illegal money flows, fosters corruption, and undermines democracy. Combating international money laundering has become an increasingly important issue for the United States. The last decade has seen an explosive proliferation of offshore banking centers that facilitate international criminal money flows. This proliferation also works against U.S. developmental goals by allowing easy placement of funds obtained from official corruption. There is also a growing concern that these offshore centers can contribute to significant financial destabilization, by providing new avenues for unregulated capital flight and new opportunities for financial management entities incorporated in these jurisdictions to take

advantage of the absence of supervisory authorities to engage in activities that would be prohibited in the United States.

The Department of the Treasury recently released its first-ever National Money Laundering Strategy in response to a Congressional mandate. To carry out that strategy, the Department of the Treasury intends to: (1) regularly review information derived from international organizations, such as the Financial Action Task Force, as well as information that is already available in the money laundering annex to the Department of State's annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR); (2) publicly identify those nations with egregious money laundering regimes; and (3) consider issuing advisories to U.S. banks concerning certain of these nations, or even prohibiting correspondent relations with others. Implementation of this initiative is consistent with measures being considered or already taken by other governments, and should serve as a catalyst in enhancing the global response to this growing problem.

Protecting Our Computer Networks from Cyber Attack

In his State of the Union address, President Clinton reaffirmed his commitment to strengthen America's defense against the emerging threats cyber terrorists pose to our critical infrastructure, computer systems, and networks. Earlier this month, he launched the National Plan for Information Systems Protection and announced new budget proposals to protect our computer networks from cyber attack, including \$621 million to enhance federal research and development in computer security; \$50 million to create a new Institute for Information Infrastructure Protection; \$25 million to recruit, train and retain federal information technology experts; and \$10 million to design a Federal Intrusion Detection Network (FIDNET) which alerts the federal government to cyber attacks. President Clinton has increased funding on critical infrastructure substantially over the past three years, including a 16% increase in the FY2001 budget proposal to \$2.03 billion. He has also developed and funded new initiatives to defend the nation's computer systems from cyber attack. To jumpstart the FY01 program initiatives, the President will also propose a \$9 million supplemental this spring.

Building Peace in the Middle East

After days of intense negotiations at Wye Plantation in November 1998, President Clinton brokered an historic agreement between Israelis and Palestinians that strengthens Israel's security, expands the area of Palestinian control in the West Bank, and enhances economic opportunities for the Israeli and Palestinian people. And in December of last year, President Clinton ended years of stalemate between Syria and Israel by achieving a resumption of Israeli-Syrian peace talks and hosting the highest level meeting ever between Israel and Syria after months of behind-the-scenes diplomacy. The United States has helped broker agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Jordan, and led the efforts toward a resumption of the Israeli-Syrian talks. The United States has stood firmly by those who have taken risks for peace, providing them with strong political, economic and material support; and demonstrated to the enemies of peace that violence and terror will not succeed in disrupting the peace process. At the same time, the United States has maintained its long-standing commitment to the security of Israel, strengthened its ties with Egypt and Jordan, and built a new relationship with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people.

Bringing Peace to Northern Ireland

President Clinton's intensive diplomatic efforts helped achieve the landmark Good Friday Accord in April 1998, bringing new governing structures and a new era of cooperation to Northern Ireland. And in December of last year, both sides made historic progress towards implementation of the Accord, forming of an inclusive government in Northern Ireland, accepting the principle of consent with respect to any change in the territorial status of Northern Ireland, launching new institutions for North/South cooperation on the island, and taking the first steps to address the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons. In his State of the Union address, President Clinton reaffirmed his support for full implementation of the agreement, so Northern Ireland can pursue a prosperous, democratic course, free of violence and terror. The United States will also continue to support the International Fund for Ireland, which promotes reconciliation through economic regeneration projects targeting disadvantaged Irish border counties and Northern Ireland.

Reversing Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo

This past year, President Clinton led the NATO Alliance in a 79-day air war that expelled Serb forces from Kosovo and restored self-government to the province, ending a decade of repression and reversing Slobodan Milosovic's brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. In the face of Allied unity, American military superiority, and strong Presidential leadership, the Serb dictator capitulated, withdrawing his troops and permitting international peacekeepers to secure the peace for returning refugees. The President is now committed to winning the peace, joining European leaders in strengthening democracy and civil society in Kosovo, enhancing economic development and regional integration through the Stability Pact, and supporting opposition within Serbia to complete the democratization of the Balkans.

**DRAFT: CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION UNVEILS NEW \$150 MILLION
INITIATIVE TO COMBAT THE SPREAD OF AIDS AND CONTRIBUTE TO
INTERNATIONAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION EFFORTS**
January 10, 2000

Today, in a speech before the United Nations, Vice President Gore will announce that the President's FY 2001 budget will include a new \$150 million investment, a 41 percent increase over last year's funding level, to combat the international AIDS pandemic and contribute to international infectious disease prevention efforts. This new initiative provides a 100 percent increase over last year's investment for efforts in activities to prevent and treat HIV and AIDS in Africa and Asia. In addition, this initiative will make a long term investment of \$50 million to fund vaccine purchase, research and development, and infrastructure development to enhance access to lifesaving vaccines in developing countries, an important contribution to the infrastructure development necessary for the eventual purchase and distribution of an AIDS vaccine.

THE AIDS PANDEMIC THREATENS THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STABILITY OF SUB SAHARAN AFRICA AND ASIA. The United Nations calls the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa "the worst infectious disease catastrophe since the bubonic plague". An estimated 5.3 million people were infected with HIV by the end of 1996, suggesting that Asia may have surpassed Africa in terms of the highest number of new infections per year.

- **Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia disproportionately bear the impact of the AIDS epidemic.** While sub-Saharan Africa accounts for only one-tenth of the global population, over 70 percent of individuals infected with AIDS live there. Currently, 21 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are infected with HIV, and every day, an additional 11,000 become infected. In Asia, HIV and AIDS is already widespread. Because this region has 60 percent of the world's population and has the steepest infection curve, experts are predicting that Asia will soon become the epicenter of the epidemic. In addition, during the next decade, more than 38 million children in the region will be orphaned by AIDS, making it difficult – if not impossible – for them to access adequate food, clothing, education, and health care services.
- **The AIDS epidemic is jeopardizing the economic stability of the sub-Saharan African and Asian regions.** Recent studies indicate that the AIDS pandemic is affecting the economies of countries such as Kenya, Namibia, and India. For example, recent studies estimate that the loss of skilled personnel to AIDS cost Namibia almost eight percent of their gross national product, and that Kenya's gross national product will be 14.5 percent lower in 2005 than it would have been without the advent of the AIDS epidemic.
- **The AIDS pandemic presents a security issue in the sub-Saharan African and Asian regions.** High levels of HIV infection among senior members of the armed forces in these regions leads to rapid turnover in positions of authority, adversely affecting countries in political transition and weakening the political structure in countries where the military plays a central role in government. In addition, studies have linked the growing number of children orphaned by AIDS to future increases in crime and civil unrest as these children raise themselves alone, often turning to crime, drugs, prostitution, and gangs to survive.

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE DIE EACH YEAR BECAUSE OF PREVENTABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Vaccines have brought about the eradication of smallpox, controlled the transmission of polio to historic levels, and drastically reduced measles rates. An essential part of this success, considered by many experts to be the greatest public health achievement of the century, is the availability of traditional vaccines at low prices and the willingness of industrial countries to provide vaccines and support the immunization delivery infrastructure in developing countries. Despite this success, more work needs to be done.

- **Over four million people die each year due to preventable infectious diseases.** Although three million lives are already being saved each year due to the dramatic growth in vaccine coverage, the wider use of vaccines against hepatitis B, influenza, yellow fever, and other diseases could prevent over four million deaths each year.
- **Vaccines are becoming more expensive, and fewer companies are producing them.** Because new vaccines are the product of years of research development, they cost dollars, rather than cents, per dose. In addition, there are now under 10 major vaccine-producing companies operating internationally, which determine which products reach the market first and often slow the development and distribution of vaccines.

VICE PRESIDENT GORE UNVEILS NEW, \$150 MILLION INITIATIVE TO COMBAT AIDS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Today, in a speech before the United Nations, Vice President Gore will announce that the President's FY 2001 budget will include a new, multi-million investment in combating the spread of HIV and AIDS and other infectious diseases in Africa, Asia and other developing countries. This initiative will:

- **Invest an additional \$100 million in HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment efforts in Africa and Asia.** The President's budget will provide \$342 million, an increase of 41 percent over last year's funding, to increase international HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment efforts. Funds will be targeted to the countries where the disease is most widespread and where the potential for impact is greatest. Activities include:

Increasing primary prevention efforts. This initiative will invest new funds in activities designed to reduce the incidence of new HIV infections, including: implementing mass education efforts and community based counseling and testing services; providing AZT short-course therapy to infected individuals to prevent further transmission; implementing treatment protocols to reduce mother to child transmissions; and implementing blood supply screening procedures.

Preventing the spread of HIV within military organizations. The DoD will invest \$10 million to prevent the spread of HIV within military agencies throughout Africa, including: a general assessment of HIV prevalence and risk behaviors; the development of a prevention plan tailored to the needs of military personnel; and strengthening the existing infrastructure to ensure that HIV prevention education efforts become a standard part of military culture.

Strengthening the public health infrastructure. This initiative will effectively track the spread of HIV infections throughout the Sub-Saharan and Asian regions, focus HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment program resources appropriately.

Providing care and treatment for individuals infected with HIV. Currently, treatment for HIV infected people in sub-Saharan Africa and India is minimal; less than 5 percent of people know their HIV status, and health care providers are often unable to diagnose and treat HIV and the associated opportunistic infections. This initiative will provide medical and social services to individuals with HIV, including treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, opportunistic infections associated with HIV, and tuberculosis.

Caring for children orphaned by AIDS. This initiative will invest \$10 million to provide emergency nutritional support for children orphaned by AIDS.

Initiating HIV prevention programs in the workplace. This initiative will invest \$10 million to initiate workplace prevention programs designed to reduce discrimination against employees infected with HIV and AIDS. Funds will also be used to develop partnerships with the business and labor communities to launch HIV prevention activities for employees, their families and communities.

- **Invest \$50 million for vaccine purchase, research and development, distribution and infrastructure development to enhance access to lifesaving vaccines in the developing world.** The budget includes a new \$50 million investment in the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) to purchase vaccines and safe injection equipment for hepatitis B, influenza, and yellow fever. This investment makes a significant contribution to the infrastructure development necessary for the eventual purchase and distribution of an AIDS vaccine. This new investment will be used to further GAVI's goals of: reaching all children at risk; providing all appropriate existing vaccines and new vaccines as they become available; and allowing for the development and use of needed vaccines even if significant industrial country markets do not exist.