

November 27, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR HAROLD ICKES AND STEPHANIE STREETT

FROM: Carol Rasco

SUBJECT: World AIDS Day

In each of the last three years, the President has participated in the observance of World AIDS Day. In 1993, he gave an address on AIDS at Georgetown University; in 1994, he met with a group of young people with HIV in the Oval Office; and last year he participated in the White House Conference on HIV and AIDS.

My recommendations for potential activities this year, in order of preference, are listed below. Given the time constraints, and the Vice President's interest in participating in an event, I recommend that we schedule an event for Tuesday, December 3, or later. However, we should make a decision as soon as possible so we can say this Sunday, World AIDS Day, how he will commemorate the day.

(1) **Briefing from NIH.** Dr. Varmus and Office of AIDS Research Director William Paul (I would also add Dr. Anthony Fauci, as the most visible AIDS researcher at NIH) could brief the President on the state of the research effort, with special emphasis on vaccine development. We have seen important developments in the last year on treatments (approval of the new protease inhibitors) and microbicides (Secretary Shalala announced a four-year \$100 million initiative). The one area that has not received the same level of attention is vaccine development. There is significant interest on the part of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS to see more direct involvement from the President or Vice President on this aspect of research; NIH is about to announce a new coordinated approach to vaccine development. (The one down side to this emphasis is that NIH is preparing to appoint Dr. David Baltimore as the chief person overseeing vaccine work; he is a Nobel laureate, well respected in the scientific community and the AIDS community -- but he has had major run ins with John Dingell. However, Dr. Baltimore will not have been announced by Tuesday.)

(2) **Meet with people living with HIV/AIDS.** In conjunction with some of the local AIDS service organizations, we could invite five or six people living with HIV to meet with the President. The focus would be on the new, promising treatments, by inviting those who are on protease inhibitors and have benefited from them: this could reinforce the message of hope that so many people feel and would be an opportunity to remind people that we have tripled funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program over the last year to assure improved access to these treatments. It's also a chance to reemphasize our commitment to protecting Medicaid.

At this time, I am not recommending release of the National AIDS Strategy next week. I will provide a more detailed memorandum early next week recommending next steps regarding the Strategy. I will not be requesting the President's time.

NOV 11 1996

ROUTING SLIP

DATE: 11/01/96

FROM: Stephanie Streett and Anne Hawley
Deputy Assistants to the President and Directors of Scheduling

SUBJECT: *Meeting with Cabinet Members and Agency Heads to discuss the U.S. response to HIV/AIDS*

Don Baer	☒	Mack McLarty	☐
Peg Cusack	☐	Leon Panetta	☐
Rahm Emanuel	☐	Jack Quinn	☐
Jack Gibbons	☐	Carol Rasco	☒
Laura Graham	☒	Paige Reffe	☐
Marcia Hale	☐	Peter Selfridge	☐
Alexis Herman	☐	Patti Solis	☐
Nancy Hernreich	☐	Doug Sosnik	☐
Kitty Higgins	☐	G. Stephanopoulos	☐
John Hilley	☐	Todd Stern	☐
Harold Ickes	☐	Ann Stock	☐
Ron Klain	☐	Kim Tilley	☐
Anthony Lake	☐	Jodie Torkelson	☐
Evelyn Lieberman	☐	Laura Tyson	☐
Bruce Lindsey	☐	Melanne Verveer	☐
Mike McCurry	☒	Michael Waldman	☐
Lorrie McHugh	☒	Maggie Williams	☐

FILE: Pending

Patricia Fleming ☒

COMMENTS: _____

SCHEDULING REQUEST PROPOSAL

Date: 10/28/96

☐ **ACCEPT**

☐ **REJECT**

☒ **PENDING**

TO: Stephanie Streett
Deputy Assistant to the President & Director of Scheduling

Anne Walley
Deputy Assistant to the President & Director of Scheduling

FROM: Carol H. Rasco, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy *WR*
Patricia S. Fleming, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy *PF*

REQUEST: Meeting with Cabinet Members and Agency Heads to discuss the U.S. response to HIV/AIDS.

PURPOSE: In conjunction with World AIDS Day (Dec. 1), the President would meet with Cabinet Members and Agency Heads to review the national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The President would be briefed on the first-ever National AIDS Strategy and plans by agencies in the areas of research, prevention, treatment, and housing.

BACKGROUND: The President has made the national response to HIV/AIDS a priority of his Administration. By holding a meeting with Cabinet Members and Agency Heads on this subject he will further indicate the importance of this response and receive a briefing on relevant issues. Similar to the meeting on drug issues earlier this year, this meeting will demonstrate that the President is fully engaged in leading the Administration's work on HIV-related issues.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President has commemorated World AIDS Day in each of the last four years. This would be the first Cabinet-level meeting dedicated to this subject since the epidemic began in 1981.

DATE & TIME: December 2, 1996

DURATION: 60 minutes

LOCATION: The Cabinet Room

PARTICIPANTS: The President
The Vice President
Carol Rasco, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
National AIDS Policy Director Patricia Fleming

Cabinet Members including Secretaries Shalala, Cisneros, Riley, Kantor, Perry, Christopher, Attorney General Reno, and ONDCP Director McCaffrey.

Agency Heads including National Institutes of Health Director Harold Varmus, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director David Satcher, Health Resources and Services Administration Administrator Ciro Sumaya, Health Care Financing Administration Administrator Bruce Vladeck, Social Security Commissioner Shirley Chater, and US Agency for International Development Administrator Brian Atwood.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President would make brief remarks followed by presentations by Director Fleming and appropriate Cabinet and Agency officials. The President will be presented with a copy of the first-ever National AIDS Strategy, outlining the Administration's goals for addressing and ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

REMARKS: Brief remarks at top of meeting.

MEDIA: Pool spray at top of meeting.

FIRST LADY: No.

VICE PRESIDENT: Yes.

RECOMMENDED BY: Carol Rasco and Patsy Fleming.

CONTACT: Jeremy Ben-Ami, 6-5584.