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National Security Council - African Affairs

General Files

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:
V	16	9	8	2	35901	1000003444

Folder Title:

Congo, Democratic Republic of March 2003 - December 2003 [5]

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
055	Email	[Email]	4	04/02/2003	P3/b3; P5;
055a	Email	[Email]	4	04/01/2003	P3/b3; P5;
055b	Statement	Testimony of Charles Snyder...	15	04/03/2003	P5;
057	Email	[Email]	1	03/24/2003	P5;
058	Agenda	[Agenda]	1	03/25/2003	P1/b1; P5;
058	Cover Sheet	[Cover Sheet]	1	03/21/2003	P1/b1; P3/b3; P5;
058a	Memorandum	[Memorandum]	1	03/21/2003	P1/b1; P3/b3; P5;

COLLECTION TITLE:

National Security Council - African Affairs

SERIES:

General Files

FOLDER TITLE:

Congo, Democratic Republic of, March 2003 - December 2003 [5]

FRC ID:

35901

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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059	Cover Sheet	[Cover Sheet]	1	03/19/2003	P1/b1; P3/b3; P5;
059a	Memorandum	[Memorandum]	1	03/19/2003	P1/b1; P3/b3; P5;
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2014-0067-F

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TO: TRAVERS

FROM: ROVE, K

DOC DATE: 03 MAR 03
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CONGO D R
GABON

INTL HEALTH

~~CG~~
CONGO

PERSONS: ZUCKER, JERRY

SUBJECT: REFERRAL RE LTR FM INTERTECH GRP RE EBOLA OUTBREAK IN CONGO

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR RICE

DUE DATE: 11 MAR 03 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: COURVILLE

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
COURVILLE

FOR CONCURRENCE
NEMROFF
PITTMAN, B

FOR INFO
FRAZER

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTSM

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1



Senior Advisor to the President
The White House

Karl Rove
Phone: (202) 456-2369
Fax: (202) 456-0191

Date: Monday, March 03, 2003

Date Due: March 17, 2003

To:

Action Requested:

Please Staff
@ Africa

Dave Travers NSC WW

Respond directly with copy to the Senior Advisor

Correspondence Subject:

2/27/03 letter from Jerry Zucker (the InterTech Group) re: Ebola outbreak in the Congo. Please return this sheet to advise of action taken. Thanks.

Prepared by:

Sarah Lockart (202) 456-2751

SCANNED
BY
ORM

1985

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

March 12, 2003

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR GREGORY L. SCHULTE

THROUGH: JENDAYI FRAZER *JF*

FROM: CINDY COURVILLE *CC*

SUBJECT: Ebola Outbreak Draft Response

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum to Karl Rove forwarding a response to a letter he received from Jerry Zucker of The InterTech Group regarding an outbreak of Ebola in the Congo and Gabon.

Response was delayed pending updated information on Ebola situation from the Department of State.

The NSC received the incoming correspondence on March 3, 2003.

Concurrence by: Courtney Nemroff *CN*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to Karl Rove at Tab I.

Attachments

- Tab I Memo to Karl Rove
- Tab A Draft Response to Zucker
- Tab B Letter from Zucker

T
A
B
I

1985

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

MEMORANDUM FOR KARL ROVE

FROM: GREGORY L. SCHULTE

SUBJECT: Draft Response to Jerry Zucker

Attached at Tab I is a proposed response to Jerry Zucker of The InterTech Group who wrote you regarding an outbreak of Ebola in the Congo and Gabon.

Attachments

Tab A Draft Response to Zucker
Tab B Letter from Zucker

T
A
B
A

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Zucker:

Thank you for your letter concerning the recent outbreak of Ebola in the Congo and Gabon.

I am aware of the potential threat that Ebola and other infectious diseases pose to our global interests. The Administration supports an evidence-based approach to vaccine development. The Department of Science and Technology was established to develop an approach to preventing the spread of Ebola and other biological agents.

I have shared your letter with the appropriate officials in the Administration who are tracking the development of an Ebola vaccine. I appreciate your interest in this important matter and your continued involvement in issues related to Africa.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jerry Zucker
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer
The InterTech Group
4838 Jenkins Avenue
North Charleston; SC 29405

T
A
B
B

FEB 27 2003 12:01 PM INTERTECH GROUP

**The
InterTech
Group®**

NO. 432 P. 1
Dave Travers - Dir Resp 56h
553717
4838 Jenkins Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29405
Telephone: (843) 744-5174
Facsimile: (843) 747-4092

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) TO:

NAME: Karl Rove

COMPANY:

URGENT

FAX NO: 202-456-0191

FROM: Jerry Zucker

DATE: Feb. 27, 2003

If you are not receiving the pages, or have any problem during the transmission or receiving, please contact Elaine at (843)744-5174.

Number of Pages (including cover): 4

URGENT, PLEASE DELIVER TO KARL ROVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Thank you.

CONFIDENTIALITY CAUTION:

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and contains information that is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us at the above address at our cost.

VIA FACSIMILE
202-456-0191

URGENT

TO: Karl Rove
FROM: Jerry Zucker
DATE: February 27, 2003
RE: Ebola Outbreak in Congo

As you may have heard, there is an outbreak of Ebola in the Congo and Gabon. Reports are that 80 people are known to have been infected with Ebola in the Congo, of which 76 have died. Reports are that approximately 30,000 have been quarantined in the immediate area by health and security forces; however an estimated 1,200 to 1,800 that may have been exposed, have fled that area out of fear.

Unlike anthrax, which requires over 20,000 spores to be inhaled before and otherwise healthy individual becomes ill and which is not contagious, Ebola is highly contagious and only requires one particle to cause death with the infection/death rate of a naive population (such as in the US) at 100%. Recently the President described it as "the most deadly virus in the world." For years the world has been at risk of a natural outbreak of Ebola in an urban population. That risk has been amplified by the possibility of Ebola being used as a biological weapon of mass destruction. This outbreak presents two possible crises 1) the outbreak may escape the "semi" quarantined area and show up in areas difficult or impossible to quarantine becoming widespread and potentially involving much loss of life and widespread panic and/or social paralysis, and 2) this natural virus could be harvested and used by terrorists either in its natural state or it could be weaponized to increase its communicability according to recipes published by scientists and available on the Internet. To say the least, the timing is not propitious.

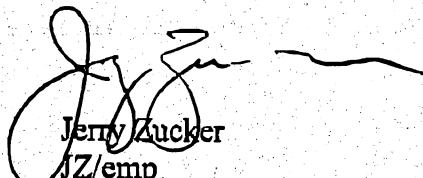
To the best of my knowledge, only one multivalent Ebola vaccine has been rigorously challenge tested in animal studies by USAMRIID and found to be 100% effective while not producing any symptoms or side effects. Safety testing of the vaccine in humans has not yet begun but should be expedited by NIAID. Importantly, that vaccine can be injected in horses using an FDA approved protocol to produce what is very likely to be an effective anti-serum against Ebola that could be given to people who have already been exposed to the virus and which ought to prevent the onset of the lethal disease (obviously as soon after a possible infection as possible). The unique characteristics of this Ebola vaccine make it possible for such an anti-serum to be available in approximately 5 weeks.

The anti-serum could be made available to healthcare workers, military forces and/or civilians. The existence of, and publicity about, such an anti-serum would likely facilitate containment of the disease and, by eliminating the "incurable" aspect of the disease reduce the severity of a paralyzing overreaction by civilians. Please see the memo below. Col. Bill Pratt at the USAMRIID laboratories can be contacted with regard to the verification of the above facts, telephone number 301-619-2405.

It is my belief that the government should immediately initiate a mass production of both vaccine and anti-serum. There is a "sister" disease to Ebola named Marburg virus that has very similar characteristics. An equally effective multivalent vaccine exists for Marburg. It too has been challenge tested with the same results by USAMRIID. GenPhar has taken upon itself to begin production for about 2000 therapeutic doses of antisera at its own expense for both. The current situation could quickly become a global crisis if not immediately addressed. These natural outbreaks historically occurred every 5 years or so; recently they have been occurring about once a year. It's only a matter of time before one of these lethal hemorrhagic fever viruses shows up in an urban population and that may well have catastrophic health and social ramifications. That has been a subject for countless science fiction dramas. We ought to prepare for such an event in every way possible before it takes place. Please see additional details in the attached excerpt from a letter from John Y. Dong, M.D., PhD

In the interest of national security, I am urgently requesting that you confer with the relevant parties and the President.

Sincerely,



Jerry Zucker
JZ/emp
Attachments

PS Please feel free to speak with Dr. Richard Tubb and Gen. Klaus Schafer.

Steve Hutchinson, Chairman of GenPhar can be contacted at 212-375-6201

Dr. John Dong of GenPhar can be contacted at 843-884-0120

In light of the current outbreak of Ebola in the Congo, we have initiated production of antisera for the two strains of Ebola and the three strains of Marburg viruses using our multivalent vaccines against hemorrhagic fever. As Steve Hutchinson mentioned to you, the Army tests on these vaccines demonstrated 100% efficacy against Ebola and Marburg virus challenges at 1,000 times the lethal dose. Our vaccine platform is the only one capable of being multivalent and inducing both neutralizing and CTL responses. We have arranged to produce the antisera against Ebola and Marburg viruses under cGMP conditions. We would like to donate the sera to the patients and healthcare workers in the Congo. This will be the only hope for treatment of patients, and as a safeguard for the healthcare workers in case of exposure to the deadly viruses in this and future outbreaks.

I believe this project will have a great impact on our nation and the world. As you may know, the frequency of Ebola outbreaks has increased in recent years, and this is the first time in history that there have been outbreaks in two consecutive years. It is the greatest fear that the "most deadly viruses known to mankind" (—President Bush) may be used as biological weapons against our nation. Healthcare workers and military personnel have made great efforts to secure the outbreak regions and prevent the spread of the disease, and eliminate the possibility of terrorist groups taking a seed stock from those regions. It is also feared that terrorists may enter the region and get themselves infected and spread the disease by traveling to other parts of the world. You may also be aware that the efforts to quarantine the outbreak regions (reportedly 30,000 people) have failed due to the thousands of people who have fled the area in fear for their lives.

Colonel Peter Jarling at USAMRIID stated (before the September 11th terrorist attacks): "Ebola has the potential to go airborne and be spread like the flu. An airborne strain of Ebola could circle the world in close to 6 or 7 weeks". Obviously, if a madman like Sudam Hussein got a chance to spread the virus, the only people standing on this planet would be those who have been vaccinated. I believe that your initiative will do a great service not only for our nation, but for all of mankind.

John 

John Y. Dong, M.D., Ph.D.
President and Chief Scientific Officer
GenPhar Inc.

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2014-0067-F

OA Num.:

NSC 1664

NARA Num.:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Agenda	[Agenda]	1	03/25/2003	P1/b1; P5;

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COLLECTION:

National Security Council - African Affairs

SERIES:

General Files

FOLDER TITLE:

Congo, Democratic Republic of, March 2003 - December 2003 [5]

FRC ID:

35901

OA Num.:

NSC 1664

NARA Num.:**FOIA IDs and Segments:**

2014-0067-F

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Cover Sheet	[Cover Sheet]	1	03/19/2003	P1/b1; P3/b3; P5; 10 USC 424 50 USC 403g, section 6

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COLLECTION:

National Security Council - African Affairs

SERIES:

General Files

FOLDER TITLE:

Congo, Democratic Republic of, March 2003 - December 2003 [5]

FRC ID:

35901

OA Num.:

NSC 1664

NARA Num.:**FOIA IDs and Segments:**

2014-0067-F

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	[Memorandum]	1	03/19/2003	P1/b1; P3/b3; P5; 10 USC 424 50 USC 403g, section 6

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SERIES:

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FOLDER TITLE:

Congo, Democratic Republic of, March 2003 - December 2003 [5]

FRC ID:

35901

FOIA IDs and Segments:

2014-0067-F

OA Num.:

NSC 1664

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Agenda	[Agenda]	1	03/21/2003	P1/b1; P5;

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FOLDER TITLE:

Congo, Democratic Republic of, March 2003 - December 2003 [5]

FRC ID:

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2014-0067-F

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RECORD ID: 0301991
RECEIVED: 05 MAR 03 19

60

TO: RICE

FROM: ABUBAKAR, MOKA

DOC DATE: 28 DEC 02
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CONGO D R

NSA CORRESPONDENCE

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR FM DROC POLITICAL PARTY LEADER

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE DATE: 17 MAR 03 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: COURVILLE

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
COURVILLE

FOR CONCURRENCE
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FOR INFO
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COMMENTS:

3/12 NO RESPONSE NECESSARY

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Brussels, December 28, 2002

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RDL LDA

**Rassemblement de Démocrates Libéraux
Liberals Democrats Assembling**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO**

N/Réf.:
V/Réf.:
Subject:

Mrs Condoleeze RICE
Conseiller Spécial du Président
Des Etats-Unis d'Amérique
White House

WASHINGTON 20500
USA.

Mrs,

Allow me to address to you my best wishes of happiness and prosperity to your dear family and to yourself during this year which starts, 2003.

As you know it, the diplomacy is more effective when it is constant one credible military force. We estimate that the crisis in the Middle East, in Iraq, in North Korea and elsewhere in the whole World cannot be solved by terrorism or a war.

We specify the conditions contained in the charter of the United Nations: the Plain ones: The war is only 'l' end of end of' one can resort according to according to strict conditions'.

Indeed, the war it is the worst solution. With our quality of African, we are placed better to speak this language because one knows the negative effects of the war.

The crises in the countries of large lakes, recently the crisis of the Ivory Coast dimension, illustrate very well the incapacity of the African continent, already weakened by the poverty and all kinds of the serious diseases, to solve its conflicts which corrode it by itself, with like consequences: a humane crisis often major. The Africans must understand that progress, they is initially them same.

Please accept the expression of my high distinguished consideration.

Maître MOKA Danga Ali Abubakar
President of party RDL
Ing.civil.elec.

MAR 5 19 12

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.54-56, Av. Président Wilson, 93104 MONTREUIL (Paris) France. Tél/Fax : 0033/01/49884680.
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61
RECORD ID: 0302010
RECEIVED: 06 MAR 03 14

TO: SCHULTE

FROM: BURNIM, J

DOC DATE: 06 MAR 03
SOURCE REF: AER34

KEYWORDS: CONGO

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: STATE OVERSIGHT TESTIMONY ON SAVING CONGO BASIN - STAKES / PLAN

ACTION: CONCURRENCE TO OMB

DUE DATE: 07 MAR 03 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: COURVILLE

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
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66

From: Annette E. Rooney on 03/06/2003 02:00:12 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

Subject: LRM AER34 - - STATE Oversight Testimony on Saving the Congo Basin: The Stakes, The Plan

Please provide comments/clearance on the attached State testimony to **Gillian J. Foster** at (202)395-3445, or by e-mail to Gfoster@omb.eop.gov by 4:00 PM, Friday, March 7th. If you do not respond by the deadline, we will presume that your agency has no comment.



- CBFP Congressional WrittenTestimonyJM 11.doc

LRM ID: AER34

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, D.C. 20503-0001**

Thursday, March 6, 2003

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer - See Distribution below

FROM: John D. Burnim (for) Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

OMB CONTACT: Gillian J. Foster

PHONE: (202)395-3445 FAX: (202)456-9723

SUBJECT: **STATE Oversight Testimony on Saving the Congo Basin: The Stakes, The Plan**

DEADLINE: **4:00 PM Friday, March 7, 2003**

In accordance with OMB Circular A-19, OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President. Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts.

COMMENTS:

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OVP LRM
John D. Burnim

SUBJECT: STATE Oversight Testimony on Saving the Congo Basin: The

If your response to this request for views is short (e.g., concur/no comment), we prefer that you respond by e-mail or by faxing us this response sheet.

(1) calling the analyst/attorney's direct line (you will be connected to voice mail if the analyst does not answer); or

Please include the LRM number and subject shown above.

FROM: _____ (Date)
 _____ (Name)
 _____ (Agency)
 _____ (Telephone)

_____ Concur

_____ No Objection

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_____ See proposed edits on pages _____

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_____ FAX RETURN of _____ pages, attached to this response sheet

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6/c

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF

JOHN F. TURNER

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

“Saving the Congo Basin: The Stakes, The Plan”



BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2003

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views about the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), what it is, how we came to develop and support it, activities to date, and what we expect for its future.

The Congo Basin forest is the world's second largest intact tropical forest after the Amazon. It catches, cleans, and sends to the ocean the waters from millions of hectares of pristine forests upon which millions of Africa's inhabitants depend on for their livelihoods and survival. Within these forests are a countless number of incredible species of plants, insects, wildlife and trees. Many of these species have been identified just within the past few years. This forest is a global treasure whose resources must be protected and conserved for the economic and environmental good of Africa and of mankind.

Secretary of State Powell launched the CBFP at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg on September 4, 2001. Partners of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership include governments: United States, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, France, Canada, South Africa, and European Commission. International organizations: World Bank, International Tropical Timber Organization, and World Conservation Union. Civil society: Jane Goodall Institute, the Center for International Forestry Research. The partnership will operate in an open and transparent manner. Participation and contributions to the CBFP are not limited to CBFP partners. Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund, World Resources Institute, Forest Trends, Society of American Foresters, American Forest and Paper Association, Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux-ATIBT, and the Center for International Forestry Research. Secretary Powell later traveled to Gabon for the inauguration of Gabon's national park system, an historic first ever trip for the conservation of forests by a Secretary of State.

The Government of the United States chose to lead in the development of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and to provide a significant contribution to this Partnership because these forests and their wildlife are truly of global significance, because these forests are a major factor in the social, economic and environmental health of our Congo basin country partners, and because there was already an impressive structure of cooperation between governments, NGOs and the private sector operating in the region on which this partnership could be built.

It is only fair to note that the Partnership would not be a fact today without the strong support and commitment of the people and governments of our African Partners in the region. Civil society and private sector organizations have also been many more years working with each other and with these governments in an unprecedented way. Michael

Fay, who will follow in testifying to your Subcommittee is well known to all in this room, has played a key role in highlighting for Americans and for the world the importance of conserving the outstanding wildlife and forests of the Congo Basin. His 1200 mile Megatransect through two of the six countries captivated the imagination of many. Michael's activities and speeches almost always produce concrete results. Just last week Michael spoke to 300 rapt elementary students at Arlington's Science Focus School, leading to the establishment of their first Gorilla Wildlife Club.

A substantial portion of the United States Government commitment to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership is through a \$12 million per year increase within USAID's Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). We thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your role in ensuring that these funds were part of the appropriation for USAID. We are mobilizing the resources of all United States Government agencies and departments that might be willing to lend their expertise to the development of the Partnership. The Administration has committed to invest up to \$53 million dollars in the Congo Basin Forest Partnership through the year 2005. Our commitment to the program is manifest in the move of CARPE headquarters just these past few months from Washington to its new regional headquarters in Kinshasa. The Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa), it should be noted, harbors over 50 percent of the Congo basin forests.

In broad terms, United States priorities for the Partnership are to provide people sustainable means of livelihood through well-managed forestry concessions, sustainable agriculture, and integrated ecotourism programs; to improve forest and natural resource governance through community-based management, combating illegal logging, and enforcing anti-poaching laws; and to help the Congo-basin countries develop a network of effectively managed parks, protected areas, and corridors.

The United States' contribution to achieving this will focus upon eleven key landscapes across the six Congo Basin countries, which include Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of Congo. We are committed to working with our partners in these countries, with the NGOs, with the private sector, civil society and others to help in the development of a network of effectively managed national parks, protected areas and corridors. We need this kind of new and innovative partnership to really have an impact – past efforts by NGOs alone, by donor assistance alone do not appear to make the kind of significant change we know is required.

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership is based on the understanding that if we help people obtain sustainable forest-based livelihoods such as, for example, employment through ecotourism, wildlife law enforcement, reduced impact logging, park management in lieu of total dependence on exploitation of those same natural resource, that the overall economy will improve and the benefits of conservation will be apparent to all people in these countries moving towards real democracy.

The United States has also committed to building and consolidating the international Congo Basin Forest Partnership. On January 23-24, we co-hosted with the French

Government in Paris the first international meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. This was a very productive meeting attended by 120 representatives of the 30 partners – including 6 Ministers. France and our other partners supported the offer by the U.S. to facilitate a closer, collaborative working partnership between industry, NGOs, governments, and civil society. It was agreed that the U.S. will be the facilitator of the CBFP for at least the first two years of the Partnership and that in its facilitation role, the U.S. will be assisted by an African co-facilitator located in the Congo Basin.

We have already been told that the United States Government's contributions are leveraging additional programs and contributions from other donor governments – we were informed that the EU was poised to close down its ECOFAC (Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa) program until it joined the Partnership – they are now planning a commitment of millions of dollars for Congo Basin Forests.

United States-based environmental NGOs have affirmed plans to significantly expand their conservation programs in the eleven Congo basin forest landscapes that have been identified as critical to biodiversity conservation in the Congo basin. These NGOs have also committed to matching the United States Government's contribution for work in the landscapes. I would like to recognize in particular the outstanding commitment of our Partners, including the Wildlife Conservation Society, the World Wildlife Fund, and Conservation International, as well as the World Resources Institute, Forest Trends, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Jane Goodall Institute.

We are also pleased that forest industries – including our own American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) and professional societies such as the Society of American Foresters (SAF) will be bringing the technical expertise and their financial resources to assist the Congo basin countries in developing forest management capacity. AF&PA's Henson Moore traveled to Johannesburg and gave an eloquent speech on AF&PA's commitment to the CBFP, and in particular to their firm belief that addressing illegal logging and corruption can make a significant difference in this region. We are proud to have them as partners. Though we understand AF&PA does not have an economic stake in this region – it is committed to helping in the Congo Basin with technology transfer, education, and training on such issues as concession management, reduced impact logging.

In future months I will be working alongside Assistant Secretary of State Walter Kansteiner and USAID's Assistant Administrator Connie Newman to provide strategic direction and oversight to the Partnership. I have personally discussed this initiative with Deputy Secretary of Agriculture James Moseley, Assistant Secretary for Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Craig Manson and NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, who have all indicated a strong willingness to assist our initiative by tapping into the tremendous wealth of experience in sustainable natural resource management that is the heritage of the United States.

Under our direction, one of the early tasks we are undertaking is a comprehensive inventory of forest and wildlife related programs and projects already underway or

completed in the region. We know work is already being done – but this Partnership aims to understand these landscapes and move aggressively to reduce gaps and to avoid overlaps. We will be constructing a web page to link partners and their programs – including a comprehensive overview of the substantive programs and initiatives underway in the region. This will provide us a basis for looking at what is missing – and there is a great deal more we can do, with your help.

Two weeks ago the U.S. Department of State held a first-ever symposium on eco-tourism in the Congo basin which identified potential funding sources and issues critical to building up this important industry. Our commitment to work more closely not only with other international partners but among ourselves in the United States Government was reflected in the travel to the region last month of a joint needs assessment team headed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Jeffry Burnam and Deputy Undersecretary of Natural Resources, USDA, David Tenney. This assessment also included senior representatives and technical experts from the Departments of State, Agriculture, and Interior including the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

We firmly believe that U.S. contributions to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership will promote economic development, help to alleviate poverty, and improve local governance through natural resource conservation programs, a goal broadly shared by all the CBFPP partners. We are also considering how this model might be extended to help our efforts in other geographic regions. Along with our optimism that we are on the right track and have the commitments from partners to and developing resource base to make it work, it is clear that success will not be a simple task. As Secretary Powell said in Johannesburg:

“The road to sustainable development is a long one and a hard one. The Congo Basin Forest Partnership itself is the result of five years of hard work and commitment by devoted groups of individuals, governments and private organizations. They have only started it from different perspectives, all the partners arrived with a common vision for protecting the Congo basin, and just as important, all realizing that we must work together to be successful.”

Thank you very much. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Drafted: OES/ETC:D Kaeuper

Cleared:

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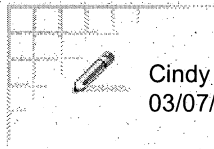
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Cindy L. Courville
03/07/2003 09:55:15 PM

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Subject: LRM AER34A - - Additional STATE Oversight Testimony on Saving the Congo Basin: The Stakes, The Plan

Please provide comments/clearance on the attached State (Kansteiner) testimony to **Gillian J. Foster** at (202)395-3445, or by e-mail to Gfoster@omb.eop.gov by 5:00 PM, Friday, March 7th. If you do not respond by the deadline, we will presume that your agency has no comment.

We have already circulated State/OES (Turner) testimony, which is due at 4:00 PM Friday.



- Testimony Congo Basin March 03.doc

LRM ID: AER34A

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, D.C. 20503-0001**

Thursday, March 6, 2003

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer - See Distribution below

FROM: John D. Burnim (for) Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

OMB CONTACT: Gillian J. Foster
PHONE: (202)395-3445 FAX: (202)456-9723

SUBJECT: **STATE Oversight Testimony on Saving the Congo Basin: The Stakes, The Plan**

DEADLINE: 5:00 PM Friday, March 7, 2003

In accordance with OMB Circular A-19, OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President. Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts.

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If your response to this request for views is short (e.g., concur/no comment), we prefer that you respond by e-mail or by faxing us this response sheet.

You may also respond by:

- (1) calling the analyst/attorney's direct line (you will be connected to voice mail if the analyst does not answer); or
- (2) faxing us a memo or letter.

Please include the LRM number and subject shown above.

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The following is the response of our agency to your request for views on the above-captioned subject:

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62
DRAFT

Testimony of Walter H. Kansteiner III
Assistant Secretary of State
for African Affairs
on "Saving the Congo Basin: The Stakes, The Plan"
before the House Committee on International Relations
Subcommittee on Africa
March 11, 2003

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to testify here today. Conserving the Congo Basin Forests is a topic that Secretary Powell and I are passionate about. As Secretary Powell informed you during your exchange with him last month during the budget hearings, he had the opportunity to get a first-hand feel for the region's conservation potential and challenges when he visited Gabon last September following President Bongo's announcement of his decision to create a new national park network. As you heard, the visit left quite an impression on the Secretary.

The Congo Basin forest is a global treasure in a region of both great challenge and great opportunity. The forest is not only a "global lung" but a rich store of biodiversity and a source of livelihood for millions. The fate of Africa's forests and natural resources is inextricably linked to questions of governance, national and international peace, security and economic growth. Poor conservation practices and conflict over resource use has the potential to undermine stability and hamper prospects for growth. Conversely, conservation and sound natural resource management can also be a leading edge for making progress in these areas. That is why we consider conserving Africa's irreplaceable natural resources as one of our central priorities in Africa. Sound natural resource management will help promote sustainable trade and economic growth, transparency and openness, and mitigate health threats.

The Congo Basin forest is the second largest area of contiguous tropical forest in the world; the Amazon Basin is the largest. Much of the forest remains relatively intact but pressures and threats to the forest are growing, including from rapid urbanization, uncontrolled timber exploitation and logging, and unsustainable commercial

bushmeat hunting. The lack of capacity and resources for enforcement leave even protected areas vulnerable to poaching and illegal logging.

The good news is that it is not too late for the forests of the Congo Basin, nor are we starting from scratch. The U.S. government, largely through the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and the Smithsonian Institution, the European Union through ECOFAC, and tireless non-governmental organization (NGO) advocates and activists such as the World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, Conservation International, and the African Wildlife Foundation have been active in the region for years. They have demonstrated, with extremely limited resources, that well-designed programs can work.

A new and exciting development in the region is the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), launched by Secretary Powell along with other leaders of the partnership, at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002. The CBFP is a partnership of countries, NGOs, and private businesses dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use and management of the forest. It reflects the Administration's high-level commitment to the Congo Basin Forests and a strengthened commitment by the countries of the region to work in partnership with the international community. The six African countries whose forests are covered by the CBFP are Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo. Our work in the CBFP reflects a shared commitment to forge a new, more productive and effective, way of working with each other in true partnership. It is imperative that we use our scarce resources wisely and not only listen to each other but hear and understand the messages being conveyed, even if they are not always what we think we want to hear.

Each of the six African countries of the Congo Basin Forest region has committed to address the challenge of conserving its natural forest heritage while providing opportunity and income for the people in the region who depend on its natural resources. As economic pressures mount to capitalize on these forests, the countries have made it clear they recognize their important stake in the CBFP.

Just as the CBFP is building on previous international community efforts, it is also building on previous African-led efforts. In 1999, the Yaounde Declaration, signed by the six heads of state of the Congo Basin, set forth strong commitments for regional cooperation to improve resource management, create trans-border protected areas, harmonize forest policies, combat poaching, and develop sustainable use approaches in consultation with rural populations and economic operators. The process launched at Yaounde led to the creation of a Council of Ministers for Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC), which includes members beyond the CBFP countries and is responsible for coordination of forest policy among the member governments. COMIFAC has developed a "Plan of Convergence" and an action plan for the region that will serve as reference points for CBFP activities. Other major forest initiatives in the region have been brought under the COMIFAC umbrella, most notably the African Timber Organization and the Conference on Tropical Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa, which sponsors dialogue with civil society.

We should not delude ourselves into thinking that success is assured. Many African institutions remain fragile and old habits and attitudes about the use and value of the environment do not change overnight. Nevertheless, we have seen striking progress recently.

At the WSSD, Gabon announced the creation of 13 national parks, which encompass ten percent of Gabon's land area, and the Gabonese government is cooperating closely with the U.S. government and environmental organizations to protect its natural heritage. The Republic of Congo has hosted a number of parks and protected areas for some years covering about 12 percent of its territory and is collaborating on an innovative public-private partnership Kabo forest concession to control poaching and ensure sustainable forestry. This forest is part of one of the 11 key landscapes on which the U.S. contribution to the CBFP will focus. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, while the country was still at war, conservation rangers on opposite sides of the lines remained steadfastly at their posts protecting wildlife and forests and easing communications across lines and between the sides. To help focus its participation in CBFP, the parks institute and the ministry for the environment created a task force last month to examine activities for five key landscapes in the country. Cameroon's continues to build capacity in the forestry

sector and civil society is actively pressing for stronger sustainable management of the country's natural resources. In 2001 Cameroon formally protected the Lobeke Park, which is a crucial part of the tri-national Sangha complex, which includes parks in the Central African Republic and Republic of Congo. Equatorial Guinea and the Central African Republic were eager participants in the first organizational meeting of the CBFP in Paris and have declared their commitment to the CBFP.

As the example of the rangers in the Democratic Republic of Congo illustrates, conservation can be a win-win situation that advances broader policy objectives and help build trust, not simply between warring sides but between governments and communities. Conservation is not a people versus animals and trees debate. When wisely pursued, it is a means to ensure that biodiversity is protected AND poverty is reduced through the creation of sustainable economic opportunities. A well-managed protected area can be a source of jobs and a generator of revenue. The conservation of biodiversity can produce revenue as a result of research into natural products that could have health or other applications (such work is being done by the Smithsonian Institution and NIH in Cameroon and they would like to replicate it elsewhere in the region). Responsible mining and forest concessions can ensure both jobs and sustainable resource exploitation to fuel economic growth and trade. Controlling poaching and unsustainable commercial bushmeat trade promotes respect for the rule of law, preserves biodiversity, and mitigates health risks. On the other hand, unsustainable logging practices and continued reliance on bushmeat may have negative health effects. Evidence is mounting that recent Ebola outbreaks in Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon were triggered when hunters and villagers came into contact with infected animals. And malaria-bearing mosquitoes often flourish in the standing pools of newly-cut forests.

Conservation and sound resource management, by definition, require transparency and inclusiveness. The complexities of protecting biodiversity and meeting the sometimes conflicting needs of affected communities can best be addressed through open processes. The programs that the United States supports in the Congo Basin place a premium on these qualities and seek to build a capacity and constituency for conservation among the people of the region. For example, we have supported participatory

mapping exercises of the forest and provided small grants to local NGOs to carry out work such as education and monitoring.

Conservation programs will not overnight produce flourishing democracies, regional cooperation, vibrant civil societies, or accelerating economic growth but they can serve as hopeful and empowering examples that can radiate well beyond the realm of conservation. The process is long and far from linear, but through the CBFP, we are committed to doing all in our power to make the positive vision a reality.

Drafted: Susan Driano AF/EPS 647-4033

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P: A Gordon

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OES/IHA: R Blair ok

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