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Events — 12/98 World AIDS
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World AIDS
Day 1998

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 1, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON COMMEMORATES WORLD AIDS DAY
BY UNVEILING NEW STEPS TO ADDRESS THE
GROWING CRISIS OF CHILDREN ORPHANED BY AIDS

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Today, President Clinton will join Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Brian Atwood, Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to commemorate World AIDS Day by launching a series of new initiatives to address the growing crisis of HIV/AIDS around the world, particularly the millions of children orphaned by AIDS. The President will unveil historic increases in funding for research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) designed to develop an effective AIDS vaccine and prevention strategies to help address the problem of HIV/AIDS throughout the world. He will announce new emergency funding from USAID to support international AIDS orphan programs. In addition, he will direct his AIDS policy advisor, Sandra Thurman, to lead a delegation to Sub-Saharan Africa to assess the growing problem of AIDS orphans and recommend new strategies for responding to the crisis.

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HIV/AIDS epidemic around the world. The President also will announce that NIH will invest \$164 million in FY1999, a \$38 million increase over last year, in critical research projects aimed at reducing the number of AIDS orphans by preventing and treating HIV/AIDS internationally. These projects will include: a new prevention trials network to reduce adult and perinatal transmission of HIV/AIDS; new strategies to prevent and treat HIV infection in children; funding to train more foreign scientists to collaborate on this epidemic; research on the prevention and treatment of the opportunistic infections, such as tuberculosis, that commonly kill people with HIV/AIDS; and research on topical microbicides and other female-controlled barrier methods of HIV prevention.

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Declared HIV/AIDS in racial and ethnic minority communities to be a severe and ongoing health care crisis and unveiled a new \$156 million initiative to address this problem. This initiative included crisis response teams, enhanced prevention efforts, and assistance in accessing state-of-the-art therapies.

Worked with Congress to secure historic increases in a wide range of effective HIV/AIDS programs. Increases this year alone include: a \$262 million increase in the Ryan White CARE Act; a 12 percent increase in AIDS research funding at the NIH, totaling nearly \$1.8 billion; a \$32 million increase for HIV prevention programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and a \$21 million increase in the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program at HUD.

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Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright
Remarks at World AIDS Day 1998, The White House
Washington, D.C., December 1, 1998
As released by the Office of the Spokesman
U.S. Department of State

Mr. President, Brian Atwood, Amy Slemmer of Mothers' Voices Against AIDS, Carol Bellamy of UNICEF, Nafis Sadik of the UN Population Fund, distinguished colleagues, guests and friends. I am pleased to participate in this program but saddened by its necessity.

For today we observe World AIDS day for the eleventh time. And we can expect many more.

I look around this room and I see many valiant members of the global network that is fighting the causes and consequences of HIV/AIDS. That network is strong and deeply motivated; it is growing; it is active almost everywhere; but it is not yet winning the war against this disease of awful and shattering power.

Thirty-three million people are now infected with HIV. And up to forty million children will be orphaned by AIDS by the end of the next decade.

It is a deep human tragedy that 90 percent of AIDS orphans live in sub-saharan Africa. But this highly mobile disease has migrated to every corner of the earth.

So directly or indirectly, HIV/AIDS threatens us all -- whether as individuals, as family, friends and neighbors, or as members of the global community.

For we cannot build dynamic economies where one in five or even one in twenty adults is being struck down. We cannot create vibrant democratic institutions where communities are preoccupied with suffering and sorrow. We cannot count on stability where the ranks of military and political leadership are decimated. And we cannot expect a strong sense of social responsibility in the young where too many children have no parents.

All this is why fighting HIV/AIDS, and helping its victims, is a foreign policy imperative.

Soon, I will be releasing a report entitled the 1999 U.S. International Response to HIV/AIDS. This is an interagency effort to document the full range of U.S. resources engaged in the struggle against AIDS. We will use it to launch a diplomatic initiative designed to mobilize and energize others around the world -- both from the top down and the bottom up -- so that international organizations, governments and grassroots reinforce each other and pull in the same direction.

If we are to make progress, governments must understand what you and your overseas counterparts already understand. And that is that [HIV/AIDS cannot be denied or ignored or patronized or put off until tomorrow.

This is an urgent, deadly, global threat. It cannot be appeased; it must be confronted.]

And as Secretary of State, I will do all I can to see that this imperative is raised as a matter of international security, at the highest levels, at every opportunity, in every region, on every continent.

On this day of special dedication, let us vow to work together across all lines of profession, culture and national borders so that we may bring closer the day when nations and people

everywhere are aware of the dangers of this disease; all act to prevent its spread; all afflicted are helped and their human rights respected; and none rest until HIV/AIDS is conquered or controlled.

Thank you. And now I'd like to introduce the head of the agency whose employees have long been on the front lines of this fight, my good friend, the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, Brian Atwood.

Date: 01/12/98

Source: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Title: MANDELA: WORLD AIDS DAY

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT MANDELA ON WORLD AIDS DAY, Mtubatuba, 1
December 1998

Your Royal Highness;
Minister of Health and Home Affairs;
Premier of KwaZulu-Natal Province;
Amakhosi;
Dr. Piot of UNAIDS;
Friends and fellow South Africans,

We have come to Mtubatuba for World AIDS Day because this province and this area have been hard hit by this deadly virus. We have come here as Partners Against AIDS, to express our solidarity and support. We have come to accept the help of the government and the people of KwaZulu-Natal in making our nation understand what this disease really means.

AIDS is one of those problems that are beyond the capacity of any one community, or any province to solve on its own, or even any one nation alone.

To win we must join hands in a Partnership Against Aids, and also work with other nations as part of the international community. We need the help of organisations like the United Nations and it is therefore a special pleasure to welcome Dr. Piot, the Director of UNAIDS who has come to share this day with us.

→ Although AIDS has been a part of our lives for fifteen years or more, we have kept silent about its true presence in our midst. We have too often spoken of it as if it was someone else's problem.

We had hoped that today, before this rally, we could visit a community that has been badly affected by AIDS, and pay our respects to those whose lives were taken by the disease.

→ We want our communities to be able to say to our country: Come and witness the reality of AIDS; see the devastation in our community; see the fresh graves; see the courage of those who live with the infection and of the children who have lost their parents.

We must remove the silence that leads companies to say to a newspaper: "We want to put an advertisement in your paper, but it must not be near anything about AIDS";

It is the silence that leads us, when we see all the signs in our friend's face to speak of anything else, rather than ask, "Do you have AIDS? How can we help?"

It is the silence that hangs over our cemeteries when we bury loved ones knowing they died of AIDS, but not speaking of it.

→ It is the silence that is letting this disease sweep through our country, adding 1,500 people each day to more than 3 million already infected. It isolates those who need our support and help. It threatens to undermine our efforts to grow our economy and build a better life for all our people.

It is time to break the silence.

That is why we are here today as political leaders, following the lead given by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

We are grateful to a province that has the courage to declare that it has a high rate of infection. We admire the brave men, women and children who are with us today to say: We are the human face of

AIDS - we are breaking the silence! If we are to succeed then all of us must follow these examples and take responsibility for dealing with this problem.

Though we are doing all we can to search for a cure for AIDS, it has not yet been found and therefore prevention is the key to turning the tide.

Because this disease is so new, and because it spreads mainly through sex, prevention requires of us that we speak it in a way that our traditions, our cultures and our religions provide little guidance.

We must repeat over and over again our appeal to young people to abstain from sex as long as possible. If you do decide to engage in sex, then use a condom.

We must repeat over and over again our appeal to all men and women to be faithful to one another, but otherwise to use condoms.

It is possible for any of us to be infected for eight years without knowing it, and therefore to pass on the infection to others without knowing it.

We appeal to all sexually active people who have not tested, to have the test for the virus and if you are infected to openly seek the support of the community.

But we do know that we can only make this call upon those who have been affected if the community accepts its responsibility to give support to People Living With HIV/AIDS.

All of us, in our communities, in our educational institutions, in our workplaces, in our media, in our financial institutions, our places of worship and recreation must work to eradicate the discrimination that denies support and dignity to those who need it. As traditional leaders and people of influence in our communities, provinces and nation let us set an example.

South Africans have overcome obstacles which others thought were insurmountable, because we joined hands to work for good of all rather than remaining divided by less important things.

Just as we defied the prophets of doom who foresaw endless conflict in our land, we can defeat this terrible disease by all of us accepting responsibility for prevention of infection and for care of those who have been affected.

In October we launched a Partnership Against Aids, and declared our united resolve to save the nation.

Since then much has happened, but all of us need to ask ourselves: Are we doing enough to lend strength to the partnership on which our future depends?

What are we doing as teachers and parents? As business people, big and small? As employers and workers?

The young people, who are our future, are most at risk. We rely on their capacity for vision and on the courage that has been shown by people living with HIV/AIDS to give our nation the lead it needs to rise to this challenge.

Together we can succeed. On this World AIDS Day let us make a pledge.

Let us do everything possible to prevent ourselves and our partners from getting infected.

Let us build the Partnership Against AIDS so that it unites every community and sector of our society into a force for change.

Let us break the silence by speaking openly and publicly about AIDS, and by bringing an end to discrimination against those living with AIDS;

Let us care for those living with HIV/AIDS and the orphans, and give them support, with love and

compassion;

And let us say that we will wear the Red Ribbon today, and every day, in remembrance of those who have died and in solidarity with those who are infected. Let us wear it as a sign of our commitment to this pledge.

I thank you.

Issued by: Office of the President, 1 December 1998

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

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