

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

Series/Staff Member:

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 21067

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Douglass Policy Institute

Stack:

S

Row:

66

Section:

7

Shelf:

11

Position:

3

Called Faye +
called Ben Johnson

From: Ben Johnson, Assistant to The President and
Director of The White House Office On
The President's Initiative For One America

Date: 8/31/99

TO: Sandra Thurman

☐ Prepare reply for
President's signature

☐ Prepare reply for
Director's signature

☐ Prepare reply for
my signature

☐ For your signature

☐ Reply directly-copy to me

☐ Call me on this

☒ For Your Action

☐ For your approval

☐ For your comments

☐ For Your Information

☐ For your support

☐ Please return call

☐ Please file

☐ Set up meeting
on this

☐ Draft scheduling
request

☐ Process special
letter

☐ Set up tour

Remarks:

Fax Transmittal Cover Sheet

Date: Wednesday, August 18, 1999

Time: 10:26:05 PM

Number of Pages: 5

To: Ben Johnson

Company: The White House

Voice Number: 456-5189

From: Faye M. Anderson

Company: Douglass Policy Institute

Telephone Number: 202.488.8458; fmanderson@aol.com

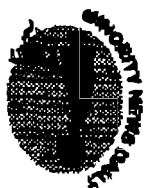
Fax Number: 202.484.7029

Note: FYI. Per my message, I am interested in attending the Sept. 7 on AIDS in Africa. Please give me a call when you get a chance. Thanks much.

The Capitol Report

Instant Approval
Instant Rewards 0% APR

[Please click here to visit our sponsor](#)



politicallyblack.com



THE CAPITOL REPORT



SUFFER THE CHILDREN

By Faye M. Anderson



Faye M. Anderson



I was living in San Francisco in the early 1980s when gays were trying to come to grips with the so-called "gay plague." After years of denial about AIDS, the gay community got its act together and mobilized support for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs. Since then, the AIDS epidemic has shifted from a crisis for gay white males to a global crisis for people of color.



According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 1982, blacks were 23 percent of the domestic AIDS cases. Today, African Americans, who make up 13 percent of the population, account for 57 percent of new HIV infections. Hispanics represent about 11 percent of the population and 21 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases. Black and Hispanic women account for a whopping 76 percent of



The Capitol Report



female AIDS cases. And black babies make up about two-thirds of the pediatric AIDS cases.

While AIDS deaths among gay white men peaked in 1995, AIDS is the leading cause of death of African American men aged 25 to 44, and the second leading killer of African American women in the same age cohort.

As grim as these statistics are, they pale in comparison with the AIDS pandemic that's devastating sub-Saharan Africa. In a 1998 report, the World Health Organization estimated that since the epidemic began, 11.5 million Africans have died of the disease, which represents more than 80 percent of AIDS deaths worldwide.

The cumulative number of deaths due to HIV/AIDS is 13.9 million. By comparison, both the Great Plague that ravaged Europe in the mid-14th century and the Flu Pandemic that swept through Europe, America and Asia in 1918 killed 20 million. HIV/AIDS is expected to kill 20 million in the next few years. Indeed, HIV/AIDS has surpassed malaria as the leading cause of death in Africa. In 1998 alone, 2.5 million Africans died from AIDS or its complications (typically tuberculosis).

WHO estimates that 23 million adults and children in sub-Saharan Africa are HIV-positive. Last year, there were 5.8 million new HIV infections. In Zimbabwe, for instance, one out of every five adults is HIV-positive. In South Africa, there are 1,500 new HIV infections each day. By some estimates, 25 percent of South Africa's adult population will be infected with HIV by the year 2010.

The impact of the AIDS pandemic extends beyond those who are HIV-positive. The Presidential Mission on Children Orphaned by AIDS reported that by 2010, there will be more than 40 million AIDS orphans in Africa. Many children have already dropped out of school to care for sick or dying parents. Unschooled children are future social dependents who will

undermine their country's global competitiveness.

While the statistics are mind-numbing, the numbers alone don't tell the whole story. At a recent health workshop sponsored by the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the speakers made it clear that HIV/AIDS is not just a public health issue. The AIDS pandemic threatens Africa's political stability and sustainable development. Simply stated, investors are not likely to invest in a country where there is a high concentration of sick people.

So, HIV/AIDS is perforce an economic development issue that impacts every economic sector. It's also a workforce issue since professionals and skilled workers have some of the highest rates of infection. It's a social development issue that exposes gender inequality and cultural taboos. As in the U.S., it's a political issue.

Africa's women and children are crying out for help. The Clinton administration recently unveiled a new \$100 million initiative to fight AIDS in Africa. In a statement, Vice President Al Gore said, "We hope this initiative will not only provide much-needed relief but will inspire decisive action by other countries and institutions--and bring hope to the millions of children and families trapped in this horror."

Still, too many African leaders remain in denial as AIDS rips through the continent. They must break their silence and make a commitment to tackling the disease and its attendant stigmatization. Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. has stepped up to the plate to fill the leadership vacuum. In announcing that Rainbow/PUSH will mobilize leaders from all sectors to address the AIDS pandemic, Jackson observed, "Money is important, but leadership is critical because without leaders committed to the effort, you can't get the money."

Said Jackson: "We need a strategy on how to engage the public with this issue. The focus is

The Capitol Report

not there. It's no longer on the media's radar screen. The urgency edge has been cut and we must sharpen the tool again. We will work with those who can get through, whether it's church leaders or media personalities like Tom Joyner or Tavis Smiley."

In the coming months Rainbow/PUSH will develop an "infrastructure" of two or three staffers who will be responsible for developing a public education campaign to promote awareness of the AIDS pandemic in both the U.S. and Africa. As Jackson noted, "The enemy is not just HIV; it's also denial and complacency."

RELATED SITES

[AIDS Action Council](#)

[AIDS dot Org](#)

[Black Congress on Health, Law and Economics](#)

[The Body: An AIDS and HIV Resource](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[International Conference on AIDS and STDs in Africa '99](#)

[Magic Johnson Foundation](#)

[National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS](#)

[National Medical Association](#)

[National Minority AIDS Council](#)

[Rainbow/PUSH Coalition](#)

[White House Office of National AIDS Policy](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

Faye M. Anderson, president of the Douglass Policy Institute, is Washington correspondent for [politicallyblack.com](#). Her column appears on Wednesday.