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Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

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OA/ID Number: 21067

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Folder Title:

8th International Conference AIDS Cancer...St. Petersburg, Russia

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FAX COVER SHEET

Date: April 20, 2000

Fax: 1 202-456-24-38(39)

To: Mrs. Sandra Thurman

From: Olga Kozlova
Executive Secretary of the Conference
Biomedical Center

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

Re: The Certificate of invitation from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Message:

Dear Mrs. Thurman,

I am sending your Certificate of invitation from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (visa support). The original we will send you today by mail. You should fax this document to the Russian Embassy in Washington and show during application procedure.

Sincerely,

Olga Kozlova
Executive Secretary of the Conference



Clinton Presidential Records

Foreign Language Marker

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Foreign Language Marker

Collection: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup: National AIDS Policy Office

Series:

Subseries:

Document Title re: Invitation to Sandra Thurman from Russian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

Language: Russian

Folder Title 8th International Conference AIDS Cancer...St.
Petersburg, Russia

OA/ID: 21067



8-th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "AIDS, CANCER AND RELATED PROBLEMS"

MAY 19-24, 2000 ST.PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

7, Pudozhskaja St., St.Petersburg, Russia 197110 ☎: 7(812) 2304514, 7(812) 2333873, Fax: 7(812)2304939
E-mail: biomed@mailbox.alkor.ru

April 25,2000

Fax: 202-456-2439(3x)

To: Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director,
White House Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Thurman: *Sandy*

I was distressed to learn that you may not be able to be with us at our 8th International Conference on AIDS, Cancer, and Related Problems this coming month in St. Petersburg. I am especially distressed because of your having to deal with the situation in South Africa related to the fiction that the HIV virus does not cause AIDS. This fiction has already had dire consequences and will continue to do so until there is a strong united front for dealing with it.

What I need for you to understand is that the top AIDS researchers in Russia support you 100 percent in confronting this fiction and we support you in many other ways as well. Your being with us in St. Petersburg would allow you an international forum in a country other than America or South Africa in which you could say what you need to say about the worldwide negative impact of the false HIV-AIDS controversy. In turn, you would receive much public support from us in your endeavour to deal with this problem.

Indeed, Russian support is critical for you in making your case. As you know, Russian science is powerful and we have made up our own minds as to the HIV-AIDS relationship; years of careful Russian research have convinced us of the HIV-AIDS connection. In this respect, when we show our support of you and your cause, noone can question our scientific foundation or motivation. Because Russia thinks and acts independently and has never let other countries tell it what to do or how to think, noone can claim that Russia supports you for any other than pure and unbiased reasons.

There is a strong probability that Russian support for you may be the most critical support you can receive at this time. Next month's St. Petersburg conference is, luckily, strategically timed to provide special and powerful support when you most need it. You would be coming to St. Petersburg directly from Africa and, about one month later, you would be going to South Africa for the World AIDS conference. Your having a forum in Russia for expressing your concerns and, at the same time, your receiving strong support from a major independent world scientific and political power—Russia—would put you in a much stronger position for dealing with and heading off a volatile situation at the World AIDS conference in Durban.

I cannot impress upon you how much your participation in our St. Petersburg conference is important for your current endeavours but, also, how important it is for Russia. In the same way that we can help you with the South African situation, you can play a major role in helping us to head off any parallel situation in Russia.

Not only will there be high Russian government officials, scientists and health care professionals at our conference, but there will be a strong international representation as well, including officials from USAID, UNAIDS, and WHO.

We are ready to assist you in coming to St. Petersburg and to spend as much time with you as you need to develop a united front, as our two countries did during World War II,

And don't forget, too, that a major goal of our cooperating with the United States in the area of AIDS, is to develop an **HIV vaccine** which is **affordable to all countries**, regardless of their wealth or poverty. As you know, Russia already has a proven track record in this respect (e.g., the Soviet smallpox vaccine, which we produced for less than a penny per inoculation and donated, free of charge, to the developing world—this was the single most important factor in eradicating smallpox globally) and Russian-American vaccine and other AIDS efforts can directly benefit South Africa and the rest of Africa. It would be very important if President Clinton discuss these possibilities with President Putin during their forth coming meeting.

With a strong, proven, and independent track record in infectious disease research and intervention, Russia, more than any other country anywhere, can strongly assist in meeting your needs during this current crisis and in future crises as well. You know that our hearts and minds are with you and, so too, is our science. As your great president, Abraham Lincoln, said, "United we stand, divided we fall." This is an important lesson we learned during World War II and it is one which must not be forgotten. It is a lesson which holds special significance for our two great countries and, thus, for the entire world

As you know, we are ready, willing, and able to stand with you, side by side, in the great mission of fighting the scourge of AIDS. Our partnership is second to none, especially because of our desire to come together, this desire being highlighted and accentuated against the background of the strong independence of our two countries. Strong independence is essential for strong partnerships: each link in the chain is strong and, in being so, reinforces the strength of the other link and, thus, the strength of the entire chain.

Let us please talk soon about your coming to St. Petersburg in the spirit of partnership motivated by common concerns and goals. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to head off an extremely dangerous situation and show the world what real partnership means.

Sincerely,



Dr. Andrei P. Kozlov
Chair, Organizing Committee of the Conference
Coordinator, Russian HIV Vaccine Research Program
Director, Biomedical Center on AIDS
Co-Investigator, NIH Fogarty AITRP



8-th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “AIDS, CANCER AND RELATED PROBLEMS”

MAY 19-24, 2000 ST.PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

7, Pudozhskaja St., St.Petersburg, Russia 197110 ☎: 7(812) 2304872, 7(812) 2353875, Fax: 7(812)2304959
E-mail: biomed@mailbox.alkor.ru

February 24,2000

Fax: 202-456-2439

To: Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director,
White House Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Thurman:

It is my pleasure to invite you and your colleague, General Barry McCaffrey, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, to participate in and present a joint keynote address at the 8th International Conference on AIDS, Cancer, and Related Problems, which will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia from May 19th –24th, 2000. This will be the largest conclave ever of leading AIDS and drug abuse researchers and practitioners from across the former Soviet Union and your and Gen. McCaffrey's participation would be of great benefit to Russia in helping to us to understand the relationship of the epidemics of drug abuse and AIDS. Your participation would also help to reinforce the excellent cooperation, which you have played such a great role in instituting, already underway between our two countries in confronting these twin epidemics. Indeed, your wonderful participation in our May, 1998 Conference was the first time that anyone at the White House level came to Russia to address the issue of AIDS and you made a positive and lasting impression.

Your continued interest in and support of our two countries working together has created much good will and enthusiasm in Russia, especially to work with the United States in developing AIDS interventions which benefit not only our two countries, but the entire world, as well. The latest instance of enthusiastic Russian-American cooperation in AIDS has been the just-completed, highly successful Russian HIV Vaccine Research Team's special site visit tour of the United States, which had the support of the U.S. and Russian governments and which helps to advance our joint goals of developing an affordable AIDS vaccine for the world.

I am empowered by the Organizing Committee to cover your conference registration (\$400), your local travel (\$30 per day) and your lodging (\$80 per day) in Russia during the conference period.

Please inform me as soon as possible as to your being able to be with us in May. We sincerely hope that you can and we very much appreciate the consideration and help which you have already shown us. Biomedical Center, the Conference Organizer, is registered No. 29691 with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrei P. Kozlov,
Chair, Organizing Committee of the Conference,
Coordinator, Russian HIV Vaccine Research Program
Director, Biomedical Center on AIDS
Co-Investigator, NIH Fogarty AITRP