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Meeting with Global Issues 12-20-93

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Day: Monday
Date: December 20, 1993
Time: 2:00-2:30 PM
Location: State Department
Subject: Global Issues

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**



NOTE TO KRISTINE GEBBIE

DEC 17 1993

MEETING WITH TIMOTHY WIRTH, COUNSELOR FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE - MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1993 @ 2:00 pm

PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to establish a dialogue with senior State Department staff on global issues as they relate to HIV/AIDS.

ATTENDEES

Kristine M. Gebbie, RN, MSN
AIDS Policy Coordinator
Office of National AIDS Policy
Executive Office of the President

Timothy Wirth
Counselor for Global Affairs
Department of State

John Boright
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science
Office of Oceans, Environment and Science
Department of State

Richard Bruno, M.D.
Senior Medical Advisor
Office of Oceans, Environment and Science
Department of State

Nancy A. Hazleton, M.P.H.
Global Issues Coordinator
Office of National AIDS Policy
Executive Office of the President

BACKGROUND

Topics that may be discussed include:

1. Reorganization of AID and the State Department and the effect on AIDS funding and programming.
2. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on sustainable development.
3. Vaccine testing
4. The X International AIDS Conference in Yokohama, Japan.
5. Research collaboration between US and foreign scientists.
6. Your participation in the Global HIV/AIDS and the Military panel at the IX African AIDS Conference in Marrakech, Morocco.

7. Your meeting with Health and Social Welfare Minister Mrs. Simone Veil in Paris, France.
8. Areas for future collaboration with the State Department.

One topic that may also come up is Mr. Paul Boneberg's desire to meet with Counselor Wirth. Mr. Boneberg has met with him previously but wishes another meeting to discuss a wide range of policy issues. Mr. Boneberg and his organization, Global AIDS Action Network is very interested in how the new foreign assistance act (in draft) will affect AIDS programming and funding, consolidation of UN AIDS programs, non-involvement of the UN Center for Human Rights in the UN AIDS reorganization, funding levels for the Global Program on AIDS and the viability of the State Department Intradepartment Task Force on AIDS. Correspondence between Mr. Boneberg and the State Department is included at Tab A. Mr. Boneberg also faxed me a letter addressed to you which is included at TAB B. I spoke to Mr. Boneberg on December 15 and assured him that your meeting with Counselor Wirth was informal and other outside groups would not be represented.

Nancy A. Hazleton, MPH

- TAB A - Correspondence from Paul Boneberg to DOS and response
- TAB B - Correspondence from Paul Boneberg to Kristine M. Gebbie

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TAB A

Divider Title: _____

**United States Department of State***Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs**Washington, D.C. 20520
November 22, 1993*

Mr. Paul Boneberg
Global AIDS Action Network
PO Box 376
Lagunitas, Ca. 94938

Dear Mr. Boneberg,

On behalf of Secretary Christopher, I thank you for your recent letter requesting a meeting to discuss U.S. global AIDS programs and policies. The Secretary shares your concerns on this devastating disease especially in the global context.

Since our April meeting, we have undergone a reorganization within our bureau to give greater focus to international health issues, including those associated with the AIDS pandemic. In addition, Counselor Tim Wirth plans to meet with the National AIDS Policy Coordinator Kristine Gebbie and her staff, one of whom is now handling the international aspects of AIDS. This meeting may enable us to chart new State Department directives on AIDS-related international issues.

Consequently, I suggest that we meet shortly after the Wirth/Gebbie meeting. At that time we will also plan to have representatives from other agencies and bureaus to ensure an informative meeting. In conclusion, we encourage your endeavors in keeping the global AIDS issue in the forefront.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Elinor G. Constable", written in a cursive style.

Elinor G. Constable
Assistant Secretary

Global AIDS Action Network

PO Box 376, Lagunitas, Ca. 94938 Phone 415 488-1453 FAX 415 488-1942 Internet GLOBALAIDS@aol.com

To: Nancy Hazelton
National AIDS Policy Office

From: Paul Boneberg
Global AIDS Action Network

Date: December 8, 1993

RE: State Department Meetings

Correspondence with State FYL

Please call me regarding the Wirth/Gebbe meeting.

Global AIDS Action Network

PO Box 376, Lagunitas, Ca. 94938 Phone 415 488-1453 FAX 415 488-1942 Internet GLOBALAIDS@aol.com

To: Elinor G. Constable
Assistant Secretary of State
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific
Affairs

From: Paul Boneberg
Global AIDS Action Network

Date: December 7, 1993

RE: Wirth/Gebbe Meeting

We have just received your letter dated November 22 in response to the Global AIDS Action Network's request to meet with appropriate State Department officials regarding global AIDS policies on World AIDS Day. We thank you for your response on behalf of the Department.

We understand that the State Department has been undergoing significant reform and appreciate that Counselor Wirth will soon be meeting with National AIDS Policy Director Gebbe to review revised AIDS policies and programs. GAAN applauds the inclusion of global AIDS issues in the mandate of the National AIDS Policy Office and is coordinating with that office and the staff person for global programs-Nancy Hazelton.

However, we are concerned that profound changes are underway in both UN and US global AIDS programs on which the administration has not articulated its position or strategy. For example:

1. The Administration is proposing complete overhaul of US Foreign Assistance Programs but has not articulated how these reforms will affect global AIDS programs.
2. The US is supporting consolidation of all UN AIDS programs in the most sweeping reform of these agencies since their creation. However our meetings with UN officials and NGO leadership indicated profound lack of confidence for this proposal. Why is the US supporting this proposal?
3. The reform which the US is supporting does not formally include the UN Center for Human Rights as an involved agency in the

governing body of the new UN AIDS program. Given the concerns expressed to us during our meeting with Secretary Shattuck we do not understand how this could be the case. Is this omission a correct reflection of US policy?

4. We understand that funding for global AIDS programs including the Global Program on AIDS may be reduced despite the intent of Congress for level funding. Is this correct?

5. We understand that the State Department Intra-Department Task Force on AIDS is inactive. Is this correct?

Secretary Constable, the Global AIDS Action Network wishes only to involve non-governmental organizations in discussions of US global AIDS policy. We believe as that as one of the few US based groups focused solely on global AIDS policy and as the American representative to the International Coalition of AIDS Service Organizations we are well placed to facilitate that involvement.

We therefore reiterate two specific requests:

1. That the Gebbe/Wirth meeting include policy oriented NGOs.
2. That separate meetings be held as soon as possible with Assistant Secretary Bennett and AID Administrator Atwood and appropriate NGOs. GAAN has already requested these meetings in conjunction with our general request to Secretary Christopher.

Finally, Secretary Constable, I would be remiss if I did not state my disappointment over the lack of visibility of the global nature of the pandemic on World AIDS Day. President Clinton's remarks on domestic programs were excellent. The announcement of a new Task Force for Expedited Drug approval is very positive. But the absence of Secretary Christopher or any State Department proposal on the day of global action on AIDS was unfortunate.

We realize that no proposal could have been made because reform of global AIDS programs lag far behind those of domestic programs. Too few Americans understand that the ending of the pandemic requires global coordination. Or that the cause of AIDS was discovered outside our nation and that the cure may well be discovered outside our borders as well. Yet the unconcern of the public cannot be an excuse for the lack of strong, visible leadership by the US government on

To: Nancy Hazelton
National AIDS Policy Office

From: Paul Boneberg
Global AIDS Action Network

Date: December 8, 1993

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Correspondence with State FYL.

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Assistant Secretary of State
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific
Affairs

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We realize that no proposal could have been made because reform of

global AIDS programs. We would hope that next World AIDS Day such leadership is apparent to the American people.

We look forward to your response.

CC-Administrator Atwood
Secretary Bennett
Secretary Shattuck
Kristine Gebbe and Nancy Hazelton
Senator Feinstein
Senator Kennedy
Representative McDermott
Representative Pelosi
Representative Studds

**United States Department of State***Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs**Washington, D.C. 20520*

December 16, 1993

TO: OES - Elinor G. Constable
THRU: OES/S - John P. Boright
FROM: OES/STH - Edward M. Malloy *EM*
SUBJECT: Meeting with Global AIDS Action Network

On November 23, 1993, you sent a letter to Mr. Paul Boneberg of the Global AIDS Action Network concerning his request to discuss U.S. global AIDS programs and policies. In his most recent letter dated December 7, 1993, he requests that he and members of other NGOs be included in the upcoming meeting with Mr. Wirth and the National AIDS Policy Coordinator Kristine Gebbie. Since it is intended to be an informal "get to know you" meeting, it is not appropriate for others to be in attendance. Because Mr. Boneberg sent a similar letter to Ms. Gebbie, Ms. Nancy Hazleton of her staff contacted Mr. Boneberg by phone to explain the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Boneberg graciously accepted the explanation and looks forward to a future meeting to discuss the issues which he has raised in his letters.

RECOMMENDATION:

- that you sign the letter to Mr. Boneberg indicating that it is not possible to include him in the Wirth/Gebbie meeting, but that he and members of other NGOs will be invited to a meeting with representatives of appropriate agencies to discuss global AIDS issues.

**United States Department of State***Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs**Washington, D.C. 20520*

December 16, 1993

Mr. Paul Boneberg
Global AIDS Action Network
PO Box 376
Lagunitas, Ca. 94938

Dear Mr. Boneberg,

In response to your letter of December 7, 1993, please understand that the meeting between Counselor Tim Wirth and the National AIDS Policy Coordinator Kristine Gebbie will be an informal "get to know you" affair. Although this meeting will be important in establishing a working relationship, it will only be one of many building blocks that will be required for the development of a cohesive global AIDS policy. As far as participants are concerned, no one other than their staffs will be in attendance.

In your letter, you express your concern about the profound changes that are occurring in both the United Nations and the U.S. global AIDS programs. In order to provide answers to these issues, a meeting with appropriate agency representatives along with members of various NGOs would be the proper forum. With the assistance of Ms. Nancy Hazleton, who is responsible for global issues related to the AIDS pandemic in the Office of the National AIDS Policy Coordinator and with whom you spoke on December 15th, we will coordinate such a meeting at the earliest possible time. Until then I would like to express my hope that you have a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

Elinor G. Constable
Assistant Secretary

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Global AIDS Action Network

PO Box 376, Lagunitas, Ca. 94938 Phone 415 488-1453 FAX 415 488-1942 Internet GLOBALAIDS@aol.com

To: Kristine Gebbe
National AIDS Policy Office

From: Paul Boneberg
Global AIDS Action Network

Date: December 8, 1993

RE: Your Efforts to Facilitate State Department Meetings

We are writing to update you on recent developments regarding our requests for meetings with the State Department on global AIDS policy.

As you know the Global AIDS Action Network requested meetings with the State Department to clarify a series of concerns on global AIDS programs. We are grateful that in our discussions with you and your staff that you indicated that you would assist in facilitating such meetings.

We have just received correspondence from Assistant Secretary Elinor Constable indicating two commitments:

1. The State Department will participate in meetings with the Global AIDS Action Network and presumably other policy focused NGOs.
2. The Department wished to hold this meeting after your meeting with Counselor Tim Wirth.

Of significance was the Department's indication that the meeting between your office and Wirth will include concerned organizations. Given this, GAAN suggests that it may be appropriate for us to be included in that meeting. After all, we have held prior meetings with Counselor Wirth and are requesting meetings with AID Administrator Atwood and IOA Assistant Secretary Bennett. We urge you to include us in the Wirth meeting if any non-governmental organizations are indeed included. We believe that this would be appropriate not only in our capacity as a US based AIDS policy network, but also as the American representative to the only

worldwide AIDS NGO coalition-the International Coalition of AIDS Service Organizations.

GAAN continues to be concerned that the State Department is proceeding with significant reforms of global AIDS programs and policy without articulating an overall strategy. In our recent correspondence with the Department we asked five specific questions:

- "1. How will the Administration's proposed reform of US Foreign Assistance Programs effect global AIDS programs?
2. The US is supporting consolidation of all UN AIDS programs (WHO Study of a Joint and Cosponsored UN Program on HIV/AIDS) in the most sweeping reform of these agencies since their creation. However our meetings with UN officials and NGO leadership indicated profound lack of confidence for this proposal. Why is the US supporting this proposal?
3. The reform that the US is supporting does not formally include the UN Center for Human Rights as an involved agency in the governing body of the new UN AIDS program. Given the concerns expressed to us during our meeting with Secretary Shattuck (Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs) we do not understand how this could be the case. Is this omission a correct reflection of US policy?
4. We understand that funding for global AIDS programs including the Global Program on AIDS may be reduced despite the intent of Congress for level funding. Is this correct?
5. We understand that the State Department Intra-Department Task Force on AIDS is inactive. Is this correct?"

Any assistance you could provide to answer these questions would be very useful to us. We are seeking assistance from several members of Congress as well.

We look forward to your reply as to our possible inclusion in the meeting with Counselor Wirth.