

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-JUN-1999 08:32:48.00

SUBJECT: Fwd: How to react to the sell-out positions of HRC & AAC? (fwd)

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

It is good to have friends. I thought you might want to see this.

----- Forwarded by Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP on 06/29/99

08:31 AM -----

ECHNDC@aol.com

06/28/99 09:40:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sandra Thurman@eop

cc:

Subject: Fwd: How to react to the sell-out positions of HRC & AAC? (fwd)

because I luv you....\

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

From: aidsact@CritPath.Org@INET@EOPMRX@LNGTWY

*To: aidsact@CritPath.Org@INET@EOPMRX@LNGTWY

Date: 6/27/99 12:43pm

Subject: How to react to the sell-out positions of HRC & AAC? (fwd)

Forwarded message:

>From bobl@poz.com Sat Jun 26 18:30 EDT 1999

Message-Id: <v0313031db399eb0c40b0@[192.168.1.152]>

Mime-Version: 1.0

Date: Fri, 25 Jun 1999 23:11:27 -0400

To: Asia Russell <asia@CritPath.Org>, Julie Davids <jdavids@CritPath.Org>, Paul Davis <pdavis@CritPath.Org>, Eric Sawyer <esawyer@igc.org>, Alan Berkman <DrBerkman@aol.com>, John James <JJJames@aidnews.org>, David Hoos <dxh05@health.state.ny.us>, Richard Jefferys <richard@atdn.org>, Jairo Pedraza <babaluaye@aol.com>,

John Riley <jr273@columbia.edu>, Susan Rodriguez <SueRodrig@aol.com>,

Petra Berrios <pber121518@aol.com>,

Emmaia Gelman <workhoney@hotmail.com>,

Sharon Ann Lynch <salynch@bomc.timeinc.com>,

Emily Winkelstein <emilyrae@dti.net>,

Stephanie Josephson <stephanie1073@yahoo.com>,

Eustacia Smith <eustacial@juno.com>,

Jeanne Bergman <jbergman@dti.net>

From: Bob Lederer <bobl@poz.com>

Subject: How to react to the sell-out positions of HRC & AAC?

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Length: 14561

Friends-

I'm sending this to a limited list of people who've been more involved.

The AIDS Action Council (AAC), which signed on in April to our consensus letter supporting HOPE (which directly challenges Clinton/Gore's South Africa threats), is now turning 360 degrees to join the damage-control brigade. See below for quotes from AAC Executive Director Daniel Zingale. Asia & Eric - do you mind if I forward Asia's email to the whole list? I believe that people should be educated about these "leaders'" treachery, and perhaps some will want to pressure local affiliates/board members. Can someone get us a list of the board members?

As to HRC, they've gone from the direct attack on us in the Wash. Post -- the patent question is a "complicated issue" with "no easy solutions" and "To single out the vice president is not fair" -- to a slick official statement that says mildly critical things about the Administration's policy but actually calls for no change. Plus suddenly, after thundering silence for months, HRC endorses HOPE (without criticizing AGOA) -- probably 'cause they know HOPE has no chance. The release, letter to Gore and letter to Jesse Jr. are all prominently featured on their Web site. (The fools can't even spell President Mbeki's name correctly.)

Others are jumping on the bash-the-activists bandwagon. A favorite ploy is to accuse us of falsely representing the interests of South Africans.

Any thoughts about how to respond to this rising tide of attacks from within "the community"? One response I'm not comfortable using is Asia's "shut up and defer to experts." This precise argument has been used for decades by policy wonks in science, environmentalism, medicine, economics, and other complex fields seeking to silence and exclude grassroots activists from any input into policy. I don't think we should legitimize the elevation of "experts" -- even our "experts." And to say "shut up," while the position behind it is totally valid, sounds arrogant. The core is not that they are ill-informed or should stay quiet til they "bone up"--rather, it's that they are defending an untenable, murderous policy. I'd rather suggest we say -- regardless of who we're opposing (AAC, HRC, etc.) -- something like "Their position is factually and wrong: Black-and-white evidence from the Administration itself proves that the Vice President IS the culprit -- the official who personally delivered the threats to then Deputy President Mbeki. The statements by HRC and AAC show that these so-called leaders certainly don't represent the interests of the communities they claim to. Wherever we go, people with HIV and their advocates are outraged at US policy and strongly in favor of supporting people worldwide demanding treatment access."

What do you all think?

Bob

P.S. Note HRC's request to meet with Gore on this. You can bet that if Gore should ever grant a meeting on these issues, HRC and AAC will be there, and quite possibly we will be excluded, or at minimum, completely outnumbered by sellouts.

>From: Asia Russell <asia@CritPath.Org>

>Subject: Zingale, HRC et. al
>To: pdavis@CritPath.Org (P. Davis), jdavids@CritPath.Org (Julie Davids),
> esawyer@igc.org, bobl@poz.com
>Date: Thu, 24 Jun 1999 07:24:42 -0400 (EDT)
>Cc: workhoney@hotmail.com, rachel.maddow@lincoln.oxford.ac.uk
>MIME-Version: 1.0
>
>Zingale told Eric that he was "behind us" and that AIDS Action's quote was
>botched by a journalist in an earlier article. And now this:
>
>(from June 22 _Sun_ article)
>> "The root of what is wrong in AIDS care is drug pricing, but the vice
>> president is not the culprit -- the drug companies are,"
>
>[since when has AIDS Action done anything to support domestic efforts to
>lower drug prices?]
>
>> said Daniel
>> Zingale, executive director of the AIDS Action Council, the nation's
>> largest lobby on AIDS issues. "Of all the people running for president,
>> Gore seems like an unlikely one to target."
>
>If Zingale is too spineless to stand up to Gore then he should at least
>shut up and defer to experts.
>
>Has anyone called him since the Sun article came out? Has anyone called
>HRC?
>
>Asia
>

>From HRC's website
Human Rights Campaign
<http://www.hrc.org>
:

Vice President Gore and AIDS

FOR RELEASE
Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Protesters have recently accused Vice President Gore of helping pharmaceutical companies to keep AIDS drugs out of reach for the millions of people worldwide who cannot afford their high cost. At issue is a 1997 law passed by the South African Parliament allowing local companies to make, market and sell generic versions of drugs patented by multinational drug companies. For the patent, the South African government would pay royalties to the effected companies. In response, over 40 companies from around the world have sued the government of South Africa, contending that it violates the South African constitution. The decision of the South Africa Court is pending.

HRC opposes any effort by the Clinton Administration to put pressure on the South African government or any other country, which acts within the framework of international trade agreements, to weaken or rescind their effort to get life saving drugs to people who cannot afford them. We call on the Administration and the Vice President to develop a trade policy that balances humanitarian and corporate interests. A one-sided policy that puts

the
interests of pharmaceutical companies ahead of all other concerns is not
acceptable.

The patent and intellectual property rights issue is just one part a much
broader problem. AIDS drugs alone, without better health care delivery
systems, clean water and other basic necessities will not relieve the
suffering. A comprehensive U.S. policy should include increased funding for
international HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs, debt relief
linked to investment in health care infrastructure development and
adherence to
international agreements on intellectual property and patents.

HRC and others in the AIDS community have expressed concern about the
Administration's inadequate response to the global AIDS pandemic. While
the number of people with AIDS worldwide has increased 300% since 1993,
U.S. funding for international AIDS efforts has remained constant. This
month, HRC sent a letter to Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. in support of
his bill, H.R. 772, the Hope for Africa Act, which includes a
comprehensive approach to U.S. policy development. HRC also sent a letter
to Vice President Gore regarding our concerns on both domestic and
international HIV/AIDS policy.

Bob's note about the following: Note that the actual letter to Gore does
not even hint at the criticism expressed above about "a one-sided policy,"
etc. More smoke & mirrors.

HRC's Letter to Vice President Gore

June 22, 1999

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
Vice President of the United States
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

Your record and the record of the Clinton administration on AIDS issues is
certainly a strong one and we appreciate the priority you attach to
addressing the growing needs of people living with HIV and AIDS. Your
leadership on issues like Medicaid expansion and increased funding for
federal HIV and AIDS programs clearly demonstrate your commitment to
fighting and ending this epidemic.

I write to you today because we have some concerns regarding both U.S.
domestic and international AIDS policy, which we would very much like to
discuss with you and your staff. We were very disappointed, as you know,
with the administration's decision last year to certify the efficacy of
needle
exchange while, at the same time, continue the prohibition on the use of
federal funds for these life saving programs. That decision was, in our
view,
contradictory and has not resulted in any less congressional interference

in the issue. Congress prohibited the use of even local and private funding for needle exchange in the District of Columbia last year, and several new bills threaten to similarly restrict programs in other cities around the country.

To be clear, more people will become HIV infected and die as a result of those congressional actions and a unified, clearly articulated Administration position will be essential to reverse and/or stop them.

Unfortunately, the focus on needle exchange over the last two or more years has taken vital attention and energy away from a broader discussion of HIV prevention and, to some extent, HIV care and treatment. Over 40,000 people in this country become infected with HIV each year, and no evidence suggests that this number is declining. Despite that alarming statistic, the United States does not have a comprehensive and well-funded plan to reduce or eliminate new HIV infections. The steady rate of new HIV infections combined with the dramatic reduction in AIDS deaths clearly means that the number of Americans living with HIV is rising rapidly. A comprehensive plan to address the health care needs of that population, increasingly made up of people of color, women, and other groups with historic difficulty accessing health care, is essential. The Ryan White CARE Act, still a vital part of any plan, cannot and was not designed to meet that level of demand. Despite your call to action, Medicaid expansion is not yet a reality.

Regarding international AIDS policy and funding, HRC supports H.R. 772, the Hope for Africa Act, sponsored by Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. An estimated 47 million people around the world are living with HIV and one quarter of all children have been orphaned by AIDS in many sub-Saharan African countries. The United States has a moral obligation to assist foreign countries and generously support international efforts to reduce and end such devastation.

As you well know, HIV and AIDS have overwhelmed entire cities and countries around the world to the point that economic development has ceased. To ignore the connection between economic development and health is counter-productive and we very much support the essential linkage between these two issues in Rep. Jackson's bill. H.R. 772 appropriately sets forth an inclusive approach to addressing the HIV pandemic in Africa by including provisions on debt relief, health care infrastructure development, and adherence to international agreements on intellectual property. Those key components will help ensure not only the wider availability of AIDS drugs, but also the basic health services necessary to successfully administer them.

HRC is also in strong support of increasing the U.S. investment in global HIV and AIDS prevention and care efforts, such as those funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development. In addition to the policies included in H.R. 772, this basic funding must also be part of an overall strategy to address the global AIDS crisis.

It is our view that HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment strategies, whether in South Africa, rural Nebraska, or urban America, must include targeted and sustained prevention messages, knowledge of HIV status, the provision of basic health care and supportive services, and of course,

AIDS-specific drug treatments. We acknowledge and appreciate the work that you, President Clinton, Secretary Shalala, Sandra Thurman and many others in the Administration have done to address those issues. No other Administration has done as much. However, a great deal more needs to be undertaken as the epidemic changes, and in many ways worsens both here in the United States and around the world.

Your relationship with South African President Mbeke, your leadership position within Administration, and of course your role as a presidential candidate, combine to make your position and plans to address these issues essential to developing sound and comprehensive policy. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you in greater detail. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Birch
Executive Director

HRC's Letter to Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr.

June 22, 1999

The Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jackson:

We are writing to express the strong support of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) for H.R. 772, the Hope for Africa Act. At a time when 47 million people around the world are living with HIV and when one quarter of all children have been orphaned by AIDS in many sub-Saharan African countries, we applaud your leadership on this very important issue. As you well know, HIV and AIDS have devastated entire cities and countries around the world to the point that economic development has ceased. To ignore the connection between economic development and health is counter-productive and we very much support the essential linkage between these two issues in your bill.

Like you, it is our view that HIV and AIDS treatment strategies, whether in South Africa, rural Nebraska, or Chicago, must include the provision of basic health care and supportive services in addition to AIDS-specific drug treatments. H.R. 772 appropriately sets forth such an inclusive approach to addressing the HIV pandemic in Africa by including provisions on debt relief, health care infrastructure development, and adherence to international agreements on intellectual property. Those key components will help ensure not only the wider availability of AIDS drugs, but also the basic health services necessary to successfully administer them.

HRC is also in strong support of increasing the U.S. investment in global HIV and AIDS prevention and care efforts, such as those funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development. In addition to the policies

included in your bill, this basic funding must also be part of an overall strategy to address the global AIDS crisis.

We would certainly welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss the Hope for Africa Act and other HIV- and AIDS-related issues. We appreciate your leadership on these issues and look forward to working closely with you and your staff in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Winnie Stachelberg
Political Director

Seth Kilbourn
Deputy Director for Health and Family Policy

Bob Lederer
Senior Editor, POZ Magazine
349 W. 12th Street, 2d fl.
New York, NY 10014

phone: (212) 242-2163 x216 (24-hour voicemail)
fax: (212) 675-8505
email: bobl@poz.com

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-JUN-1999 08:33:12.00

SUBJECT: Fwd: When should we hold a DC press conference?

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP on 06/29/99
08:32 AM -----

ECHNDC@aol.com

06/28/99 09:45:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sandra Thurman@eop

cc:

Subject: Fwd: When should we hold a DC press conference?

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

From: aidsact@CritPath.Org@INET@EOPMRX@LNGTWY

*To: aidsact@CritPath.Org@INET@EOPMRX@LNGTWY

Date: 6/27/99 12:59pm

Subject: Re: When should we hold a DC press conference?

I would support and work ion this press conference, especially if it was delayed by one week, and, B) was used as a place to announce a massive national action on the gore 2000 headquarters in two months.

I would work on a press conference that spought to do the following:

1. release the sign on letters
2. restate the threee demands we have been bringing to the gore folks in recent weeks.
3. announce a deadline for gore to respond or else face a shut down of his campaign headquarters in 12 weeks.

ACT UP Phila hasn't yet considered this prop[osal (for a big DC action), and it is perhaps 50/50 that the groups will accept it. but that is the proposal I will be working on. we do have several other campaigns that are time bound and have been delayed during the gore fests.

Separately, due to the intense work of getting together our action this

Monday, i have not done much to contact HRC or AIDS Action and either win them over or at least contain or reduce obnoxious press statements.

Frankly, it seems like HRC has rolled over quite nicely, where they might even help a little bit. At least they seem more likely to stay out of the way, and less likely to say damaging things to the press.

Also, I have so far failed to pursue setting up meetings with Bradley, Dole, and Bush. We should.

If there is anyone who would like to handle one of these tasks, please let me know. I can do a little work on this later in the week.

Paul Davis
ACT UP Phila.
215.731.1844 or 215.474.6886

>
>With the growing attacks on us and distortions of our position -- while
>there's continued media interest -- I think we could have success with a
>press conference at the National Press Club. My idea is to hold it some
>time after the deadline Jamie set of Wed. June 30 to collect sign-ons to
>the letter to Gore. (There are already 200, mostly academics not in the AIDS
>world; several are South African; I hope everyone will make a big push in
>the next few days to get more well-known names in the AIDS world). Jamie is
>available on Wed., July 7 or Fri., July 9. Media professionals have always
>told me that Fridays are bad to get coverage, so how about that July 7
>date?
>
>Here a suggested format:
>
>THE NEWS: 300 AIDS and health care leaders announce open letter denouncing
>VP Gore's threats against South Africa, plus a separate letter from Health
>GAP Coalition to all announced Presidential candidates of both parties
>requesting that they declare their support for changing US policy in this
>area
>
>THE SPEAKERS: Try for biggest names who signed on, including Ralph Nader.
>Is there a courageous Congressperson who will get on board, perhaps a
>member of the Black Caucus? What about Jesse Jackson Jr.? PLUS diverse
>activists involved in the campaign and knowledgeable about the issues,
>including women, people of color, PWAs (overlapping categories) and -- if
>we can persuade them to speak out -- someone from the South African embassy
>or a South African AIDS advocate who lives in the Northeastern US (to
>minimize travel costs); perhaps Randall Robinson of TransAfrica - who could
>call him? Of course the grand total of all speakers should not exceed
>around 6.
>
>THE PACKET: Besides our usual literature, we should prepare a
>point-by-point rebuttal of the lies and distortions streaming out of the
>White House, the Gore campaign and the compromised AIDS and gay
>establishment.
>
>Meanwhile, can we divide up the labor of following up to get more
>well-known signees on the list (I'm not talking about broaching the
>subject of speaking at any press conference, just the signature itself).
>Asia and I already divided some names from the sign-on letter supporting

>HOPE, plus some new ones:
>
>If I recall, Asia said she'd email and then call:
>
>HERO/Baltimore
>NAPWA
>Nat. Minority AIDS Council
>APLA
>who else?
>
>
>I said I'd email and then call:
>
>GMHC (Pablo Colon or Colin Robinson)
>Body Positive
>Latino Commission on AIDS
>Leading for Life (Mario Cooper)
>Phill Wilson
>Women Alive/LA (Mary Lucey)
>Ferd Egan, AIDS Coordinator of LA
>I'll ask Ed Shaw to call Councilperson Phil Reed
>
>Plus I've further committed to:
>
>Kerry Lobel of NGLTF (who gave a supportive quote to Doug Ireland for POZ)
>Tom Duane (ditto; I'll see if he'd call Christine Quinn and Margarita Lopez)
>
>Since agreeing to this, I've come to realize that this is too many phone
>calls for me to handle by Wednesday (especially since POZ is going into a
>production week). Can anyone help by naming specific ones on this list that
>you can call? And are there other key players who are LIKELY TO SIGN that
>are not on this list? Any sympathetic politicians in San Fran?
>
>We especially need to start doing outreach to African American non-AIDS
>leaders. I'll talk to Mario about that. Perhaps we can go to Randall
>Robinson of TransAfrica and he can give us entree elsewhere. Locally, is it
>time to go to Sharpton? Who else?
>
>
>
>Bob Lederer
>Senior Editor, POZ Magazine
>349 W. 12th Street, 2d fl.
>New York, NY 10014
>
>phone: (212) 242-2163 x216 (24-hour voicemail)
>fax: (212) 675-8505
>email: bobl@poz.com
>
>
>
>

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-JUN-1999 08:42:16.00

SUBJECT: guidance

TO: Ruby Shamir (CN=Ruby Shamir/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

AIDS Drugs

for Africa

June 25, 1999

Context: In 1997 South Africa's National Assembly passed legislation granting the Health Minister unspecified powers related to pharmaceutical patents. In response to this legislation, more than 40 companies -- roughly one third from America, one third from Europe, one third from South Africa -- challenged the law in South African Court, contending that this law violates the constitution of South Africa. The litigation is still ongoing.

At the same time, the U.S. Trade Representative was concerned that the ambiguity in the law could allow for actions in violation of the WTO-TRIPS agreement (the agreement reached by the 134-member WTO on protection of intellectual property). As a result, USTR named South Africa to the 301 Special Watch List. The watch list (which is not attached to sanctions) is the lowest level of three designations included in the report USTR produces every April. The report's purpose is to signal U.S. concern on intellectual property rights protection offered to U.S. goods by U.S. trading partners.

The Vice President -- in his meeting with Deputy President Mbeki in August 1998 -- proposed that the two work toward a solution within a framework that would include parallel importing and compulsory licensing, so long as they were done consistent with international agreements (TRIPS). But progress of negotiations has been slow because of worries on both sides about prejudicing the outcome of the ongoing litigation.

AIDS activists have charged that the Vice President -- in order to curry favor with drug companies -- has threatened severe trade sanctions against South Africa. These activists have been given credible airing in the media in spite of underlying facts that disprove their points. Namely: Early in 1999, drug company representatives pushed to raise South Africa's status on the 301 Special Watch List from the lowest level to the highest level. The highest designation -- if imposed -- would require South Africa to resolve the issue to U.S. satisfaction within a set period of time or face trade sanctions. As reported in a Tuesday, June 22 story in the Baltimore Sun, the Office of the Vice President strongly opposed the drug industry recommendation, and the April 30 report -- rather than raising the designation -- kept South Africa on the watch list.

AIDS activists have said the Vice President has threatened trade sanctions against South Africa if they go forward with plans to produce lower-cost AIDS drugs. Is that fair?

ú As co-chair of the U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission, the Vice President has made an immense personal investment of time and effort in building better U.S. ties with South Africa ¶) working to improve health, expand trade, build the economy.

ú Why would he be trying to undercut his own efforts?

ú The Vice President has taken a special interest in South Africa¶,s efforts to fight AIDS, and has kept the crisis clearly in mind as we have worked to resolve our trade differences.

ú As Susan Rice, our Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, said in the press this week (Baltimore Sun, Tuesday June 22): the Vice President took the position that the health crisis in South Africa needed to be taken into account, and he led the way led the way in opposing trade sanctions pushed by the pharmaceutical industry.

ú These activists ¶) as the Washington Post said in their Thursday editorial ¶) are ¶manipulating the facts.¶8 They should understand that the Vice President is one of the strongest advocates in this administration for the issues they care about.

ú They should be working with him instead of against him.

The Vice President cares nothing for millions who are dying.

It would be hard to find someone in the U.S. Government with a more active record of support for the fight against AIDS in South Africa.

Since 1995, the Vice President has co-chaired with Deputy President Mbeki the U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission. In that context, he has had a central role in bringing to South Africa the best of American knowledge, effort and ideas in the fight against AIDS.

Under the auspices of the Commission, the U.S. has funded a South African effort to track the disease ¶)you can¶,t fight it if you can¶,t track it. The Commission has also worked to expand awareness and improve prevention.

The Vice President has brought high-level U.S. health officials on his trips to South Africa ¶)Secretary Shalala and Surgeon General Satcher -- where they have spoken with President Mandela¶,s cabinet on the issue of AIDS.

Just a few months ago, Vice President Gore took Surgeon General David Satcher with him to South Africa for another meeting of the Commission.

When Vice President Gore appeared with Deputy President Mbeki last February on national TV in South Africa, he was wearing an AIDS ribbon, done in African beadwork, given to him by Mbeki after the two had spent hours the previous day in a one-on-one discussion on AIDS.

It is hard to believe that the Deputy President would present the Vice President such a gift unless they were united in partnership in the fight against AIDS.

The Vice President and Deputy President Mbeki spent a substantial part of their time at the press conference talking about the importance of raising awareness of AIDS, and the Vice President urged leaders in every sector of South African society to add their voices to Mr. Mbeki¶,s in the call for

greater awareness and action against AIDS.

During those meetings, did the Vice President threaten trade sanctions against South Africa?

No, he did not. The Vice President proposed working toward a resolution within a framework that would include compulsory licensing and parallel importing, as long as they were done in line with international agreements.

What's the basis for the dispute?

The issue arose in 1997, when South Africa's National Assembly passed legislation granting the Health Minister unspecified powers related to pharmaceutical patents. The ambiguity raised concern that actions taken under that law might not be compliant with the WTO-TRIPS agreement.

In response to this legislation, more than 40 companies -- roughly one third from America, one third from Europe, one third from South Africa -- have challenged the law in South African Court, contending that this law violates the constitution of South Africa. This case is now being heard by the South Africa Constitutional Court. The ongoing litigation has slowed efforts to resolve it on a government to government level.

But didn't the Vice President order a sweeping new review of South African trade laws on April 30, 1999?

No, he did not. The Baltimore Sun's June 22 story pointed out this fallacy. This charge grows out of a misunderstanding of the United States Trade Representative's Annual 301 report -- issued April 30, 1999.

The USTR is mandated by Congress to publish a report every year at the end of April, detailing which of America's trading partners may not be affording full protection to U.S. intellectual property rights. As a result of the passage of amendments to South Africa's Medicines Act, and the provisions that could lead to the loss of U.S. intellectual property rights, the U.S.T.R named South Africa to the "Special 301 watch list." This designation means what it says: "The U.S. is seeing some things that give it concern, signaling that concern to the South African government, and indicating that it will be watching further developments. It is the mildest designation in the report, and is not attached to sanctions.

There are two higher designations on the report -- the priority watch list, and the highest, the priority foreign country list. If a country is named a priority foreign country, it means that the country must -- within a set period of time -- resolve the trade dispute to the satisfaction of the United States or face stiff trade sanctions. South Africa is not close to that status.

But clearly, the Vice President is in the pocket of the pharmaceutical industry

No, he is not. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers argued this spring that the USTR annual report -- due to come out again at the end of April -- should designate South Africa (because of the Medicines Act) as a priority foreign country, the most severe designation. This would have required South Africa to resolve the issue to U.S. satisfaction within a

short period of time, or face sanctions and a loss of foreign aid. As reported in the June 22 Baltimore Sun, the Vice President's office strongly opposed the recommendation. The U.S.T.R. agreed, and its April 30, 1999 report renewed South Africa's status on the watch list.

But the Vice President is trying to stop South Africa from doing things that are legal under WTO/TRIPS.

No, he is not. The U.S. is seeking clarification of the law ¶) about how it will be implemented. The point of discussions has been to work with South Africa to seek assurances that actions taken under the law will be in line with international agreements.

So where does the Vice President stand?

The Vice President believes we need to use all available means to deliver high-quality, affordable medicines to those who need them. And we should do it within the legal limits established by TRIPS. Specifically, the Vice President has no objection to parallel exporting or compulsory licensing of pharmaceuticals in South Africa, so long as it is consistent with TRIPS.

But all the South Africans want to do is what is already their legal right under TRIPS.

Section 15c of the Medicines Act gives the Health Minister unspecified powers that could go beyond what has been agreed to under TRIPS.

But the State Department Report says that the Vice President was part of an effort to put pressure on the South Africans.

First, the State Department report ¶) dated February 5 -- was written in response to members of Congress who had expressed concern that the U.S. wasn't being tough enough with South Africa. They had already suspended U.S. foreign assistance to the central Government of South Africa, and said they would not restore the aid until they received a State Department report detailing what the U.S. was doing to resolve the issue. They had already rejected an earlier report ¶) apparently for not being tough enough.

Second, the only language in the report that names Vice President Gore comes on pages 6 and 7 ¶) under the heading ¶&The Vice President's Plan for a Negotiated Solution.¶8 It reads as follows:

¶ &During the August 1998 U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission meetings in Washington, Vice President Gore made the issue of intellectual property rights protection, and pharmaceutical patents in particular, a central focus of his discussions with Deputy President Mbeki. They agreed on a basis for a mutually satisfactory, Government-to-Government negotiated solution to the impasse.¶8

That is the only mention of Vice President Gore's actions in the entire report.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-JUN-1999 08:43:30.00

SUBJECT: baltimore sun piece

TO: Ruby Shamir (CN=Ruby Shamir/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

AIDS protesters track Gore on campaign

trail

Activists want change in S. Africa policy

By Jonathan Weisman

Sun National Staff

2000

Africa, and

production

southern Africa.

week have

consciousness,

stakes when

czar.

events until

they say favors

life-and-death needs

House drive to

bypass U.S. patent

dying of

pharmaceuticals

group ACT

than public

WASHINGTON -- It is an unlikely first issue of the

presidential campaign: the AIDS epidemic in South

whether Vice President Al Gore has helped block the

and importation of cheap, generic AIDS drugs to

But three jarring protests at Gore appearances last

pushed the issue to the front of the vice president's

infuriating Gore's White House staff and raising the

AIDS activists meet today with the White House AIDS

The activists have pledged to disrupt Gore's campaign

they win a shift in administration trade policy, which

the powerful pharmaceutical industry over the

of Africa's poor. Protesters say Gore has led a White

force South Africa to scuttle an effort that would

laws to provide life-saving medicine to many Africans

AIDS.

"Gore has been carrying out the dirty work of the

companies," said Eric Sawyer, co-founder of the AIDS

UP New York. "He's putting a higher priority on trade

health."

But Gore aides -- and even some AIDS activists -- say

the
to forge a
addressing an
assistant secretary of
in opposing
the

protesters have distorted the vice president's efforts
compromise between protecting U.S. patent law and
AIDS crisis in southern Africa. Susan Rice, the
state for Africa, asserted that Gore has "led the way"
trade sanctions and other drastic actions pushed by
pharmaceutical industry.

pricing, but the vice
are," said Daniel
Council, the nation's
running for

"The root of what is wrong in AIDS care is drug
president is not the culprit -- the drug companies
Zingale, executive director of the AIDS Action
largest lobby on AIDS issues. "Of all the people
president, Gore seems like an unlikely one to target."

Africa wants to
to block
disrupted his rallies
Kills." A rally is
Gore will be

To many AIDS activists, the issue is simple: South
lower the price of AIDS treatments, and Gore is trying
those efforts. Three times last week, protesters
with taunts and signs proclaiming, "Gore's Greed
planned Monday in Philadelphia outside a hotel where
raising campaign cash.

changes its

"We're not going to go away until this administration
policy," Sawyer said.

minister
produce generic
drugs. With
price of AIDS
called its actions

Drug companies cry foul

In 1997, South Africa passed a law granting its health
authority to let local pharmaceutical companies
versions of AIDS drugs, despite U.S. patents on those
3.2 million South Africans infected with HIV, and the
drugs out of reach for most of them, the government
necessary and legal.

rushed to
and to court in
executives won an

But U.S. and European drug companies cried foul. They
Congress and the U.S. trade representative for help,
South Africa to try to block the law. Industry
injunction.

\$500 million for
to companies'

With the cost of drug development soaring to up to
one new medication, patent rights have become critical
survival, industry officials say.

industry," said Jeff
lobbying arm.

"Patent protection is vitally important to this
Trehwitt, a spokesman for Pharmaceutical Research and
Manufacturers of America, or Pharma, the industry's

New Jersey
law requiring the
to suspend or
foreign aid

At the industry's behest, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, a
Republican, slipped language into last year's budget
State Department to report to Congress on its efforts
repeal the South African law. In the meantime, no U.S.
could be released to South Africa's government.

February that is
"making use of
including the vice
the issue "a
Deputy
Gore met with
the AIDS

The State Department came back with a report in
now haunting Gore. The report said the nation was
the full panoply of leverage in our arsenal,"
president, to gut the South African law. Gore had made
central focus" of his meeting with then-South African
President Thabo Mbeki in August, the report stated.
Mbeki in February and again brought up the issue. To
activists, this document was the smoking gun.

we plan to
Philadelphia.

"Since Gore is the orchestrator of this whole policy,
continue," said Asia Russell, a member of ACT UP
"We're going to escalate until these policies change."

Wrong about role, aides say

role. Leon S.
adviser, who attended
president, said Gore
Africa shop for
import them in
the drug

But Gore aides say the activists are wrong about his
Fuerth, the vice president's national security
both meetings with the future South African
offered to discuss an import agreement to let South
the best price for AIDS drugs worldwide and then
bulk. The offer "would likely be controversial with
companies," Fuerth said, but Gore favored "a mutually

acceptable

solution."

facts. In an
that he had
sweeping new

And Gore aides said AIDS activists are bending other
open letter to Gore, for instance, activists asserted
authorized the U.S. trade representative to conduct "a
review of South Africa policies" on April 30.

representative's annual
more than 70
Africa was one of
"watch list," the

In fact, the April 30 report was the U.S. trade
report on intellectual property rights that looked at
countries. Gore had nothing to do with it. South
37 countries placed on the trade representative's
lowest-priority category.

pushed the
foreign country,"
disputed policy before
from Gore's

Trewhitt acknowledged that the pharmaceutical industry
administration to label South Africa a "priority
which would set a deadline for it to change its
trade sanctions would take effect. But under pressure
office, the trade representative refused to do so.

crisis in South
said.

"The vice president took the position that the health
Africa really needed to be taken into account," Rice

But AIDS activists remain unconvinced.

director of the
critic on the
for campaign
[Frelinghuysen]."

Gore's deputies "want it both ways," said James Love,
Consumer Project on Technology and a leading Gore
issue. "They want to sit around with Pharma, negotiate
contributions, then blame everything on Rodney

shortsighted. Gore
for more
noted that

The activists concede that their actions may be
has been generally friendly to AIDS groups, pushing
spending on AIDS research and patient care. Sawyer

voters,
Sawyer says, has

ACT UP's 1994 campaign against incumbent New York Gov.
Mario M. Cuomo might have turned off gay and minority
helping elect George E. Pataki, a Republican who,
been far less attentive.

said. "This is a
It cannot be

"But this is a crisis of huge proportions," Sawyer
genocide of 30 million to 40 million people of color.
seen as anything else."

Originally published on Jun 22 1999

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-JUN-1999 08:33:31.00

SUBJECT: Fwd: "AIDS Drugs for Africa" policy recommendations

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP on 06/29/99
08:33 AM -----

ECHNDC@aol.com

06/28/99 09:56:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sandra Thurman@eop

cc:

Subject: Fwd: "AIDS Drugs for Africa" policy recommendations

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

From: aidsact@CritPath.Org@INET@EOPMRX@LNGTWY

*To: aidsact@CritPath.Org@INET@EOPMRX@LNGTWY

Date: 6/28/99 1:32am

Subject: "AIDS Drugs for Africa" policy recommendations

These are the demands given to the White House & Gore Campaign staffers
that we (the colation members) have met with in the last week.

Just a refresher.

Paul Davis

ACT UP Phila

Forwarded message:

>From pdavis Wed Jun 23 01:58 EDT 1999

>From: "P. Davis" <pdavis>

>Message-Id: <199906230558.BAA02379@tensegrity.critpath.org>

>Subject: "AIDS Drugs for Africa" policy recommendations

>For ACT UP Philadelphia and other grassroots organizations around the
>nation to cease zaps, actions, and political work targeting Candidate
>Gore, substantial progress on the following would be required:

>

>1. Drug Access in Developing Nations:

> A) Gore, as VP and US Chair of the Bi-National Commission on South
>Africa must cease threats of trade sanctions against South Africa and
>other developing nations that are attempting to provide access to

>essential AIDS medications through TRIPS-compliant measures for compulsory
>licensing and parallel importing.

> B) The South African government must be allowed to implement its
>Medicines and Related Substances Act without opposition from the US Trade
>Representative or other Administration departments or officials.

> C) South Africa must be removed from the USTR's 301 Watch List,
>and the out-of-cycle review of intellectual property practices scheduled
>for September 1999 must be canceled.

>
>2. The Administration must stop pushing for passage of the Rangel/Crane
>AGOA, or at minimum, work to incorporate most of the features of the HOPE
>Act into a compromise measure. Promises of later support for new
>legislation is not an acceptable compromise.

>

(between here & #3, these comments are just FYI, not demands)

>Without active support from the Administration, AGOA could very well fail
>on its own. Especially in the Senate, southern labor represents a strong
>opposition to AGOA; there is currently opposition from members of both
>parties.

>There is substantial opposition from constituencies the campaign
>needs in addition to AIDS activists, including UNITE, Teamsters, and
>environmental organizations.

>

>3. The U.S. should allow the World Health Organization (or a similar
>organization) to provide essential AIDS medications which the U.S.
>government owns or retains substantial rights to at or below cost to
>developing nations. These drugs include ddI, d4T, and 3TC.

>

>The federal government holds patents on and rights to many life saving
>medications developed with tax dollars they are U.S. funded inventions.
>This Administration can exercise its rights as the funders of such vital
>inventions, making them available to people in developing nations through
>international bodies.

>

>Contact: Paul Davis,
>ACT UP Philadelphia, Health Gap Coalition
>215.474.6886
>215.731.1844 ACT UP
>215.731.1845 Fax

>

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-JUN-1999 16:33:32.00

SUBJECT: Re: gorembekiaids

TO: RMkhondo@aol.com (RMkhondo@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

GOREMBEKIAIDS exwashington

By Rich Mkhondo, Washington Bureau, Independent Foreign Service

WASHINGTON, July 1, 1999 (IFS)

(URGENT FEATURE/OPED FOR DAILIES ONLY)

In their last joint press conference in Cape Town's Kirstenbosch Gardens five months ago, US Vice President Al Gore and President Thabo Mbeki were both wearing **** AIDS ribbons, done in ornate African beadwork, to demonstrate their common fight against AIDS. Mbeki had made a gift of the ribbon to Gore after their discussion of the AIDS crisis in South Africa ¶) as a sign of solidarity.*****

****But if certain protestors are to be believed, that show of solidarity was just an act. They allege that Gore has been threatening President Thabo Mbeki with trade sanctions if South Africa goes ahead with legal efforts to provide lower-cost medicines to its people. His accusers say he is favouring drug-makers profits ***** over the lives of millions of South Africans infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS.

The activists have pledged to disrupt Gore's campaign events until they have won a shift in the US administration's trade policy.

***** What gives? Why would the U.S. Vice President ¶) who has invested so much time and effort in building ties to South Africa -- try to hurt the economy and damage the health of a nation he has worked to befriend. *****

His accusers say he is selling out for drug-makers' campaign contributions.

A closer look at the facts suggests that AIDS activists, who have heckled him during his campaign appearances and sought to drown him out with chants of "Gore's Greed Kills", may indeed be *** as the Washington Post has said ¶) ¶) &manipulating the facts¶ 8 about the Vice President¶ ,s efforts to both provide lower-cost medicines in South Africa and protect the intellectual property rights that led to the development of the medicines in the first place. ****

Some Gore supporters in the AIDS community say the real culprits are pharmaceutical companies.

US pharmaceutical companies see the Medicines and Related Substances Control Amendments Act -- which allows South Africa's health minister to bring in less-expensive imported AIDS drugs or locally produced generics -- as an infringement of their patent protections.

Two of the main companies producing the drugs -- Bristol-Myers

Squibb and Glaxo Wellcome -- have given the bulk of their corporate contributions to the Republican Party in recent years.

The South African law angered the U.S. pharmaceuticals industry, which fears that widespread licensing of its products will lead to a global "gray market" in low-priced drugs and undermine its profits and incentive to spend on costly research. "It is a form of patent piracy," said Thomas Bombelles, of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (Pharma), the industry trade group. "It's stealing." It is this sentiment that has prompted dozens of American and European pharmaceuticals giants to challenge the law in a South African court, where they recently won a temporary injunction.

Here, the pharmaceutical companies, led by Pharma, wrote to United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, urging that in her annual review of foreign trade barriers, she should label South Africa a "priority foreign country," which would set a deadline for it to change its disputed policy before trade sanctions would take effect.

But Gore strongly urged Barshefsky to reject the drug company recommendation, and South Africa remained on the "watch list" the lowest designation in the annual review.

Susan Rice, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, confirmed that Gore has "led the way" in opposing trade sanctions and other drastic actions pushed by the pharmaceutical industry.. "The vice president took the position that the health crisis in South Africa really needed to be taken into account," Rice has said.

****But the AIDS activists are sticking to their story, even where it is easily disproved. They have written in a public letter that Gore authorized a "sweeping new review of South Africa policies" on April 30. The so-called "sweeping new review" was the 1999 USTR annual review that kept South Africa on the watch list, where it had been the year before. And the "review" was not authorized by Gore at all. It was ordered by Congress, which called for the annual review in a law passed in the 1970s.

In another gap in their story, it is not Gore, but Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, who is clearly doing the work of the drug companies. The Congressman demanded that the US government stop development aid to South Africa until Pretoria has repealed its Medicines Act.

When Frelinghuysen, whose state of New Jersey is home to many pharmaceutical giants, could not get his wishes, he -- at the request of the pharmaceutical industry -- inserted language into the U.S. foreign aid bill for 1999 that reads: "none of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for assistance for the central Government of the Republic of South Africa, until the Secretary of State reports in writing (on the steps being taken to) negotiate the repeal, suspension, or termination of Section 15 (c) of South Africa's Medicines and Related Substances Control Amendment Act No. 90 of 1997."

The resulting ten-page report described only one specific action of the Vice President's. It said that in his August 1998 meeting with Mbeki, the

two ¶ agreed on a basis for a mutually satisfactory, Government-to-Government negotiated solution to the impasse.¶ 8

Protestors relying on this passage and a lot of imagination cite the report as proof of the Vice President¶,s efforts to threaten sanctions against South Africa on behalf of the pharmaceutical companies. Gore defenders reject the story, citing Gore¶,s longtime commitment to South Africa, and his actions opposing drug company efforts to seek sanctions against South Africa.

Leon Fuerth, Gore¶,s National Security Advisor, says Gore understands that AIDS ¶ is a major threat to the welfare and even the future stability¶ 8 of South Africa. According to Fuerth, the Vice President has proposed to President Mbeki a framework that would provide South Africans with lower-cost medicines, in a way consistent with international agreements.

Progress toward a resolution has been slowed by worries on both sides about prejudicing ongoing litigation. But Gore said recently, in a June 25 letter to the Congressional Black Caucus, that he ¶ supports South Africa¶,s efforts to enhance health care for its people ¶) including efforts to engage in compulsory licensing and parallel importing of pharmaceuticals, consistent with international agreements.¶ 8

Meanwhile, the debate continues, as the protestors find themselves taking some criticism where they were hoping for support. As AIDS Action Council Director Daniel Zingale said of the protestors: "They missed the mark. The true culprit is not Al Gore but the drug companies"

End here?

Given that an estimated 6 million South Africans are infected with HIV, compared with about 1 million in the United States, medicines in South Africa are indeed among the most expensive in the world, ranking in the top five, and accounted for 30 percent of medical costs in the private sector. More than R2-billion, or 11 percent, of South Africa's health budget is spent on medicines.

On the other hand, many patients in the US use a "cocktail" of three AIDS drugs often costing more than \$1,000 a month. Sure, South African patients may buy the cocktail for about \$800 a month, but the new law -- which has yet to take effect because of a court challenge -- would pave the way for far lower prices.

For example, AZT, a drug made by Glaxo-Wellcome that has been proven effective in inhibiting transmission of HIV from pregnant women to their fetuses, costs about \$240 a month in South Africa. Indian drug firms manufacture a generic version of the drug that costs \$48 a month. Jamie Love, director of the Washington-based Consumer Project on Technology, estimates the price of most AIDS-related drugs could be reduced 50 percent to 90 percent if local firms were allowed to produce generic versions to counter national health emergencies.

AIDS activists have manipulated the facts in what is actually a much more complicated but interesting debate. The

patent matter is a complicated issue with no easy solutions. But to single out Gore is unfair.

END 99-07-01 independent foreign service

NNNN

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-JUN-1999 13:04:23.00

SUBJECT: gorembekiaids

TO: Erica J. Barks-Ruggles (CN=Erica J. Barks-Ruggles/OU=NSC/O=EOP@EOP [NSC])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Thomas M. Rosshirt/OVP on 06/29/99
01:04 PM -----

RMkhondo@aol.com

06/29/99 12:48:57 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas M. Rosshirt/OVP

cc:

Subject: gorembekiaids

GOREMBEKIAIDS exwashington

By Rich Mkhondo, Washington Bureau, Independent Foreign Service

WASHINGTON, July 1, 1999 (IFS)

(URGENT FEATURE/OPED FOR DAILIES ONLY)

In their last joint press conference in Cape Town's Kirstenbosch Gardens five months ago, US Vice President Al Gore and President Thabo Mbeki wore lapel pins dedicated to the fight against AIDS. They spoke movingly about their countries' joint efforts to curb the dreaded disease.

Now Gore's political enemies and health, AIDS activists and groups such as Essential Action, ACT UP Philadelphia, Public Citizen's Health Research Group and Public Campaign, accuse him of favouring drug-makers' profits over the lives of millions of South Africans infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS.

They say the 2000 Democratic Party presidential candidate has threatened trade sanctions against South Africa's aim to reproduce low-cost generic versions of patented drugs used to treat AIDS. The activists have pledged to disrupt Gore's campaign events until they have won a shift in the US administration's trade policy.

What gives? How could the US Vice President -- who recently called Mbeki and congratulated him on his inauguration as president, expressing confidence in the future of the South African-American friendship and adding that "America is fortunate to have such a partner and I am fortunate to have such a friend" -- play behind-the-scenes a role in a trade dispute over the cost of drugs in South Africa.

His political enemies in the upcoming presidential elections accuse Gore of selling out for drug-makers' campaign contributions.

Gore's aides say his critics, political enemies and AIDS activists are ill-informed, adding he has actually proposed a framework to help make these drugs available "more affordably".

A closer look at the facts confirm that AIDS activists, who have heckled him during his campaign appearances and sought to drown him out with chants of "Gore's Greed Kills", have indeed manipulated and distorted the facts and the vice president's efforts to forge a compromise between protecting US patent law and addressing an AIDS crisis in southern Africa.

The real culprits are pharmaceutical companies and enemies of free trade and ultra protectionists led by conservative Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen.

US pharmaceutical companies see the Medicines and Related Substances Control Amendments Act -- which allows South Africa's health minister to bring in less-expensive imported AIDS drugs or locally produced generics -- as an infringement of their patent protections.

Two of the main companies producing the drugs -- Bristol-Myers Squibb and Glaxo Wellcome -- have given the bulk of their corporate contributions to the Republican Party in recent years.

The South African law angered the U.S. pharmaceuticals industry, which fears that widespread licensing of its products will lead to a global "gray market" in low-priced drugs and undermine its profits and incentive to spend on costly research. "It is a form of patent piracy," said Thomas Bombelles, of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (Pharma), the industry trade group. "It's stealing." It is this sentiment that has prompted dozens of American and European pharmaceuticals giants to challenge the law in a South African court, where they recently won a temporary injunction.

Here, the pharmaceutical companies, led by Pharma, wrote to United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky and Gore, urging them that in their annual review of foreign trade barriers, they should label South Africa a "priority foreign country," which would set a deadline for it to change its disputed policy before trade sanctions would take effect.

But under pressure from Gore's office, Barshefsky refused to do so. "The vice president took the position that the health crisis in South Africa really needed to be taken into account," said Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Susan Rice.

But the AIDS activists are bending the facts. They say Gore authorised Barshefsky to conduct "a sweeping new review of South Africa policies" on April 30.

In fact, the April 30 report was the U.S. trade representative's annual report on intellectual property rights that looked at more than 70 countries. Gore had nothing to do with it. To confirm Rice's view, South Africa was one of 37 countries placed on the trade representative's "watch list," the lowest-priority category.

In another distortion of facts to damage Gore's bid for the presidency, it was not Gore as the AIDS activists claim, but

Frelinghuysen, who under pressure from his heavy pharmaceutical constituency in New Jersey, demanded that the US government stop development aid to South Africa until Pretoria has repealed its Medicines Act.

When Frelinghuysen, whose state of New Jersey is home to many pharmaceutical giants, could not get his wishes, he forced the State Department to insert a rider or clause in a report to the US Congress saying the US administration was "making use of the full panoply of leverage in our arsenal, including the vice president, to gut the South African law. The report said during his meeting with then Deputy President Mbeki last August, Gore made the issue a "central focus of an assiduous, concerted campaign" by top US officials to persuade South Africa to change the law.

However, to the AIDS activists, this document was the smoking gun to prove Gore's underhand tactics and insensitivity toward the scourge of AIDS.

The transcript of the Mbeki-Gore meeting contained no threats by Gore. Actually Gore assured Mbeki and his colleagues that he realises that the disease "is a major threat to the welfare and even the future stability" of South Africa. Gore has pledged his support for South Africa's Partnership Against AIDS Campaign, launched by Mbeki on October 9 last year.

The US will support the South African Government's HIV/Aids programme by providing R59,2 million over five years, through the US Agency for International Development (USAid).

In fact Gore and Mbeki agreed to work on an import agreement to let South Africa shop for the best price for AIDS drugs worldwide and then import them in bulk, something which will be controversial with drug companies. The two leaders committed themselves to a mutually acceptable solution.

Their discussion to resolve the impasse is being delayed by the lawsuit the drug companies have launched against South Africa.

Given that an estimated 6 million South Africans are infected with HIV, compared with about 1 million in the United States, medicines in South Africa are indeed among the most expensive in the world, ranking in the top five, and accounted for 30 percent of medical costs in the private sector. More than R2-billion, or 11 percent, of South Africa's health budget is spent on medicines.

On the other hand, many patients in the US use a "cocktail" of three AIDS drugs often costing more than \$1,000 a month. Sure, South African patients may buy the cocktail for about \$800 a month, but the new law -- which has yet to take effect because of a court challenge -- would pave the way for far lower prices.

For example, AZT, a drug made by Glaxo-Wellcome that has been proven effective in inhibiting transmission of HIV from pregnant women to their fetuses, costs about \$240 a month in South Africa. Indian drug firms manufacture a generic version of the drug that costs \$48 a month. Jamie

Love,
director of the Washington-based Consumer Project on Technology, estimates the price of most AIDS-related drugs could be reduced 50 percent to 90 percent if local firms were allowed to produce generic versions to counter national health emergencies.

Gore's political rivals and AIDS activists have manipulated the facts in what is actually a much more complicated but interesting debate. The patent matter is a complicated issue with no easy solutions. But to single out Gore is unfair.

END 99-07-01 independent foreign service

NNNN

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Ruby Shamir (CN=Ruby Shamir/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-JUN-1999 11:31:28.00

SUBJECT: Re: guidance

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Thanks for this guidance.

Thomas M. Rosshirt@OVP
06/29/99 08:42:02 AM
Record Type: Record

To: Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject:guidance

AIDS Drugs

for Africa

June 25, 1999

Context: In 1997 South Africa's National Assembly passed legislation granting the Health Minister unspecified powers related to pharmaceutical patents. In response to this legislation, more than 40 companies -- roughly one third from America, one third from Europe, one third from South Africa -- challenged the law in South African Court, contending that this law violates the constitution of South Africa. The litigation is still ongoing.

At the same time, the U.S. Trade Representative was concerned that the ambiguity in the law could allow for actions in violation of the WTO-TRIPS agreement (the agreement reached by the 134-member WTO on protection of intellectual property). As a result, USTR named South Africa to the 301 Special Watch List. The watch list (which is not attached to sanctions) is the lowest level of three designations included in the report USTR produces every April. The report's purpose is to signal U.S. concern on intellectual property rights protection offered to U.S. goods by U.S. trading partners.

The Vice President -- in his meeting with Deputy President Mbeki in August 1998 -- proposed that the two work toward a solution within a framework that would include parallel importing and compulsory licensing, so long as they were done consistent with international agreements (TRIPS). But progress of negotiations has been slow because of worries on both sides about prejudicing the outcome of the ongoing litigation.

AIDS activists have charged that the Vice President -- in order to curry favor with drug companies -- has threatened severe trade sanctions against

South Africa. These activists have been given credible airing in the media in spite of underlying facts that disprove their points. Namely: Early in 1999, drug company representatives pushed to raise South Africa's status on the 301 Special Watch List from the lowest level to the highest level. The highest designation if imposed would require South Africa to resolve the issue to U.S. satisfaction within a set period of time or face trade sanctions. As reported in a Tuesday, June 22 story in the Baltimore Sun, the Office of the Vice President strongly opposed the drug industry recommendation, and the April 30 report rather than raising the designation -- kept South Africa on the watch list.

AIDS activists have said the Vice President has threatened trade sanctions against South Africa if they go forward with plans to produce lower-cost AIDS drugs. Is that fair?

ú As co-chair of the U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission, the Vice President has made an immense personal investment of time and effort in building better U.S. ties with South Africa working to improve health, expand trade, build the economy.

ú Why would he be trying to undercut his own efforts?

ú The Vice President has taken a special interest in South Africa's efforts to fight AIDS, and has kept the crisis clearly in mind as we have worked to resolve our trade differences.

ú As Susan Rice, our Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, said in the press this week (Baltimore Sun, Tuesday June 22): the Vice President took the position that the health crisis in South Africa needed to be taken into account, and he led the way in opposing trade sanctions pushed by the pharmaceutical industry.

ú These activists as the Washington Post said in their Thursday editorial are manipulating the facts.8 They should understand that the Vice President is one of the strongest advocates in this administration for the issues they care about.

ú They should be working with him instead of against him.

The Vice President cares nothing for millions who are dying.

It would be hard to find someone in the U.S. Government with a more active record of support for the fight against AIDS in South Africa.

Since 1995, the Vice President has co-chaired with Deputy President Mbeki the U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission. In that context, he has had a central role in bringing to South Africa the best of American knowledge, effort and ideas in the fight against AIDS.

Under the auspices of the Commission, the U.S. has funded a South African effort to track the disease you can't fight it if you can't track it. The Commission has also worked to expand awareness and improve prevention.

The Vice President has brought high-level U.S. health officials on his trips to South Africa Secretary Shalala and Surgeon General Satcher -- where they have spoken with President Mandela's cabinet on the issue of AIDS.

Just a few months ago, Vice President Gore took Surgeon General David Satcher with him to South Africa for another meeting of the Commission.

When Vice President Gore appeared with Deputy President Mbeki last February on national TV in South Africa, he was wearing an AIDS ribbon, done in African beadwork, given to him by Mbeki after the two had spent hours the previous day in a one-on-one discussion on AIDS.

It is hard to believe that the Deputy President would present the Vice President such a gift unless they were united in partnership in the fight against AIDS.

The Vice President and Deputy President Mbeki spent a substantial part of their time at the press conference talking about the importance of raising awareness of AIDS, and the Vice President urged leaders in every sector of South African society to add their voices to Mr. Mbeki's in the call for greater awareness and action against AIDS.

During those meetings, did the Vice President threaten trade sanctions against South Africa?

No, he did not. The Vice President proposed working toward a resolution within a framework that would include compulsory licensing and parallel importing, as long as they were done in line with international agreements.

What's the basis for the dispute?

The issue arose in 1997, when South Africa's National Assembly passed legislation granting the Health Minister unspecified powers related to pharmaceutical patents. The ambiguity raised concern that actions taken under that law might not be compliant with the WTO-TRIPS agreement.

In response to this legislation, more than 40 companies -- roughly one third from America, one third from Europe, one third from South Africa -- have challenged the law in South African Court, contending that this law violates the constitution of South Africa. This case is now being heard by the South Africa Constitutional Court. The ongoing litigation has slowed efforts to resolve it on a government to government level.

But didn't the Vice President order a sweeping new review of South African trade laws on April 30, 1999?

No, he did not. The Baltimore Sun's June 22 story pointed out this fallacy. This charge grows out of a misunderstanding of the United States Trade Representative's Annual 301 report -- issued April 30, 1999.

The USTR is mandated by Congress to publish a report every year at the end of April, detailing which of America's trading partners may not be affording full protection to U.S. intellectual property rights. As a result of the passage of amendments to South Africa's Medicines Act, and the provisions that could lead to the loss of U.S. intellectual property rights, the U.S.T.R named South Africa to the "Special 301 watch list." This designation means what it says: "The U.S. is seeing some things that give it concern, signaling that concern to the South African government, and indicating that it will be watching further developments. It is the mildest designation in the report, and is not attached to sanctions.

There are two higher designations on the report -- the priority watch list, and the highest, the priority foreign country list. If a country is named a priority foreign country, it means that the country must -- within a set period of time -- resolve the trade dispute to the satisfaction of the United States or face stiff trade sanctions. South Africa is not close to that status.

But clearly , the Vice President is in the pocket of the pharmaceutical industry

No, he is not. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers argued this spring that the USTR annual report -- due to come out again at the end of April -- should designate South Africa (because of the Medicines Act) as a priority foreign country, the most severe designation. This would have required South Africa to resolve the issue to U.S. satisfaction within a short period of time, or face sanctions and a loss of foreign aid. As reported in the June 22 Baltimore Sun, the Vice President's office strongly opposed the recommendation. The U.S.T.R. agreed, and its April 30, 1999 report renewed South Africa's status on the watch list.

But the Vice President is trying to stop South Africa from doing things that are legal under WTO/TRIPS.

No, he is not. The U.S. is seeking clarification of the law ¶) about how it will be implemented. The point of discussions has been to work with South Africa to seek assurances that actions taken under the law will be in line with international agreements.

So where does the Vice President stand?

The Vice President believes we need to use all available means to deliver high-quality, affordable medicines to those who need them. And we should do it within the legal limits established by TRIPS. Specifically, the Vice President has no objection to parallel exporting or compulsory licensing of pharmaceuticals in South Africa, so long as it is consistent with TRIPS.

But all the South Africans want to do is what is already their legal right under TRIPS.

Section 15c of the Medicines Act gives the Health Minister unspecified powers that could go beyond what has been agreed to under TRIPS.

But the State Department Report says that the Vice President was part of an effort to put pressure on the South Africans.

First, the State Department report ¶) dated February 5 -- was written in response to members of Congress who had expressed concern that the U.S. wasn't being tough enough with South Africa. They had already suspended U.S. foreign assistance to the central Government of South Africa, and said they would not restore the aid until they received a State Department report detailing what the U.S. was doing to resolve the issue. They had already rejected an earlier report ¶) apparently for not being tough enough.

Second, the only language in the report that names Vice President Gore comes on pages 6 and 7 ¶) under the heading ¶The Vice President's Plan for a Negotiated Solution.¶8 It reads as follows:

¶ During the August 1998 U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission meetings in Washington, Vice President Gore made the issue of intellectual property rights protection, and pharmaceutical patents in particular, a central focus of his discussions with Deputy President Mbeki. They agreed on a basis for a mutually satisfactory, Government-to-Government negotiated solution to the impasse.¶ 8

That is the only mention of Vice President Gore's actions in the entire report.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:30-JUN-1999 09:43:18.00

SUBJECT: Re: gorembekiaids

TO: RMkhondo@aol.com (RMkhondo@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Gore-Africa AIDS, Bjt,770

Gore caught between AIDS activists and drug industry

WASHINGTON (AP) Vice President Al Gore is caught in a clash between AIDS activists seeking cheap generic drugs for South African victims of the disease and U.S. laws intended to protect drug companies from having their patents violated abroad.

Gore, wary of appearing to be siding with the drug industry in an emotion-laden dispute, wrote to the Congressional Black Caucus' chairman that he does not oppose South Africa's attempts to produce or obtain generic AIDS medicines as long as those efforts do not violate laws protecting patents.

Gore acted after demonstrators from the group ACT-UP began showing up at his campaign rallies, saying Gore was siding with pharmaceutical companies at the expense of Africans with AIDS. It created a policy dilemma for Gore, and aides worried it would haunt his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"I want you to know from the start that I support South Africa's efforts to enhance health care for its people," Gore wrote in last Friday's letter to Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C. "I support South Africa's effort to provide AIDS drugs at reduced prices through compulsory licensing and parallel importing, so long as they are carried out in a way that is consistent with international agreements."

"What does that mean?" asked Dr. Peter Lurie, an activist with Public Citizen who has performed AIDS research in South Africa. He said if Gore is saying that South Africa's law was inconsistent with international law, "then this letter means absolutely nothing."

Gore's letter was prompted by a letter last Thursday from Clyburn, who chairs the black caucus. He asked Gore to state clearly the position he took with South African President Thabo Mbeki regarding South Africa's Medicines Act.

Donna Christian-Green, the Virgin Islands' elected delegate to Congress, had heard AIDS activists' claims that Gore was helping pharmaceutical companies thwart South Africa's efforts to bypass U.S. patent laws so it could get AIDS medicines at a lower cost.

"All of us got a bit concerned. We thought we generally were on the same page with him on this issue," Clyburn said. He said he thought the AIDS activists had unfairly targeted the vice president, and now feels "my suspicions as to what this was all about seem to have been well-placed."

Chris Lahane, a Gore spokesman, said, "This is one of those situations where emotions are obscuring what the real information is. The vice president supports efforts to provide South Africa with AIDS drugs at reduced prices. He's working to create a framework to make that happen."

Christian-Green, a family physician for 21 years, said the

caucus was satisfied with Gore's explanation. ``We would hate to have the ACT-UP groups turn voters away from a person who would be a good candidate,'' she said.

Nevertheless, ACT-UP promised to keep protesting and said it would challenge other presidential candidates on the issue too.

``This statement is smoke and mirrors. We want action,'' said Asia Russell of ACT-UP Philadelphia, which amassed 400 protesters outside a Gore event Monday. ``We plan to continue our work against Gore until he does more than simply issue a statement about this yearlong effort ... to do the dirty work of the pharmaceutical industry.''

South Africa's 1997 law granted the government unspecified power to obtain cheaper AIDS drugs for the country where more than 3 million people are HIV positive and 2.5 million children are expected to be orphaned because of the virus over the next 10 years.

About 40 pharmaceutical companies in South Africa, Europe and the United States are challenging the law in South African courts, fearing it may be used in a way that violates patent rights.

Gore said in his letter that the Clinton administration expressed concerns about the law's vagueness and asked the South African government to assure it would ``not undermine legal protections'' for patent holders.

According to Gore aides, the misunderstanding began in February after the State Department submitted a report on U.S. efforts to get the Medicines Act amended. A provision inserted into last year's budget required the report as a condition for releasing U.S. aid to South Africa.

In April, pharmaceutical industry representatives asked Gore to push for a tougher trade designation for South Africa because of the Medicines Act dispute. Gore declined, and urged the U.S. trade representative to reject the industry's recommendation.

APNP-06-30-99 0132EDT

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:30-JUN-1999 16:33:40.00

SUBJECT: Comment by Jamie Love on Gore letter

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Were you pleased with the meeting?

----- Forwarded by Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP on 06/30/99
04:32 PM -----

Todd A. Summers
06/30/99 03:01:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Comment by Jamie Love on Gore letter

----- Forwarded by Todd A. Summers/OPD/EOP on 06/30/99
02:59 PM -----

Treatment-access forum <treatment-access@hivnet.ch>
06/30/99 01:29:57 PM

Record Type: Record

To: treatment-access@hivnet.ch

cc:

Subject: [544] Gore supports compulsory licensing for AIDS drugs in South Africa [348]

In my opinion, this letter represents a real change in US foreign policy, and appears to be a huge victory for public health groups on a very important issue. Many people deserve credit for persuading the Vice President to signal a fundamental shift in US policy on a core element of trade policy. There will be a good deal of discussion now to determine just how Mr. Gore's statements will be translated into concrete actions at the USTR, Department of State and other federal agencies. But this is a very important and good first step.

Jamie Love <love@cptech.org>

- Vice President Gore's June 25, 1999 Letter to James E. Clyburn, endorsing the use of compulsory licensing and parallel imports of pharmaceutical drugs in South Africa

<http://www.cptech.org/ip/health/sa/vp-feb-25-99.html>

June 25, 1999

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus inquiring into the issue of affordable AIDS medicines in South Africa. I share with the Caucus an abiding interest and affection for the people of South Africa and of Africa as a whole, and I am happy to bring you abreast of developments in our efforts to resolve our differences with South Africa over trade in pharmaceuticals.

I want you to know from the start that I support South Africa's efforts to enhance health care for its people -- including efforts to engage in compulsory licensing and parallel importing of pharmaceuticals -- so long as they are done in a way consistent with international agreements.

As you know all too well, AIDS has reached epidemic proportions in South Africa. More than three million South Africans are HIV positive, and the virus is spreading at an astonishing, horrifying speed -- infecting more than a thousand people a day. AIDS is tearing apart communities and wiping out families, turning wives into widows and children into orphans. At the current pace, more than 2.5 million South African children will lose both parents to AIDS in the next ten years. And the financial means to battle the crisis is itself a casualty; South Africa's economic growth is slowed by 1 percent each year due to the impact of HIV/AIDS.

That is why I put the issue of AIDS at the top of my agenda during my trip to Cape Town last February for a session of the U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission. Then-Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and I had a lengthy discussion on the crisis. He has launched an important campaign of awareness and prevention, but he knows he needs to provide effective treatment to those for whom prevention is no longer an option.

In 1997, in an effort to enhance health care for all South Africans, the National Assembly passed amendments to the Medicines Act that granted the government broad, but unspecified authority to provide more affordable drugs to its people. Out of concern that this new law might be used in ways that violate patent rights, more than 40 pharmaceutical firms -- about one third from South Africa, one third from Europe, and one third from the U.S. -- challenged the law in South African courts, claiming the law violates the South African Constitution. After more than a year, that case is still pending.

Clearly, there is a global consensus on the need to protect intellectual property. That is why the 134 nations of the WTO concluded the WTO/TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement to establish international standards for intellectual property protection.

The Administration has shared its own concerns with South Africa over the more vague provisions of the Medicines Act. We have asked the Government of South Africa to clarify the actions it would take under the Act, and assure us the actions would comply with international agreements and not undermine legal protections for patent holders.

Under her independent authority mandated by Congress, the United States Trade Representative named South Africa to the "watch list" during her Special 301 Annual Review in 1998. Naming a country to the "watch list" -- the lowest designation in the review -- triggers no sanctions or threat of sanctions, but calls for bilateral efforts to resolve the issue. It is also important to note that naming South Africa to the watch list was not done solely in response to pharmaceuticals, but extended to other issues, including protections for computer software, CDs, and other intellectual property.

As you may know, the pharmaceutical industry recommended this year that South Africa be elevated two levels to the designation "Priority Foreign Country." Such a designation would have required the Government of South Africa to resolve this issue to the USTR's satisfaction within a set time, or face trade sanctions. I believe that such an action would have undercut our cooperative efforts to resolve this issue with South Africa, and I urged the USTR to reject the industry recommendation. In the end, USTR maintained South Africa on the "watch list," where it had been the previous year.

In my meeting with then-Deputy President Mbeki here in Washington in August of last year, he and I agreed to seek a solution that addressed the need to bring better health care to South Africans and, at the same time, account for the legitimate interests of manufacturers. I proposed to then-Deputy President Mbeki that -- to speed the availability of lower-cost pharmaceuticals in South Africa -- we work toward a resolution within a framework that included parallel importing and compulsory licensing, consistent with international agreements.

Our efforts to resolve the issue have been slowed by the ongoing litigation, but my view is the same now as it was then: I support South Africa's effort to provide AIDS drugs at reduced prices through compulsory licensing and parallel importing, so long as they are carried out in a way that is consistent with international agreements.

During our meeting in Cape Town in February of this year, then-Deputy President Mbeki and I again reviewed the issue and agreed to continue our efforts to resolve our differences. I am confident that we will reach a mutually satisfactory agreement.

Meanwhile, I thank you for your support of the U.S.-South Africa friendship, and for the commitment of the Congressional Black Caucus to confront the growing crisis of AIDS in Africa.

Sincerely,

Al Gore

- A posting from treatment-access@hivnet.ch

- To submit a posting, send to this address
- For anonymous postings, add the word "anon" to the subject line
- To join or leave this forum, add the word join or leave to the subject line
- Browse previous postings or post new messages at:
<http://www.hivnet.ch:8000/treatment-access/tdm>

- Reproduction welcomed, provided source and forum email address is quoted
- The forum is supported and managed by the Fondation du Present (FdP)

The views expressed in this forum do not necessarily reflect those of FdP,
unless otherwise stated

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:30-JUN-1999 08:40:37.00

SUBJECT: Gore AIDS drugs -- AP story

TO: Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Mary E. Cahill (CN=Mary E. Cahill/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Robert B. Johnson (CN=Robert B. Johnson/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Lael Brainard (CN=Lael Brainard/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Philip G Dufour (CN=Philip G Dufour/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Jena V. Roscoe (CN=Jena V. Roscoe/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Minyon Moore (CN=Minyon Moore/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Maria Echaveste (CN=Maria Echaveste/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

Gore 2000 (Gore 2000 [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

Jeff Trammell (Jeff Trammell [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Looks to me like this isn't going away quickly.

----- Forwarded by Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP on 06/30/99
08:33 AM -----

Thomas M. Rosshirt@OVP
06/30/99 07:29:17 AM
Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject:AP story

Gore-Africa AIDS, Bjt,770
Gore caught between AIDS activists and drug industry

WASHINGTON (AP) Vice President Al Gore is caught in a clash
between AIDS activists seeking cheap generic drugs for South
African victims of the disease and U.S. laws intended to protect

drug companies from having their patents violated abroad.

Gore, wary of appearing to be siding with the drug industry in an emotion-laden dispute, wrote to the Congressional Black Caucus' chairman that he does not oppose South Africa's attempts to produce or obtain generic AIDS medicines as long as those efforts do not violate laws protecting patents.

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"What does that mean?" asked Dr. Peter Lurie, an activist with Public Citizen who has performed AIDS research in South Africa. He said if Gore is saying that South Africa's law was inconsistent with international law, "then this letter means absolutely nothing."

Gore's letter was prompted by a letter last Thursday from Clyburn, who chairs the black caucus. He asked Gore to state clearly the position he took with South African President Thabo Mbeki regarding South Africa's Medicines Act.

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Chris Lahane, a Gore spokesman, said, "This is one of those situations where emotions are obscuring what the real information is. The vice president supports efforts to provide South Africa with AIDS drugs at reduced prices. He's working to create a framework to make that happen."

Christian-Green, a family physician for 21 years, said the caucus was satisfied with Gore's explanation. "We would hate to have the ACT-UP groups turn voters away from a person who would be a good candidate," she said.

Nevertheless, ACT-UP promised to keep protesting and said it would challenge other presidential candidates on the issue too.

"This statement is smoke and mirrors. We want action," said Asia Russell of ACT-UP Philadelphia, which amassed 400 protesters outside a Gore event Monday. "We plan to continue our work against Gore until he does more than simply issue a statement about this yearlong effort ... to do the dirty work of the pharmaceutical industry."

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About 40 pharmaceutical companies in South Africa, Europe and the United States are challenging the law in South African courts,

fearing it may be used in a way that violates patent rights.

Gore said in his letter that the Clinton administration expressed concerns about the law's vagueness and asked the South African government to assure it would ``not undermine legal protections'' for patent holders.

According to Gore aides, the misunderstanding began in February after the State Department submitted a report on U.S. efforts to get the Medicines Act amended. A provision inserted into last year's budget required the report as a condition for releasing U.S. aid to South Africa.

In April, pharmaceutical industry representatives asked Gore to push for a tougher trade designation for South Africa because of the Medicines Act dispute. Gore declined, and urged the U.S. trade representative to reject the industry's recommendation.

APNP-06-30-99 0132EDT

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 6/30/99 1:28 AM

Message Sent

To: _____

Laura M. Quinn/OVP@OVP

Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP@EOP

Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP@EOP

Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP@OVP

Ron Klain/OVP@OVP

Christopher S. Lehane/OVP@OVP

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:30-JUN-1999 07:29:30.00

SUBJECT: AP story

TO: Christopher S. Lehane (CN=Christopher S. Lehane/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sarah A. Bianchi (CN=Sarah A. Bianchi/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ron Klain (CN=Ron Klain/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura M. Quinn (CN=Laura M. Quinn/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Gore-Africa AIDS, Bjt,770

Gore caught between AIDS activists and drug industry

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Gore's letter was prompted by a letter last Thursday from Clyburn, who chairs the black caucus. He asked Gore to state clearly the position he took with South African President Thabo Mbeki regarding South Africa's Medicines Act.

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APNP-06-30-99 0132EDT

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Shanna P. Singh (CN=Shanna P. Singh/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:30-JUN-1999 18:14:30.00

SUBJECT: AIDS articles

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
AIDS ARTICLES (1 REUTERS, 1 AP)

REUTERS ARTICLE

^BC-POLITICS-GORE-AIDS<

^Gore seeks to defuse South Africa AIDS controversy<

By Lisa Richwine<

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - After being hounded by AIDS protesters

on

the campaign trail, Vice President Al Gore said Tuesday he supported South Africa's effort to obtain cheaper AIDS drugs as long as it complied with international trade rules.<

Gore, the favorite for the 2000 Democratic presidential nomination, has come under fire from AIDS groups that accuse him of acting on

behalf of pharmaceutical firms demanding more patent protection for their drugs in South Africa.<

In a letter released by his office a day after hundreds of protesters turned out at a Gore event in Philadelphia, Gore said he supported

South Africa's right to use two obscure trade powers, compulsory licensing and parallel imports, to bring cheaper drugs to poor AIDS victims.<

South Africa is desperate to stop the epidemic, which now afflicts 3 million of its 43 million citizens.<

``I support South Africa's efforts to enhance health care for its people, including efforts to engage in compulsory licensing and parallel

importing of pharmaceuticals, so long as they are done in a way consistent with international agreements,'' Gore wrote in the letter.<

Gore, who announced his candidacy June 16, addressed the letter to the Congressional Black Caucus which had asked the vice president to explain his position in the dispute.<

Gore has been embarrassed at events across the country by AIDS protesters disrupting his speeches with signs and chants saying ``Gore's greed kills.''
<

AIDS activists welcomed Gore's statement but said they would continue disrupting his events until the United States drops official trade

complaints against South Africa over the AIDS medicines issue.<

``This is the first time we've seen in black and white a supportive statement ... from the U.S. government'' on the issue, said AIDS

activist Eric Sawyer, who helped organize the protests. ``Now we await further movement.''
<

Drug makers strongly oppose compulsory licenses, saying they undermine the patent protection promised to companies that spend millions

of
dollars developing a single AIDS drug.<

The licenses allow manufacturers to make cheap, generic copies of patented drugs during a national emergency if the original patent holder is compensated. Parallel imports let governments shop around for the best price and buy drugs from a third party.<

Drug industry lobbyists asked the Clinton administration to impose trade sanctions on South Africa for passing a 1997 law that could allow both practices. U.S. officials instead put South Africa on a trade ``watch list'' that signals objections.<

Gore said in his letter that sanctions ``would have undercut our cooperative efforts to resolve this issue.''.<

But in a State Department memo in February, officials said Gore made protection of pharmaceutical patents ``a central focus'' of talks with South Africa's then-Deputy President Thabo Mbeki. The memo galvanized AIDS activists.<

In his letter to the black caucus, Gore said the Clinton administration was concerned that parts of the South African law were vague and could violate World Trade Organization rules on intellectual property. He said he raised the issue with Mbeki, who became president this month, in two meetings.<

``We have asked the government of South Africa to clarify the actions it would take under the act and assure us the actions would comply with international agreements and not undermine protections for patent holders,''. Gore wrote.<

The caucus wrote to Gore last week asking him to clarify ''characterizations that are entirely out of line with your record.''.<

``We know you are committed to a viable U.S.-South Africa relationship and that you are committed to helping those who are suffering with AIDS,''. they wrote.<

<
^REUTERS

AP ARTICLE

^PM-Gore-Africa AIDS, Bjt,770<

^Gore caught between AIDS activists and drug industry<

^By SONYA ROSS= ^Associated Press Writer=<

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``I want you to know from the start that I support South Africa's efforts to enhance health care for its people,' ' Gore wrote in last Friday's

letter to Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C. ``I support South Africa's effort to provide AIDS drugs at reduced prices through compulsory licensing and parallel importing, so long as they are carried out in a way that is consistent with international agreements.' '<

``What does that mean?' ' asked Dr. Peter Lurie, an activist with Public Citizen who has performed AIDS research in South Africa. He said if Gore is saying that South Africa's law was inconsistent with international law, ``then this letter means absolutely nothing.' '<

Gore's letter was prompted by a letter last Thursday from Clyburn, who chairs the black caucus. He asked Gore to state clearly the position he took with South African President Thabo Mbeki regarding South Africa's Medicines Act.<

Donna Christian-Green, the Virgin Islands' elected delegate to Congress, had heard AIDS activists' claims that Gore was helping pharmaceutical companies thwart South Africa's efforts to bypass U.S. patent

laws so it could get AIDS medicines at a lower cost.<

``All of us got a bit concerned. We thought we generally were on the same page with him on this issue,' ' Clyburn said. He said he thought the

AIDS activists had unfairly targeted the vice president, and now feels ``my

suspensions as to what this was all about seem to have been well-placed.' '<

Chris Lahane, a Gore spokesman, said, ``This is one of those situations where emotions are obscuring what the real information is. The vice president supports efforts to provide South Africa with AIDS drugs at reduced prices. He's working to create a framework to make that happen.' '<

Christian-Green, a family physician for 21 years, said the caucus

was satisfied with Gore's explanation. ``We would hate to have the ACT-UP groups turn voters away from a person who would be a good candidate,' ' she said.<

Nevertheless, ACT-UP promised to keep protesting and said it would challenge other presidential candidates on the issue too.<

``This statement is smoke and mirrors. We want action,' ' said Asia Russell of ACT-UP Philadelphia, which amassed 400 protesters outside a

Gore event Monday. ``We plan to continue our work against Gore until he does

more than simply issue a statement about this yearlong effort ... to do the dirty work of the pharmaceutical industry.' '<

South Africa's 1997 law granted the government unspecified power to obtain cheaper AIDS drugs for the country where more than 3 million people are HIV positive and 2.5 million children are expected to be orphaned

because
of the virus over the next 10 years.<

About 40 pharmaceutical companies in South Africa, Europe and
the
United States are challenging the law in South African courts, fearing it
may
be used in a way that violates patent rights.<

Gore said in his letter that the Clinton administration
expressed
concerns about the law's vagueness and asked the South African government
to
assure it would ``not undermine legal protections'' for patent holders.<

According to Gore aides, the misunderstanding began in February
after the State Department submitted a report on U.S. efforts to get the
Medicines Act amended. A provision inserted into last year's budget
required
the report as a condition for releasing U.S. aid to South Africa.<

In April, pharmaceutical industry representatives asked Gore to
push for a tougher trade designation for South Africa because of the
Medicines Act dispute. Gore declined, and urged the U.S. trade
representative
to reject the industry's recommendation.<

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Arianna Huffington

<http://www.ariannaonline.com/columns/files/062899.html>

Pharmacologic Al
Filed June 28, 1999

Presidential race 2000 has already spawned its first protests, with demonstrators following Vice President Al Gore from Tennessee to New Hampshire to New York to Philadelphia. There is no catchy character-like 1992's "Chicken George" or 1996's "Buttman"-but their issue provides an excellent object lesson about the rotten core of American politics: how our campaign finance system allows powerful special interests to secretly dictate policy-even when the life or death of millions is at stake.

The protesters are outraged that Gore, in his role as co-chair of the U.S.-South African Binational Commission, has, according to a recent State Department report to Congress, spearheaded "an assiduous, concerted campaign" to stop South Africa from making low-cost AIDS drugs available to its 3.2 million infected citizens.

Allowing South Africa to license domestic production of the lifesaving drugs, known as "compulsory licensing," is one of those rare issues-such as child abuse and drunk driving-on which there cannot possibly be two sides. After all, the country is suffering from an AIDS epidemic that our own surgeon general has compared "to the plague that decimated the population of Europe in the 14th century."

Although sub-Saharan African nations account for 70 percent of the world's new HIV cases and 90 percent of all AIDS deaths, less than 1 percent of AIDS drugs are sold there. Who would defend leaving hundreds of thousands to die because lifesaving medicines are priced out of their reach?

Certainly not the same people who have spared no expense in the last few months waging a humanitarian war.

Or so one would think. But Gore, wedded to a trade policy that is anything but humanitarian, thinks otherwise and has aligned himself with the pharmaceutical companies that are suing the government of South Africa. They claim that its 1997 Medicines Act violates World Trade Organization (WTO) regulations by allowing for the compulsory licensing and parallel importing -- i.e., shopping for the best price-of AIDS drugs. But it does not. In fact, WTO rules are particularly liberal when it comes to national emergencies such as epidemics.

In explanation, the vice president's office served up a bureaucratic cocktail of words-to be taken only with an empty head. "In August 1998," his spokesman told me, "the vice president met with Thabo Mbeki (now South Africa's president) and proposed trying to clarify Section 15(c) of South Africa's Medicines Act by working toward a resolution within a framework that included parallel importing and compulsory licensing in line with international agreements." I don't know how many South Africans died of AIDS while you were reading that sentence, but many have perished while the vice president has been figuring out the controlling legal authority

over AIDS drugs. It looks like Gore's "livability agenda" stops at the suburbs' edge.

The reasons why Gore tried to get Mbeki to acquiesce to the drug companies are chillingly laid out in next month's American Prospect magazine. John B. Judis exposes "K Street Gore's interlocking directorate" of aides, friends, advisors and lobbyists moving seamlessly between the pharmaceutical industry and his inner circle. Among them are Anthony Podesta, a top advisor and close friend of Gore and one of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America's chief lobbyists; Gore's chief domestic policy advisor David Beier, who was previously the top in-house lobbyist for Genentech; and Peter Knight, Gore's main fund-raiser, who made \$120,000 lobbying for Schering-Plough. (According to Public Campaign, Gore has helped raise at least \$1.4 million from drug companies over the course of his career.) With all of this crossover, a drug to loosen Al up on the campaign trail can't be far off.

It is no wonder that the African Growth and Opportunity Act, sponsored by Rep. Phil Crane (R-Ill.) with the full backing of the president and the vice president, does not even mention the AIDS crisis. Fortunately, Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-Ill.) has introduced a competing bill that would prevent the United States from applying sanctions on South Africa and other sub-Saharan nations that are attempting to make AIDS drugs widely available. "American drug companies want some of the poorest people in the world to pay U.S. market prices for drugs," Jackson told me. "But AIDS drugs can cost \$500 per week-which happens to be the annual per capita income of sub-Saharan Africa."

One indication that the Jackson bill is gaining steam is the fact that Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio), who originally co-sponsored both bills, has now decided to support Jackson's. "It is the better bill," he told me. "The White House called me and asked me to support Crane's, but it puts trade above all other humanitarian concerns."

The vice president's office says it is trying "to help AIDS patients by making sure drug companies maintain profit levels to develop new AIDS medications." But what good are AIDS medications if they can't get to the people with AIDS?

And someone should remind the vice president that last year alone the three major AIDS-drug manufacturers-Glaxo Wellcome, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer-made respectively \$4.43 billion, \$3.64 billion and \$3.35 billion. Up to now money has talked louder than the muffled cries of millions of African AIDS victims. But the chants of the protesters on the campaign trail are amplifying their cries. Will they also lead to a change in policy from pharmacologic Al?

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Christopher S. Lehane (CN=Christopher S. Lehane/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 2-JUL-1999 10:21:50.00

SUBJECT: africa

TO: Nathan B. Naylor (CN=Nathan B. Naylor/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Get to Hotline ASAP. Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Christopher S. Lehane/OVP on 07/02/99
10:21 AM -----

Richard Socarides @ EOP 07/02/99 09:39:08 AM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject:africa

This is not a bad story, on a gay internet news service.
The Wash Blade story today is also not bad. I'm sending it around.
But we are getting killed in the mainstream press (see NYT today).

Gore Speaks On AIDS,

S.Africa

NewsPlanet Staff

Thursday, July 1, 1999 / 12:18 AM

SUMMARY: The U.S. Vice President says
he's resisted pharmaceutical lobbyists'
efforts to stop South Africa from
making emergency generic AIDS drugs.

Protesters continue to dog U.S. Vice
President Al Gore, the leading Democratic
candidate for the presidency in 2000, over
what they've been charging is his
pro-pharmaceutical position regarding the
availability of less costly AIDS drugs in
South Africa, a country whose population
is being devastated by the AIDS
pandemic. According to some reports, at
least 3-million of South Africa's 43-million
people are already infected with HIV. At
issue is that country's Medicines Act, a
1997 law granting the government
unspecified power to obtain cheaper AIDS
drugs. Pointing to a number of current and
past drug industry lobbyists with important
positions in the Gore campaign, protesters
have charged that Gore has acted out of
greed for drug industry contributions, at the
expense of Africans' lives. 400 protesters
demonstrated during Gore's latest

campaign stop in Philadelphia on June 28.

"I want you to know from the start that I support South Africa's efforts to enhance health care for its people," Gore wrote on June 25 in response to an inquiry about the matter from Representative Jim Clyburn (D-SC), who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus. "I support South Africa's effort to provide AIDS drugs at reduced prices through compulsory licensing and parallel importing, so long as they are carried out in a way that is consistent with international agreements," the letter read. The licenses allow manufacturers to make generic, less-costly copies of patented drugs during a national emergency if the original patent holder is compensated. Parallel imports let governments negotiate with third parties for the lowest price.

Gore has expressed concerns that South Africa's Medicines Act would allow it to bypass U.S. patent laws. Several South African, European and U.S. pharmaceutical companies are, in fact, contesting the Medicines Act in South African courts, claiming that it could be used to violate patent rights on AIDS drugs the companies say they've spent millions of dollars developing. On June 24, Gore issued a statement promising to work with South Africa's new President Thabo Mbeki to develop ways to prevent and combat AIDS, and saying that he is encouraging the U.S. Trade Representative, the South African government and the pharmaceutical industry to explore solutions to settle disputes over getting patented drugs to people with AIDS and HIV. According to those inside the Gore campaign, the Vice President has resisted lobbying efforts aimed at the Clinton administration by the pharmaceutical industry pushing for harsher trade positions against South Africa because of what they charge is the vagueness of the Medicines Act.

None of the protesters particularly want to see leading Republican Presidential hopeful Governor George W. Bush (TX) elected, but they do want a reversal of U.S. drug policy, and they've promised to demonstrate at every Gore campaign appearance until official U.S. government trade complaints against South Africa over the AIDS medicines issue are dropped. Asia Russell of ACT-UP Philadelphia, one of the participating groups in the latest

demonstration, told the Associated Press,
"We plan to continue our work against
Gore until he does more than simply issue a
statement about this yearlong effort ... to
do the dirty work of the pharmaceutical
industry."

Message Sent

To: _____

Ron Klain/OVP@OVP
Monica M. Dixon/OVP@OVP
Eli G. Attie/OVP@OVP
Michael B. Feldman/OVP@OVP
Ansley Jones/OVP@OVP
Philip G Dufour/OVP@OVP
Elizabeth J. Potter/OVP@OVP
Alejandro G. Cabrera/OVP@OVP
Michael B. Feldman/OVP@OVP
Laura M. Quinn/OVP@OVP
Clark E. Ray/OVP@OVP
Thomas M. Rosshirt/OVP@OVP
Alejandro G. Cabrera/OVP@OVP
Christopher S. Lehane/OVP@OVP

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 4-JUL-1999 18:28:45.00

SUBJECT: clarence page column on AIDS/Drugs/Africa

TO: Albert Gore (CN=Albert Gore/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

This is a helpful piece by Clarence Page that ran Sunday in the Tribune. It is especially good for us because of the great respect Page is given in the African American community. Clearly, Jesse, Jr. tried to work Clarence on this piece, but we beat him back. (partly because I pointed out to Page that the entire African Diplomatic Corps is for AGOA and against Jesse's bill.)

DON'T BLAME GORE FOR
AFRICA'S AIDS CRISIS

July 4, 1999

WASHINGTON As if Al Gore didn't have enough to worry about in his budding presidential bid, protesters have been interrupting his speeches by chanting and waving crude banners. Their cause is good, but, like dogs barking up the wrong tree, they are attacking the wrong politician.

The activists are affiliated with the militant group ACT UP, which has a reputation for loud and disruptive impatience with anyone who fails to move quick as a bunny to let ACT UP have its way.

Vice President Al Gore also co-chairs the U.S.-South African Binational Commission. The AIDS activists are inflamed by a State Department report to Congress that says the commission led a "campaign" to stop South Africa from making low-cost generic AIDS drugs available to its 3.2 million AIDS-infected people.

South Africa's problem is economic. HIV drugs can cost \$500 a week, which is about what the average worker in sub-Saharan Africa makes in a year. As a result, sub-Saharan Africa has 70 percent of the new HIV cases worldwide, but less than 1 percent of the AIDS drugs produced in the world.

The cost of drugs in South Africa could be greatly reduced if South African companies were licensed to produce generic versions of the drugs for domestic use. In that spirit, former President Nelson Mandela's government passed the nation's 1997 Medicines Act, which responded to the crisis

by calling for "compulsory licensing" and "parallel importing" of AIDS drugs.

The act would enable South African pharmaceutical companies to ignore overseas patents and make lower-cost generic versions of AIDS drugs.

That's why pharmaceutical companies sued the South African government, claiming the Medicines Act violates American and World Trade Organization laws that protect drug companies from having their patents violated abroad.

ACT UP protesters claim Gore has sided with the drug companies. But there's another side to that story. Internal memos between Gore and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky in April show that Gore actually opposed efforts by American drug companies to pressure the Clinton administration to escalate threats of trade sanctions against South Africa for possible violations of intellectual property rights.

The vice president "understands the urgency of South Africa's AIDS plight and supports efforts to make health care more affordable," a Gore spokesman told me. Gore also has no objection to South Africa's call for the compulsory licensing and parallel importing of AIDS drugs provided that it is in alignment with the WTO's trade and intellectual property agreements.

Gore also met with Thabo Mbeki, who is now president of South Africa, in August to get clarifications of the law and to iron out differences with international trade policies.

Gore charged that the South African law is too vague in its attempt to answer public health needs and protect drug companies at the same time. That's a valid concern that's shared even by South African drug companies, who joined the foreign companies' suit against their government out of fear for their own patent protections. Drug manufacturers say they need patent protection to make more research worthwhile. Critics accuse the drug firms of exploiting a tragedy. Still, many of them defend Gore. "Drug overpricing is the real culprit, not Gore," says Daniel Zingale, executive director of AIDS Action, a lobbying organization. "Gore's overall record has been good and we hope he will do more on the global AIDS crisis."

AIDS activists also have criticized Gore for supporting the African Growth and Opportunity Act, sponsored by Rep. Philip M. Crane (R-Ill.), which encourages more trade with sub-Saharan Africa, but makes no mention of the AIDS crisis.

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Unfortunately for Jackson there is almost no chance that today's conservative Republican Congress is going to vote for a trade bill as liberal as his, which, among other features, calls for broad job protections for African workers and debt forgiveness for African governments.

That's why the Crane bill is being backed by a bipartisan coalition that includes key African leaders, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, and, not insignificantly, Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., Clinton's special envoy to Africa and father of Rep. Jackson.

So I applaud AIDS activists for bringing some long-overdue attention to Africa's AIDS crisis. But in their pursuit of Al Gore, they're barking at the wrong politician. At least he has tried to be part of the solution, while too many others only make the problem worse or pay no attention to it at all.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Shanna P. Singh (CN=Shanna P. Singh/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 6-JUL-1999 09:03:37.00

SUBJECT:

TO: Brian A. Reich (CN=Brian A. Reich/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

EVEL 1 - 7 OF 13 STORIES

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<=1> View Related Topics

July 4, 1999 Sunday, CHICAGOLAND FINAL EDITION

SECTION: COMMENTARY; Pg. 15; ZONE: C

LENGTH: 827 words

HEADLINE: DON'T BLAME GORE FOR AFRICA'S AIDS CRISIS

BYLINE: Clarence Page.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

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GRAPHIC: GRAPHICGRAPHIC: Illustration by Paul Lachine.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 4, 1999

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 6-JUL-1999 16:08:04.00

SUBJECT: Re: Roll Call article on Africa Trade

TO: Paul Thornell (CN=Paul Thornell/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Thanks -- could you make sure that you and DT have sent this piece to all members of the

CBC (and their press secretaries)? Thanks. (Clarence Page, Sunday Chicago Tribune)

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Brian A. Reich (CN=Brian A. Reich/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 6-JUL-1999 09:12:22.00

SUBJECT: Real copy coming...

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Chicago Tribune
July 4, 1999 Sunday,
CHICAGOLAND FINAL EDITION

Pg. 15; ZONE: C
827 words

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BYLINE: Clarence Page.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

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Unfortunately for Jackson there is almost no chance that today's conservative Republican Congress is going to vote for a trade bill as liberal as his, which, among other features, calls for broad job protections for African workers and debt forgiveness for African governments.

That's why the Crane bill is being backed by a bipartisan coalition that includes key African leaders, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, and, not insignificantly, Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., Clinton's special envoy to Africa and father of Rep. Jackson.

So I applaud AIDS activists for bringing some long-overdue attention to Africa's AIDS crisis. But in their pursuit of Al Gore, they're barking at the wrong politician. At least he has tried to be part of the solution, while too many others only make the problem worse or pay no attention to it at all.

[illegible]

[illegible]

HIV/AIDS

Some in Congress and in the NGO community have said that this bill (the AGOA) will contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Is this true? What is the Administration doing on HIV/AIDS?

- No, this is absolutely false.
- Those who are making these claims say that this bill and/or this Administration are or will hamper access to drugs used to treat HIV/AIDS for Africans.
- This bill says nothing at all about HIV/AIDS or pharmaceuticals.
- I do, however, want to set the record straight on what this Administration is doing on HIV/AIDS.
- The United States government, particularly the President, the First Lady and the Vice President have taken an active role in publicizing the AIDS crisis in Africa, and in ensuring that the U.S. strongly supports African efforts to combat the disease. As a matter of fact, the Vice President and then-Deputy President Mbeki highlighted the HIV/AIDS crisis during the Vice President's last visit to South Africa in February.
- This Administration has done more than any previous Administration to fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS both here at home and abroad. We have accomplished much, but much more still needs to be done.
- This is especially important as 70% (23 million) of the 33 million people living with HIV/AIDS live in sub-Saharan Africa, and 12 million out of the 14 million deaths (83%) caused by HIV/AIDS have occurred in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The U.S. is by far the world's leading donor for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the developing world. This year (FY99) USAID will spend \$125 million worldwide on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, \$74 million of that in sub-Saharan Africa - including \$7 million alone for AIDS orphans and infected children.
- This is a continuation of our long-term efforts. Since 1986, the United States has funded HIV/AIDS education, treatment, and prevention programs across Africa, spending nearly \$1 billion (BILLION) on these programs, reaching people in 38 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The United States continues to be a leading donor in the fight against HIV/AIDS in some of the worst hit countries on the continent. For example, from 1986-1998, through USAID funding, the U.S. government contributed over \$46 million to fund counseling, testing, education, prevention, and treatment programs in Uganda. This is more than ¼ of the total donor contributions to Uganda's aggressive and successful effort – the only example outside of Thailand in the developing world – to halt the increase in HIV infection rates.

- Our international programs primarily are aimed at combating heterosexual transmission (the most common means of transmission in the developing world). Programs focus on education, changing high risk behavior, promoting condom use, controlling other sexually transmitted diseases, improving the policy environment to reduce transmission of HIV, conducting research and promoting advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, care and support activities, including community-based orphan care and voluntary counseling and testing programs.
- Although the U.S. is spending \$200 million this year alone on the development of a vaccine, we are a long way from having an effective product. And while new anti-HIV drugs dramatically improve and extend life, they are not a cure. Prevention based on behavior change remains the primary intervention at this time.

(Use only if pressed hard on the South Africa/pharmaceuticals issue)

- We applaud recent efforts by many of Africa's leaders, including those of President Mandela, South Africa's Deputy President Mbeki, Ghana's President Rawlings, Namibia's President Nujoma, and many others to publicize the dangers of HIV/AIDS and the need for a united and concerted effort by communities to prevent its further spread and support those already infected.
- In South Africa, we share a mutual goal with the government to bring better health care to the people of South Africa, including those suffering as a result of HIV/AIDS. We believe this goal can be achieved while promoting effective and adequate patent protections for pharmaceutical products. Our goal is to chart a course that assists in improving access to affordable medicines, while not freezing the financial incentives that fuel continued research and production of new drugs. With a shared commitment to improve health care and provide intellectual property protections we are continuing our efforts to find common ground on our differences.
- That said, we do have concerns with some provisions of South Africa's Medicines Act. The lack of definition in the Act makes it unclear whether it is compliant with TRIPs.
- The U.S. government does not generally support compulsory licensing, but the WTO TRIPs agreement does provide for the practice - a patent holder may be compelled to grant a license, but only on a case-by-case basis, normally only after the proper user of the patent has been unable to obtain a license on a voluntary basis on reasonable commercial terms. This requirement may be waived in a "national emergency" but in the case of an emergency, other conditions apply.
- While we do not believe that compromising IPR protections is the solution to the greater problems, contrary to our general approach, we raise no objection to compulsory licensing and parallel importation of pharmaceuticals by South Africa in response to their situation, as long as it is done in a way that is compliant with TRIPs.

- We continue to assist South Africa in addressing the AIDS crisis through a variety of means, including:
 - 4 a \$10 million five-year program to support the South African government and local NGOs efforts to fight HIV/AIDS.
 - 4 work with the South African National Youth Commission, which has identified HIV/AIDS as a priority activity
 - 4 ongoing discussions in our Binational Commission's Health Working Group on ways to enhance our cooperative efforts to fight AIDS, and
 - 4 expanding available resources through public-private partnerships

Does this represent a change in U.S. policy?

- This position is consistent with U.S. policy.
- It is also responsive to the raging health crisis in South Africa.
- Globally we continue to have concerns about parallel importing both for reasons of safety and efficacy of drugs and for the possibility it presents for patent infringement. That said, this policy is consistent with our position on TRIPs.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Joseph Papovich <PAPOVICH_JOSEPH@ustr.gov> (Joseph Papovich <PAPOVICH_JOSEPH@ustr.gov> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-JUL-1999 09:22:52.00

SUBJECT: HIV/AIDS q&a - need clearance -Reply

TO: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Erica J. Barks-Ruggles (CN=Erica J. Barks-Ruggles/OU=NSC/O=EOP [NSC])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Thomas M. Rosshirt"@lngate4.eop.gov ("Thomas M. Rosshirt"@lngate4.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

CC: r@ustr.gov (r@ustr.gov [ONDCP])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

I have only one suggestion. I would rephrase the 5th talking point in the pharmaceuticals section to read: "While we do not believe that compromising IPR protection is the solution to the greater problems, contrary to our general approach, we raise no objection to compulsory licensing and parallel importation of pharmaceuticals by South Africa in response to their situation, as long as it is done in a way that is compliant with TRIPS and, with respect to parallal importing, ensures the safety and efficacy of the pharmaceuticals."

>>> <"Erica J. Barks-Ruggles"@lngate2.eop.gov> 07/07 8:30 pm >>>
Message Creation Date was at 7-JUL-1999 20:26:00

Tom and Sandy and Joe - Need your help in getting this cleared for use by a group going to the Hill to talk on the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. We will only use if needed. I will be there. We will stick to the script. Read the second half (if pressed section) to Jim Babbit over the phone - he is OK with it.

Tom and Joe - can you please scrutinize the second half (if pressed section) especially to ensure that it is 100% on point. I want to make sure we are absolutely straight down the middle on this if we get pressed.

Tom - Can I also get a copy of the CBC letter and VP's response?

Sandy - I have cleared with Ken Bernard as well. Thanks

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-JUL-1999 10:21:13.00

SUBJECT: Gore and Bradley match records, court gay votes

TO: Christopher S. Lehane (CN=Christopher S. Lehane/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura M. Quinn (CN=Laura M. Quinn/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Alejandro G. Cabrera (CN=Alejandro G. Cabrera/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Philip G Dufour (CN=Philip G Dufour/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Michael B. Feldman (CN=Michael B. Feldman/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Monica M. Dixon (CN=Monica M. Dixon/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Clark E. Ray (CN=Clark E. Ray/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ansley Jones (CN=Ansley Jones/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Eli G. Attie (CN=Eli G. Attie/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ron Klain (CN=Ron Klain/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

Jeff Trammell (Jeff Trammell [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP on 07/08/99
10:20 AM -----

Doug.Case @ sdsu.edu
07/02/99 08:48:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Richard Socarides

cc:

Subject: Gore and Bradley match records, court gay votes

SOUTHERN VOICE
Atlanta, GA
July 1, 1999
www.southernvoice.com

THE RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: Gore and Bradley match records, court gay votes

Both support basic civil rights protection, are equivocal on gays in the military and oppose gay marriage

Editor's note: Though the first presidential primary contest is seven months away, Americans are taking their first close look at the men and women seeking the nation's highest office. In a two-part series, Southern Voice investigates the candidates' stand on issues important to gay and lesbian voters. This week: the Democrats.

by GIP PLASTER

Vice President Al Gore, considered the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, visited a gay and lesbian center in Los Angeles on June 24. Senator Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), Gore's only announced competition, visited the center a week earlier.

Officials with the two campaigns disagree over who had the idea first.

"The vice president's visit had been long scheduled and had been planned for some time," said Marla Romash, deputy chairman of Gore 2000, the campaign to elect Gore as president.

"That's completely untrue," countered Eric Hauser, Bradley's press secretary.

Whoever had the idea first, both candidates are courting gay and lesbian voters. With very few differences on most issues-and no real differences on gay and lesbian issues-it is not surprising to see them popping up at the same places.

Both candidates are looking for gay and lesbian votes, but both fall short on at least one issue of importance to most gay and lesbian voters-marriage. Their positions on allowing gays to serve openly in the military are not strong, either.

While Gore now appears likely to win the nomination, political analysts say Bradley's views are important, too, because he could become Gore's running mate. With the first primaries are months away, Gore could stumble, allowing Bradley to steal the nomination for himself.

Who They Are

Both Gore and Bradley are sons of the South, and both were Senators who had other careers before stepping into the chamber.

Gore, born March 31, 1948, is the son of a senator. He was raised in Carthage, Tenn. and in Washington, D.C. He graduated with honors from Harvard in 1969 with a degree in government. Gore later became an investigative reporter for The Tennessean in Nashville, served as a journalist in Vietnam and also attended divinity school and law school. His home church is New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Carthage.

He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1977 to 1985, then in the Senate from 1985 until 1993, when he was inaugurated as vice president.

Bradley, born July 28, 1943 in Crystal City, Missouri, is the son of a banker and schoolteacher. He attended Princeton and was a Rhodes scholar. He played professional basketball, retiring from the sport in 1977.

In 1979, he was elected to the U.S. Senate from New Jersey and was sworn in as its youngest member at age 35. He left the Senate in 1996 and has since been writing, lecturing and consulting.

Employment non-discrimination

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban workplace bias against gays, wins support from both candidates.

ENDA "affords, to all, basic employment nondiscrimination," said Romash, Gore's deputy campaign chairman. "The vice president supports protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

Last fall, when Gore was spoke at the Human Rights Campaign national dinner, he urged the bill's passage.

"So I say to Congress: let's give everyone who is willing to work for it a fair and equal chance to succeed," the vice president said. At the dinner, Gore's wife Tipper also expressed her enthusiastic support for tolerance and respect for gay Americans.

Gore reaffirmed his support during his trip to California last week.

As a Senator, Bill Bradley also supported ENDA, signing on as a co-sponsor in 1994 and 1995. He voted in favor of the bill when it fell just one vote shy of a tie in 1996. At the time, Gore said he would have cast the deciding vote in the legislation's favor.

Hate crimes

Gore has declared his support for laws that increase punishment for crimes motivated by hatred based on the victim's real or perceived sexual orientation. He also believes such crimes should be punished with "the full force of the law," Romash said.

"If we allow even a small number of Americans to harbor and act upon malice and intolerance, then every American feels the sting of injustice," Gore has said on the issue.

In the 101st Congress, Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) proposed an amendment to the Hate Crimes Statistics Act that would have added to the act language stating that "the homosexual movement threatens the strength and survival of the American family" and that "state sodomy laws should be enforced."

Then-Senator Gore voted against the measure, which won only 19 votes. That session, Gore earned a 90 percent rating from the HRC. He earned a 100 percent rating for the 102nd Congress.

Last month, when the Texas state legislature was considering a new state hate crimes law that included "sexual orientation" as a protected category, Bradley was in the state campaigning.

Bradley told the media if Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the leading GOP candidate for president, did not help push for passage of the legislation, Bradley would make an issue of it in the campaign. Bush did not use his influence and the measure failed, though the governor denied Democrat charges that he squelched the bill so he would not be forced to sign or veto it.

As with a number of gay rights issues, Bradley has not spoken much publicly about hate crimes during the race. But Hauser, his press secretary, said Bradley supports tough hate crime legislation.

After the brutal, anti-gay murder in March of Alabaman Billy Jack Gaither, Bradley issued a statement condemning the attack.

"The kind of hatred that led to the murder of Billy Jack Gaither, and the murders of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming and James Byrd in Texas, is a crime against every American-against our belief that diversity strengthens us, against our tolerance for those who are different, and against our fundamental value that as a society we value every individual, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, disability or sexual orientation," the statement read in part.

Gays in the military

Both candidates have a vague stance on gays in the military and the future of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that allows gays to remain in the military so long as they hide and don't act on their sexual orientation.

Romash said Gore believes DADT is a policy that has not been implemented well. When pressed about whether the vice president believes the policy itself is a good one, Romash declined further comment and referred to a line in talking points prepared for Gore that says, "It is a policy that needs to be implemented better."

When asked whether DADT would be rescinded under a Bradley administration, Hauser was also equivocal.

"There is a possibility of reviewing the policy," he said.

In 1993, when the gays in the military controversy first broke, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) introduced an amendment to an appropriations bill removing the codification of the ban on gays in the military, and Bradley voted in favor of removing the ban. The amendment failed.

Legislation co-authored by openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) is pending that would partially repeal restrictions put in place in 1996 requiring the withholding of federal funding-including some student aid-from institutions that have anti-discrimination policies that prohibit military recruiting or ROTC.

Neither presidential candidate has a position on the Frank legislation. If the bill comes to a vote, this issue could become important later in the campaign.

Marriage

Both candidates have made clear their opposition to full marriage rights for same-sex couples, though they do support some form of legal recognition.

Gore supports "domestic partner" status for gay couples, but backs President Clinton's decision to sign the Defense of Marriage Act, a largely symbolic piece of legislation that prohibited federal recognition of gay marriages.

Gore reaffirmed that position while in California, saying he opposes "a change in the institution of marriage as we now know it between men and women."

Bradley voted for DOMA in the Senate and also stops short of backing gay marriage.

"In trying to balance the religious and historical idea of marriage with the need for extending rights," Bradley explained in a 1996 interview with the Detroit News. "I say that rights should extend up to but not include recognition of same-sex marriage."

"That's a complicated one for him," Hauser said of Bradley's position on gay marriages. Bradley is aware, he said, that many conservative religious leaders oppose same-sex marriage.

"He has respect for that view, but he also has said he feels very strongly about rights between gay partners," Hauser said.

HIV/AIDS

On the June day he announced for president, Gore was interrupted by AIDS activists upset that he has not pushed for greater availability of life-saving AIDS drugs for the millions of Africans suffering from the disease.

Gore is blamed for giving new life to the AIDS Growth and Opportunity Act, a piece of legislation that would, among other things, attempt to prohibit African nations from developing less-expensive generic forms of AIDS drugs and thereby force them to pay the higher prices for U.S.-patented versions of the drugs.

"The vice president has always worked hard to get drugs into Africa," Romash said. "And he has always supported funding for AIDS." Under the Clinton-Gore administration, funding for AIDS at the National Institutes of Health has increased 67 percent, she added.

HRC has announced its opposition to Gore's position on the issue, which pits the intellectual property rights of U.S. drug manufacturers against the need for less expensive AIDS treatments on the African continent.

Bradley has pushed for greater AIDS funding as early as 1983, according to Hauser, when he called AIDS the most significant disease since polio. In 1985, he co-sponsored the Ryan White Act.

"He has always fought hard for AIDS issues," Hauser said.

Other Issues

Money is an important issue in any presidential campaign. Gore expected to raise \$1.1 million during the two-day trip to California that included a stop at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and a fund-raising dinner in San Francisco. The previous week, Bradley raised \$800,000 at a dinner in Hollywood hosted by openly gay movie mogul Barry Diller.

Money that comes directly or indirectly from the gay community can be important to election campaigns. While no firm data exists, HRC estimates that between \$3 million and \$6 million in campaign contributions came from gay PACs in the 1996 elections.

During Bradley's visit to the L.A. center, he told residents and those present that they were "an integral part of America."

During Gore's visit to the same center, 20-year old Javier Garcia asked the vice president why he was there. "I'm here to learn and pay honor to this place," he said.

Although Gore has taken more proactive positions on gay rights issues, the two candidates' positions are almost identical. Still, Hauser points to Bradley's 89.7 percent career rating from HRC.

"Bill Bradley has talked very emphatically about discrimination against gay and lesbian people being a clear and abject wrong and something this country needs to do something about," Hauser said, although he was unable to provide news articles or materials with quotes from Bradley on gay issues.

Gore raised eyebrows last month when, on a May 24 campaign stop in Atlanta, he told a local Salvation Army chapter that it represented his vision for a government-sanctioned role for "faith-based organizations" in providing social services.

The Salvation Army, a conservative Christian organization, turned down \$3.5 million in funding from the city of San Francisco in June because the organization said it could not comply with the city's equal benefit ordinance that requires all entities that do business with the city to offer benefits to employees' same-sex and opposite-sex unmarried partners.

"This [equal benefits ordinance] conflicts with our basic theological position which recognizes the importance of the family," Lt. Colonel Richard Love, who heads the Salvation Army in San Francisco.

In his Atlanta appearance, Gore praised the organization, which says it provides services to all without regard to sexual orientation.

"Here in Atlanta at the Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center, I see in you the powerful role of faith in nurturing a change of consciousness," said Gore. "All of the men here who are recovering from substance abuse start the day with a morning devotion period. ¶ That belief is giving new hope to many of the recovering people who are with us today."

No gay endorsements yet

Neither candidate has been endorsed by any major gay lobby groups. HRC was criticized during the 1996 campaign for endorsing President Clinton's re-election early in the campaign, and the criticism has grown since some promises Clinton made have still not been fulfilled.

"It's unclear when an endorsement will be made," said HRC communications director David Smith. "Endorsement is completely at the discretion of the board."

HRC's close relationship to the Clinton-Gore administration, along with Gore's appearance at the HRC National Dinner, has led some to speculate

that HRC has already promised Gore the endorsement.

"That's ridiculous," Smith said. "There's no such deal."

While endorsements can make or break a campaign, Hauser of the Bradley campaign suggests gay voters should think for themselves.

"Gay and lesbian Americans, like other Americans, need to make individual judgments about who they believe should be president," he said.

Bill Bradley for President, Inc.

395 Pleasant Valley Way
West Orange, NJ 07052
call: 888-643-9799
web: www.billbradley.com

Gore 2000, Inc.

P.O. Box 18237
Washington, DC 20036-8237
call: 202-263-6000
web: www.algore2000.com

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-JUL-1999 10:02:10.00

SUBJECT: Commentary: Don't blame Gore for Africa's AIDS crisis

TO: Christopher S. Lehane (CN=Christopher S. Lehane/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura M. Quinn (CN=Laura M. Quinn/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Alejandro G. Cabrera (CN=Alejandro G. Cabrera/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Philip G Dufour (CN=Philip G Dufour/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Michael B. Feldman (CN=Michael B. Feldman/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Monica M. Dixon (CN=Monica M. Dixon/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Clark E. Ray (CN=Clark E. Ray/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ansley Jones (CN=Ansley Jones/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Eli G. Attie (CN=Eli G. Attie/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ron Klain (CN=Ron Klain/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

Jeff Trammell (Jeff Trammell [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP on 07/08/99
10:01 AM -----

Doug.Case @ sdsu.edu
07/06/99 11:02:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Richard Socarides

cc:

Subject: Commentary: Don't blame Gore for Africa's AIDS crisis

DON'T BLAME GORE FOR AFRICA'S AIDS CRISIS -

The cost of HIV-fighting drugs in South Africa could be greatly reduced if local companies were licensed to produce generic versions.

By CLARENCE PAGE, Chicago Tribune [Washington, DC bureau]

WASHINGTON -- As if Al Gore didn't have enough to worry about in his budding presidential bid, protesters have been interrupting his speeches by chanting and waving crude banners. Their cause is good, but, like dogs barking up the wrong tree, they are attacking the wrong politician.

The activists are affiliated with the militant group ACT UP, which has a reputation for loud and disruptive impatience with anyone who fails to move quick as a bunny to let ACT UP have its way.

Vice President Al Gore also co-chairs the U.S. - South African Binational Commission. The AIDS activists are inflamed by a State Department report to congress that says the commission led a "campaign" to stop South Africa from making low-cost generic AIDS drugs available to its 3.2 million AIDS-infected people.

South Africa's problem is economic. HIV drugs can cost \$500 a week, which is about what the average worker in sub-Saharan Africa makes in a year.

As a result, sub-Saharan Africa has 70 percent of the new HIV cases worldwide, but less than 1 percent of the AIDS drugs produced in the world.

The cost of drugs in South Africa could be greatly reduced if South African companies were licensed to produce generic versions of the drugs for domestic use. In that spirit, former President Nelson Mandela's government passed the nation's 1997 Medicines Act, which responded to the crisis by called for "compulsory licensing" and "parallel importing" of AIDS drugs.

The act would enable South African pharmaceutical companies to ignore overseas patents and make lower-cost generic versions of AIDS drugs.

That's why pharmaceutical companies sued the South African government, claiming the Medicines Act violates American and World Trade Organization laws that protect drug companies from having their patents violated abroad.

ACT UP protesters claim Gore has sided with the drug companies. But there's another side to that story. Internal memos between Gore and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barskefsky in April show that Gore actually opposed efforts by American drug companies to pressure the Clinton administration to escalate threats of trade sanctions against South Africa for possible violations of intellectual property rights.

The vice president "understands the urgency of South Africa's AIDS plight and supports efforts to make health care more affordable," a Gore spokesman told me. Gore also has no objection to South Africa's call for the compulsory licensing and parallel importing of AIDS drugs provided that it is in alignment with the WTO's trade and intellectual property agreements.

Gore also met with Thabo Mbeki, who is now president of South Africa, in August to get clarifications of the law and to iron out differences with international trade policies.

Gore charged that the South African law is too vague in its attempt to answer public health needs and protect drug companies at the same time. That's a valid concern that's shared even by South African drug companies, who joined the foreign companies' suit against their government out of fear for their own patent protections. Drug manufacturers say they need

patent protection to make more research worthwhile. Critics accuse the drug firms of exploiting a tragedy. Still, many of them defend Gore. "Drug overpricing is the real culprit, not Gore," says Daniel Zingale, executive director of AIDS Action [e-mail: dzingale@aidsaction.org], a lobbying organization. "Gore's overall record has been good and we hope he will do more on the global AIDS crisis."

AIDS activists also have criticized Gore for supporting the African Growth and Opportunity Act, sponsored by Rep. Philip M. Crane (R-ILL.), which encourages more trade with sub-Saharan Africa, but makes no mention of the AIDS crisis.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-ILL.), has denounced the Crane bill as "NAFTA for Africa," which he does not say as a compliment to either the bill or to NAFTA. He also offered an alternative bill that would, among other major moves, prevent America from applying sanctions to any sub-Saharan African nations trying to make AIDS drugs widely available.

Unfortunately for Jackson there is almost no chance that today's conservative Republican Congress is going to vote for a trade bill as liberal as his, which, among other features, calls for broad job protections for African workers and debt forgiveness for African governments.

That's why the Crane bill is being backed by a bipartisan coalition that includes key African leaders, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, and, not insignificantly, Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., Clinton's special envoy to Africa and father of Rep. Jackson.

So I applaud AIDS activists for bringing some long-overdue attention to Africa's AIDS crisis. But in their pursuit of Al Gore, they're barking at the wrong politician. At least he has tried to be part of the solution, while too many others only make the problem worse or pay no attention to it at all. -End- As published in:

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Maurice Daniel (CN=Maurice Daniel/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:12-JUL-1999 09:52:27.00

SUBJECT: Update On Gore, AIDS and South Africa

TO: Christopher S. Lehane (CN=Christopher S. Lehane/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Monica M. Dixon (CN=Monica M. Dixon/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura M. Quinn (CN=Laura M. Quinn/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ron Klain (CN=Ron Klain/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Maurice Daniel/OVP on 07/12/99 09:50
AM -----

jackson@56-5.clever.net
07/09/99 06:24:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maurice Daniel@OVP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Update On Gore, AIDS and South Africa

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Jesse Jackson, Jr.'s e-mail distribution list. If you would like to
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As we said last week, we want to be completely fair with VP Gore.
In that spirit we send you this article which further updates what
VP Gore is saying with regard to his role and position on the South
Africa, AIDS, pharmaceutical companies issue.

DON'T BLAME GORE FOR AFRICA'S AIDS CRISIS
Chicago Tribune
By Clarence Page
July 4, 1999

WASHINGTON As if Al Gore didn't have enough to worry about in his
budding presidential bid, protesters have been interrupting his
speeches by chanting and waving crude banners. Their cause is good,
but, like dogs barking up the wrong tree, they are attacking the
wrong politician.

The activists are affiliated with the militant group ACT UP, which

has a reputation for loud and disruptive impatience with anyone who fails to move quick as a bunny to let ACT UP have its way.

Vice President Al Gore also co-chairs the U.S.-South African Binational Commission. The AIDS activists are inflamed by a State Department report to Congress that says the commission led a "campaign" to stop South Africa from making low-cost generic AIDS drugs available to its 3.2 million AIDS-infected people.

South Africa's problem is economic. HIV drugs can cost \$500 a week, which is about what the average worker in sub-Saharan Africa makes in a year. As a result, sub-Saharan Africa has 70 percent of the new HIV cases worldwide, but less than 1 percent of the AIDS drugs produced in the world.

The cost of drugs in South Africa could be greatly reduced if South African companies were licensed to produce generic versions of the drugs for domestic use. In that spirit, former President Nelson Mandela's government passed the nation's 1997 Medicines Act, which responded to the crisis by calling for "compulsory licensing" and "parallel importing" of AIDS drugs.

The act would enable South African pharmaceutical companies to ignore overseas patents and make lower-cost generic versions of AIDS drugs.

That's why pharmaceutical companies sued the South African government, claiming the Medicines Act violates American and World Trade Organization laws that protect drug companies from having their patents violated abroad.

ACT UP protesters claim Gore has sided with the drug companies. But there's another side to that story. Internal memos between Gore and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky in April show that Gore actually opposed efforts by American drug companies to pressure the Clinton administration to escalate threats of trade sanctions against South Africa for possible violations of intellectual property rights.

The vice president "understands the urgency of South Africa's AIDS plight and supports efforts to make health care more affordable," a Gore spokesman told me. Gore also has no objection to South Africa's call for the compulsory licensing and parallel importing of AIDS drugs provided that it is in alignment with the WTO's trade and intellectual property agreements.

Gore also met with Thabo Mbeki, who is now president of South Africa, in August to get clarifications of the law and to iron out differences with international trade policies.

Gore charged that the South African law is too vague in its attempt to answer public health needs and protect drug companies at the same time. That's a valid concern that's shared even by South African drug companies, who joined the foreign companies' suit against their government out of fear for their own patent protections. Drug manufacturers say they need patent protection to make more research worthwhile. Critics accuse the drug firms of exploiting a tragedy. Still, many of them defend Gore. "Drug overpricing is the real culprit, not Gore," says Daniel Zingale, executive director of

AIDS Action, a lobbying organization. "Gore's overall record has been good and we hope he will do more on the global AIDS crisis."

AIDS activists also have criticized Gore for supporting the African Growth and Opportunity Act, sponsored by Rep. Philip M. Crane (R-Ill.), which encourages more trade with sub-Saharan Africa, but makes no mention of the AIDS crisis.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-Ill.), has denounced the Crane bill as "NAFTA for Africa," which he does not say as a compliment to either the bill or to NAFTA. He also offered an alternative bill that would, among other major moves, prevent America from applying sanctions to any sub-Saharan African nations trying to make AIDS drugs widely available.

Unfortunately for Jackson there is almost no chance that today's conservative Republican Congress is going to vote for a trade bill as liberal as his, which, among other features, calls for broad job protections for African workers and debt forgiveness for African governments.

That's why the Crane bill is being backed by a bipartisan coalition that includes key African leaders, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, and, not insignificantly, Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., Clinton's special envoy to Africa and father of Rep. Jackson.

So I applaud AIDS activists for bringing some long-overdue attention to Africa's AIDS crisis. But in their pursuit of Al Gore, they're barking at the wrong politician. At least he has tried to be part of the solution, while too many others only make the problem worse or pay no attention to it at all.

-30-

Jesse Jackson, Jr. - Congressman Second District of Illinois
<http://www.jessejacksonjr.org>

Paid for and maintained by Jesse Jackson, Jr. for Congress

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Maurice Daniel (CN=Maurice Daniel/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:12-JUL-1999 14:23:39.00

SUBJECT: Update On Gore, AIDS and South Africa

TO: David R Thomas (CN=David R Thomas/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Maurice Daniel/OVP on 07/12/99 02:23 PM -----

jackson@56-5.clever.net

07/09/99 06:24:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maurice Daniel@OVP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Update On Gore, AIDS and South Africa

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<http://www.jessejacksonjr.org>

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:12-JUL-1999 12:38:18.00

SUBJECT: Africa Facts...in case you need them.

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

AIDS in Africa is a Serious Crisis
But Opportunities Exist for Helping to Save Millions of Lives

AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa is shattering families and communities.

v In many countries in southern Africa, between 16% (South Africa) and 26% (Zimbabwe) of the adult population (15 to 49) is already HIV+.

v UNAIDS has declared HIV/AIDS in Africa the worst infectious disease catastrophe since the bubonic plague. In sub-Saharan Africa, each and every day more than 11,000 additional people become HIV+. In South Africa alone, at least 1,500 people a day become HIV+, 1,000 of whom are under the age of 20.

v 83% of all AIDS deaths to date, nearly 12 million people, have been in sub-Saharan Africa.

v There are over 5,500 AIDS related funerals a day in Africa. That number will rise to 13,000 a day by 2005.

v By 2010, more than 40 million children worldwide will be orphaned by AIDS; 95% in sub-Saharan Africa.

AIDS is wiping out decades of progress on a host of development objectives in sub-Saharan Africa.

v According to US Census Bureau, AIDS has already reduced life expectancy Zimbabwe from 65 to 39 years, in Uganda from 54 to 43 years, and in Zambia from 56 to 37 years. In the next few years, AIDS will reduce life expectancy in South Africa by a third, from 60 to 40 years.

v In the coming decade, AIDS will double infant mortality (infants under the age of 1) in many sub-Saharan Africa countries and triple child mortality (children ages 1 to 5).

AIDS is not only causing unfathomable human suffering it is jeopardizing the economies, the stability, and civil society of many sub-Saharan African nations.

v AIDS is a trade and investment issue. At the recent meeting with African trade and finance ministers, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Harvard Institute for International Development, stated that, a frontal attack on AIDS in Africa may now be the single most important strategy for economic development.

v According to The Economist, a recent study in Namibia estimated that AIDS cost the country almost 8% of GNP in 1996. Another analysis predicts that Kenya's GNP will be 14.5% smaller in 2005 than it would have been without AIDS, and the per capita income will be 10% lower.

v A report released by the World Bank last week states: The question is, will this pandemic destroy the developing nations, hard earned economic gains or will governments get their act together in time?

Clearly time is running out.¶8

v AIDS has hit professionals hard in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly civil servants, engineers, teachers, miners, and military personnel. According to one study in Kigali, Rwanda, 34% of people with post-secondary education were HIV positive, compared to 18% of those with primary education, and civil servants were more than three times more likely to be HIV positive than farmers. Increased benefits and training costs, and disruption due to sick and bereavement leave are seriously affecting both the private and public sectors. Companies like British Petroleum and Barclay Bank told us that they are now hiring two employees for every one skilled job, assuming that one will die of AIDS.

v AIDS is a security issue. According to the Economist, ¶the estimated HIV prevalence in the seven armies embroiled in the Congo range from 50% for the Angolans to 80% in Zimbabweans¶8. Recent reports confirm that 40% of the South African military is already HIV positive. US military officials have raised this as a serious stability concern.

v A South African anti-crime institute has linked the growing number of children orphaned by AIDS to future increases in crime and civil unrest. Without appropriate intervention, many of the 2 million children projected to be orphaned by AIDS in South Africa will raise themselves on the streets, often turning to crime, drugs, commercial sex, and gangs for survival. This not only effects social stability but also dramatically increases their risk of HIV.

Determined leadership and partnerships have made, and are continuing to make, an extraordinary difference, saving millions of lives.

v Uganda has been the world leader in demonstrating that even a country with limited resources and low levels of literacy could turn the tide on a burgeoning epidemic. President Museveni demonstrated bold leadership early on, making every government ministry take the problem seriously, and develop and implement its own plan for reducing stigma and transmission, and caring for those who become sick.

v Uganda has created an enabling environment for donors, such as the US, to be active partners in the battle against AIDS. The US has invested \$46 million in HIV prevention and care in Uganda (26% of all donor AIDS funding), and as a result, HIV rates have been slashed by more than half. Through stigma reduction, education, HIV counseling and testing, treatment of STDs, and community based HIV care and support, Uganda has begun to turn the tide.

v Countries such as Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, and Kenya have begun to develop initiatives to respond to the growing number of children orphaned by AIDS. In the longstanding African tradition, communities are finding creative ways to support the village in its efforts to raise its children, but the growing number of orphaned children already overwhelms many of these villages.

v Through micro-finance programs like FINCA (Foundation for International Community Assistance), women are receiving loans, starting small businesses, and with increased household incomes, taking in children orphaned by AIDS. With support of non-governmental organizations, communities are coming together to deal with school fees, nutritional assistance, immunization and oral hydration, counseling, and the range of other needs that arise for orphaned children. These efforts are low cost strategies designed to empower women, protect children, and support extended families and communities in carrying for their own. For a small fraction of the cost of one orphanage bed an entire community of vulnerable children can receive care. The problem is that only a very small number of children receive even this modest level of support.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:13-JUL-1999 09:01:44.00

SUBJECT: Gore's AIDS Problem

TO: Christopher S. Lehane (CN=Christopher S. Lehane/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura M. Quinn (CN=Laura M. Quinn/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Alejandro G. Cabrera (CN=Alejandro G. Cabrera/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Philip G Dufour (CN=Philip G Dufour/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Michael B. Feldman (CN=Michael B. Feldman/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Monica M. Dixon (CN=Monica M. Dixon/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Clark E. Ray (CN=Clark E. Ray/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ansley Jones (CN=Ansley Jones/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Eli G. Attie (CN=Eli G. Attie/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ron Klain (CN=Ron Klain/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

This is a good story, w/ some supportive quotes from some of the protesters. My quote in the third paragraph I'd like back (sorry, just trying to help, not perfect, etc...). This appeared in California's largest gay paper. We ought to put the sawyer quote in our fact sheet.
----- Forwarded by Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP on 07/13/99
08:54 AM -----

Doug.Case@sdsu.edu

07/13/99 01:21:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Richard Socarides@EOP
cc:
Subject: Gore's AIDS Problem

FRONTIERS NEWSMAGAZINE
Vol. 18, Issue 6 - July 9, 1999
www.frontiersweb.com

Gore's AIDS Problem

ACT UP Says VP's Kowtowing to Drug Companies Worsens African AIDS Crisis

From San Francisco to Johannesburg, where this July 5 demonstration took place, Al Gore (left with HRC's Elizabeth Birch, and wife, Tipper) is taking the heat for U.S. trade policy in Africa. Unlike stops in San Francisco, New York and Philadelphia, AIDS activists were nowhere to be found during Vice President Al Gore's official visit to the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center on June 24. The protesters from ACT UP and other groups, with signs bearing such messages as "Gore's Greed Kills: African Needs AIDS Drugs," have become a permanent fixture on the Gore campaign trail, disrupting his appearances and accusing him of siding with pharmaceutical companies in a trade dispute that threatens to block South Africa's access to cheap, generic AIDS drugs.

The ACT UP protests have been a distraction for Gore at a time when he has been shown trailing GOP front runner Texas Gov. George W. Bush distantly in several national polls and desperately needs to shore up his political base. The protests have even prompted the Human Rights Campaign to issue a press release expressing concern about Gore's South Africa policy, a frustrating development for Gore aides, who say the vice president has been actively working behind the scenes to resolve the issue and get help to the devastated continent.

"I think the vice president's been badly misunderstood and misrepresented, even by some in government," said Richard Socarides, the White House gay liaison and an advisor to Gore, who met with ACT UP representatives in late June. "I don't think the protesters treated him unfairly, but now we can move forward. I can confirm for you that his views are now the views of the government and those views are aligned with the protesters."

But Julie Davids of ACT UP/Philadelphia isn't so sure they've got the vice president on board. "What we need is action, not rhetoric," she said. "We need to see tangible results."

According to current World Health Organization estimates, 22.5 million Africans are HIV-positive, including up to 26 percent of young adults. The continent counts for two-thirds of the world's HIV population, according to those estimates.

The trade issue is a complicated one, made more so by presidential politics, the profit motives of the pharmaceutical industry and a simmering dispute between American AIDS activists and African diplomats on the best strategy for solving the continent's AIDS crisis.

The issue over Africa's access to AIDS drugs erupted in 1997 when the South African government passed the Medicine Act allowing local companies to use "compulsory licensing" to manufacture, market and sell generic versions of pharmaceutical drugs in response to their health emergency. Out of 43 million South Africans, about 4 million are HIV positive. To counter patent problems, the government said they would pay royalties to the affected

companies. But at least 40 companies launched a lawsuit against the government, which is still being weighed by the South African court.

In addition to its ability to effect world trade policy, the U.S. government plays an important role in the debate because it holds patents or retains rights on drugs for which it substantially funded research or investment. "Drugs such as ddI, d4T or 3TC were researched and developed primarily with U.S. tax dollars and could be turned over to the World Health Organization legally right now, so that drugs could be made available at-cost in developing nations," argues economist Carl Priskel. Activists estimate that compulsory licensing could reduce the cost of AIDS medications in South Africa by as much as 90 percent.

The government also advocated "parallel-importing," which permits the purchase of drugs at marked discounts through third parties. On the world market, for instance, AZT can be purchased for 42 cents for 300 mg; in the U.S. it retails for nearly \$6 a pill. The average income for South Africans is \$2,600 while the annual average HIV drug costs more than \$10,000 a year. Activists charge that the pharmaceutical industry fears that South Africa's Medicines Act might encourage other Third World countries to follow suit, thereby undercutting profits.

On Feb. 5, 1999, the State Department issued a report to Congress about the U.S. government's problems with the Medicines Act and specifically named the Office of the Vice President as an agency that "[has] been engaging in an assiduous, concerted campaign to persuade the government of South Africa to withdraw or modify" the provision of the Medicines Act that would permit compulsory licensing. According to Jamie Love, director of the Ralph Nader Consumer Project on Technology (CPTech), the report goes on to say that "since the passage of the offending amendments ¶ U.S. government agencies have been engaged in a full court press with South African officials from the Departments of Trade and Industry, Foreign Affairs, and Health, to convince the South African government to withdraw or amend the offending provisions of the law."

As a result of the patent and intellectual properties dispute, on April 30, 1999, the United States Trade Representative once again put South Africa on a "trade watch" list, prompting activists to believe the U.S. government is using tariff restrictions on some South African imports as trade sanction leverage. Spokespersons for Gore, who is the chairman of the US/South Africa Binational Commission, say the U.S. government is simply trying to make South Africa abide by international law and the World Trade Organization accord on intellectual property. But activists say the accord makes policies on parallel imports a matter of national discretion; parallel imports of pharmaceuticals are common in many European countries and compulsory licensing is also common in the United States and Europe.

"U.S. government officials often misrepresent the status of international law or use highly misleading rhetoric, in order to obfuscate the fact that the U.S. government is bullying South Africa to abandon cost saving measures that are completely legal and accepted in international trade agreements," Love writes on the CPTech Web site.

Meanwhile, activists are concerned about pharmaceutical's lobbying efforts. In 1997, the pharmaceutical and health product industry spent nearly \$75 million on lobbying and contributed nearly \$8 million to the Democratic and Republican parties, according to ACT UP/Philadelphia and the Center for Responsive Politics. ACT UP also points out that Gore is strongly linked to the drug industry through his chief campaign advisors which include: Tony Podesta, one of PhRMA's top lobbyists, also retained by biotech Genentech;

former Congressman Tom Downy, a lobbyist for Merck; fund-raiser Peter Knight, who lobbied for Schering-Plough; and Gore domestic policy advisor David Beier lobbied for Genentech. In addition, Gore 2000 has thus far received \$11,000 from pharmaceutical lobbyists.

Gore, for his part, has repeatedly offered to meet with the protesters. On his demo-free June 24 trip to Los Angeles, Gore aides released a statement saying, "We respect the good intentions of those concerned about the problems of AIDS in Africa." They also noted that Gore has been working with newly inaugurated South African President Thabo Mbeki to find better ways to address the South African AIDS crisis.

"The vice president also believes we need to use all available means to deliver high-quality, affordable medicines to those who need them," the statement said. "That's why he has been encouraging the efforts of the U.S. Trade Representative, the South African government, and the pharmaceutical industry to explore solutions to end the dispute over patient rights."

That same day Gore's office received a letter from Rep. James Clyburn, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), asking for an explanation of the protesters' allegations, describing the charges as "characterizations that are entirely out of line with your record." In a detailed letter to the CBC, Gore replied that the U.S. Trade Representative had, as Gore had urged him to do, rejected heightening South Africa's trade "watch" status, an action that could have undercut efforts to resolve the problem. "I support South Africa's efforts to provide AIDS drugs at reduced prices through compulsory licensing and parallel importing, so long as they are carried out in a way that is consistent with international agreements," Gore wrote.

CBC member Rep. Donald Payne, D-N.J., the ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee's subcommittee on Africa, told the Associated Press that ACT UP is "wrong" in the way it is attacking Gore. "If there are some legal questions about development of generic medications and the whole patent question, they're beyond the vice president," Payne said.

The Nader project's Love, in his own June 29 letter to Clyburn, said Gore's letter appeared "to signal a welcome and important change in U.S. policy [but] our enthusiasm is restrained by the way that support is qualified. Specifically, the words 'in a way consistent with international trade agreements' has been subject to highly controversial interpretations."

The ACT UP protesters did succeed in getting a two-hour meeting with AIDS Czar Sandra Thurman and Socarides-both top advisors to Gore-as well as foreign policy staff.

"It was a very good and productive meeting," Socarides told Frontiers July 1. "We learned a lot from them and what they learned from us is that the vice president had been working behind the scenes for many months advocating a position that was very much aligned with theirs. Having said that, we realize that the AIDS crisis in South Africa is a horrible epidemic which is escalating exponentially and this issue dealing with parallel importing and compulsory licensing is but a very small piece of a complicated situation."

According to Socarides, Thurman had already been working with AIDS activists on an "African Plan," which they expect to make public in the next few weeks. "You will see a substantial commitment of energy and resources to the problem," Socarides said.

Eric Sawyer of ACT UP/New York, agreed that the meeting was productive. He called it "a good indication that the administration is truly concerned about AIDS in Africa and the trade issues that we're trying to publicize." Sawyer, who met separately with Tipper Gore in New York, said she told him that Thurman is creating an inter-governmental task force to come up with recommendations. "That's a good sign and the letter to the CBC was a good step towards progress," Sawyer said. "It's the first time we've seen in black and white a statement affirming support for important policies."

But Davids of ACT UP/Philadelphia said there's already a solution on the table: Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.'s Human Rights, Opportunity, Partnership and Empowerment (HOPE) for Africa Act, which is being offered as an alternative over the Clinton-Gore favored African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). "There's a bad bill and a good bill and the vice president's response is to push the bad bill and threaten trade sanctions against countries trying to do the right thing without violating international law," Davids said.

The African Diplomatic Corps in Washington, D.C., appears to disagree with Davids. H.E. Roble Olhaye, ambassador of Djibouti and dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, issued a press release June 29 saying that African ambassadors are "highly skeptical about the motives of the opponents" of the Clinton-Gore bill, which he called "the critical centerpiece" of a productive U.S.-African economic partnership.

"[We] vehemently reject the hollow arguments promoted by a small cadre of self-promoting advocates for Africa, that the bill advances U.S. corporate interests at the expense of the interests and needs of Africa," Olhaye said. "Unfortunately, opponents of the bill seem to dismiss African elected governments and their representatives as incapable of deciding for themselves."

-Karen Ocamb

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:13-JUL-1999 15:25:11.00

SUBJECT: Waht about adding these quotes

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Daniel C. Montoya (CN=Daniel C. Montoya/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:13-JUL-1999 11:46:40.00

SUBJECT: AIDS Treatment News-Vice President and AIDS Drugs for Africa

TO: Johanna H. Kiehl (CN=Johanna H. Kiehl/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Todd A. Summers (CN=Todd A. Summers/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Philip G Dufour (CN=Philip G Dufour/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Jeffrey Trammell (Jeffrey Trammell [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

FYI -

dcm

www.immunet.org/immunet/atn.nsf/page/a-322-06

Article: Africa, Access, and Patents: Moving Fast

Date: 07/02/99

Issue: 322

Author: James, John S.

The U.S. government's use of its economic power to block almost all access to modern medicines in developing countries--stopping those governments from licensing cheaper copies of patented pharmaceuticals even when allowed by international treaties, just to maintain the sanctity of pharmaceutical patents, even when the drugs are not marketed in those countries anyway so no profit would be lost--has moved into public awareness with amazing speed. Key events have been recent high-profile demonstrations at Vice President Gore's presidential campaign appearances, release of a State Department document detailing Gore's role in U.S. policy, and a Geneva, Switzerland meeting March 25-27, 1999, on compulsory licensing (see AIDS Treatment News #317 on the State Department document, and #314 and #317 on the Geneva meeting). Due largely to the demonstrations against Gore, this issue is now being discussed by members of Congress and researched by journalists around the world.

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But for those of us most intimately involved in AIDS activism--and AIDS policy--there is another test facing us. A test of humanity, compassion and justice.

The eminent Doug Ireland wrote it succinctly in his Public Eye column in the most recent POZ, which focused on AIDS in Africa:

The Clinton-Gore "international AIDS policy is politically smart-bombing Third World countries to save profits, not people with AIDS. The administration, in cahoots with the pharmaceutical industry, is using economic pressure and political blackmail to stop developing countries from making inexpensive copies of patented AIDS drugs."

The architect of this tragic campaign is our own Vice President Al Gore, a man who professes great compassion in public but is in fact promoting murderous policies in private.

This is sadly familiar--one more person who raised the hopes of PWAs by vowing that he would do better, be more sincere, work harder to save lives but who has turned out to be, at best, I pray, only temporarily misguided.

According to Gore and other proponents of the administration's policy, it is a simple question of protecting the profits of drug companies so their financial incentive to invest further in research isn't "compromised".

I haven't yet heard them address the needs of the hundreds of thousands of people with AIDS--mostly Africans--who are being profoundly compromised by grueling AIDS deaths of the kind we, fortunately, see less often here in the states these days.

But because we see them less often in this protease era, doesn't mean we should forget what it was like to watch loved ones wither and die before our eyes. Die in pain. Emaciated. Hollow-cheeked. Without control of one's bodily functions. In shame and agony.

Those deaths are horrible memories for most of us, but daily realities for people in Africa. When I was at the Matabele AIDS Clinic in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, last December I met people with AIDS who were determined to make sure they died on a Monday or Tuesday. Why? Because Wednesday was funeral day in Zimbabwe. Stay-aways from work are scheduled for Wednesdays; families plan on getting together on Wednesdays; funerals are bunched together to save money. On Wednesdays. For people who died on a Thursday or Friday or Saturday, it was more difficult--and costly--for their families to preserve the body for a Wednesday funeral.

Profits vs. people. An old battle. But the truth--and the potential solution--is more complicated. I am alive today because of a profit-driven pharmaceutical research system. I know that.

But I also know that if South Africa were to produce generic drugs--and didn't pay a penny in royalty to the developers of those drugs, which is NOT their proposal by the way--the profits of Roche, Glaxo, Bristol Myers Squibb and the others would not suffer one bit. The cost of drugs--especially new drugs--bears virtually no relationship to the actual cost of manufacturing those drugs. Other costs--including overhead, research and marketing (including advertising in POZ) and profit margins that are the envy of the Fortune 500--all of this helps drive the costs to as high as the market will bear in the developed world. As high as the market will bear. The market for survival.

We need a different model in the less developed world, one which is based on a very different economic and political reality than that which we find in the US.

South Africa: Open Letter to Vice President Gore

Over 250 people, mostly health experts and leaders of AIDS

organizations, signed the following letter to U.S. Vice President Gore; 16 of them are from South Africa. The deadline for signatures was June 30.

Dear Vice President Gore:

We are writing to express opposition to trade pressures you are bringing against the people of South Africa over their struggle to obtain access to essential medicines.

The White House dispute with South Africa concerns three basic points.

1. The South Africa government has indicated it wants to use compulsory licensing of medical patents to produce cheaper copies of HIV drugs and other essential medicines. This is of course legal under the WTO/TRIPS agreement, subject to Article 31 safeguards.
2. The South Africa government wants to authorize "parallel imports" of pharmaceuticals, so that it can buy drugs in the United States, Europe or elsewhere, in order to get the best world price. As you know, parallel importing of pharmaceuticals is legal under Article 6 of the WTO/TRIPS agreement, and is a common practice in Europe.
3. The South African government has approved generic versions of Taxol, a U.S. government invention for treating cancer.

As co-chairman of the U.S./South Africa Binational Commission (BNC) you have authorized a wide range of trade pressures against South Africa, much of which is documented in a February 5, 1999 report to the Congress by the U.S. Department of State.

Despite increasing criticism of the U.S. bilateral pressures on South Africa, here and internationally, your office has authorized new trade pressures against South Africa on April 30, 1999.

The April 30, 1999 announcement of a Special 301 out-of-cycle review of trade pressures against South Africa ignored every shred of information that has been provided to your office by public health groups. Indeed, this most recent announcement is basically a recycled version of the February 16, 1999 submissions by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PhRMA), the trade association that represents giant drug companies like Bristol-Myers Squibb,

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Pfizer, and Johnson and Johnson that are trying to stop South Africa from implementing policies to cut costs for pharmaceuticals in South Africa.

It is shocking that the U.S. government is adapting such an aggressive trade policy on behalf of U.S. pharmaceutical companies, when all of sub-Saharan Africa is confronted with a public health crisis of historical dimensions. The U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, recently wrote in the Journal of the American Medical Association that "HIV/AIDS can be likened to the plague that decimated the population of Europe in the 14th century." Dr. Satcher says that "in many southern African countries, HIV/AIDS has become an unprecedented emergency, with 20% to 26% of people between the ages of 15 and 49 infected." This is a here-and-now emergency. It is not a hypothetical or potential emergency. These people will die without access to pharmaceutical drugs.

Your response to this emergency should be to find ways to save lives. But look what you are doing:

-- You are aggressively seeking the repeal of legislation in South Africa that would permit that country to do what nations in Europe do, use parallel imports to buy drugs at the best world price. South Africa wants to use market forces to cut drug costs. You are pushing to protect pharmaceutical companies from global competition, thereby forcing the South Africa people to pay premiums to buy drugs.

-- You are punishing South Africa for even speaking out in favor of compulsory licensing of HIV/AIDS and other essential medicines. The April 30, 1999 report on South Africa complains that:

-During the past year, South African representatives have led a faction of nations in the World Health Organization (WHO) in calling for a reduction in the level of protection provided for pharmaceuticals in TRIPS.

In fact, everything South Africa is seeking to do is legal under the WTO/TRIPS agreement, so this and countless other statements by U.S. government officials are bald lies. But regardless, the exercise of free speech in international forums is an astonishing basis for trade sanctions. As an elected official, indeed, as a human, how would you act if 20 percent of all sexually active young people in the United States were infected with a fatal disease, and a foreign country was trying to prevent you from purchasing drugs on the global market to save money, and was preventing you from licensing firms to manufacture life saving medicines? Would you simply show up at the World Health Assembly and docilely applaud the actions of that country? Even if that foreign country was engaged in a relentless public relations campaign to label every legal action as a form of piracy or lawlessness? At what point would you have the guts to tell the world the truth, and to speak out on behalf of millions of infected young men and women?

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Why on earth should Vice President Al Gore or any other U.S. government employee seek to prevent global competition for Taxol, a life saving cancer drug that was invented and developed by the U.S. National Institutes of Health? Taxol was in NIH sponsored Phase III trials before the Bush Administration gave BMS [Bristol-Myers Squibb] exclusive rights to use NIH research for drug approvals. What is the moral basis for extending the BMS monopoly on Taxol in a country that is so poor?

do As the Vice President of the United States you are in a position to much good or much harm in the world. U.S. voters will soon be asked to determine if you should be the next President of the United States. Please explain why they should choose you.

Sincerely,

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For More Information

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: JWright@osophs.dhhs.gov (Jason Wright) (JWright@osophs.dhhs.gov (Jason Wright) [OA])

CREATION DATE/TIME:13-JUL-1999 10:52:59.00

SUBJECT: AIDS Treatment News-Vice President and AIDS Drugs for Africa

TO: Daniel C. Montoya (CN=Daniel C. Montoya/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: montoya_dc@al.eop.gov (montoya_dc@al.eop.gov [UNKNOWN]) (OPD)

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: JWright@osophs.dhhs.gov (Jason Wright) (JWright@osophs.dhhs.gov (Jason Wright) [OA])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: thomas_m._rosshirt@ovp.eop.gov (thomas_m._rosshirt@ovp.eop.gov [UNKNOWN]) (WHO)

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

www.immunet.org/immunet/atn.nsf/page/a-322-06

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Date: 07/02/99

Issue: 322

Author: James, John S.

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:13-JUL-1999 21:44:46.00

SUBJECT: AIDS in Africa Roll-Out

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ron Klain (CN=Ron Klain/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

We certainly agree with you that the VP should be prominent in the roll out of the Administration's AIDS in Africa Initiative. However, we do not believe that having him make this announcement at the NAACP conference in NYC on Thursday is optimal for several reasons. Here's why:

(1). The most important ingredient for success in this effort is a substantive proposal that our friends can applaud as a big victory. Currently, we are headed in that direction but are not there yet. It could take a day or two, and the help of the VP, to nail down the proposal we want (and need).

(2). If the VP makes this announcement at the NAACP conference in NYC, he is vulnerable to a charge that this effort is designed to pander to an important constituency for campaign purposes. ACT-UP is likely to protest his appearance and secure passes to the conference. If they disrupt his speech -- the substance of the story could easily be lost to another round of the activist vs. VP story -- a story we have all had enough of.

(3). If the VP makes this announcement at the NAACP conference in NYC, it may well offend (or at least disappoint) others who have worked extraordinarily hard on this effort and who seek to be part of the roll out. This includes the Congressional Black Caucus, the international health and children groups, the religious community, and the AIDS groups.

The VP could maximize his positive play by making this announcement at a White House event on either Friday or Monday. This would allow for all of the various constituencies to be present. Given that they all attended the White House launching of this effort on World AIDS Day (12/1/98), having them present for the roll out shows long term continuity. This continuity minimizes the VP's exposure to charges of pandering and presents great opportunities for our friends to give us positive reinforcement.

Let me know what you think. Thanks for all of your help and support.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:14-JUL-1999 15:25:08.00

SUBJECT: language on AIDS money

TO: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Insert on AIDS

We know that prosperity and personal fulfillment come when free people make full use of their talent in the heart of a vibrant democracy. But they cannot do so if their families, friends, even whole nations are ravaged by illness.

As you know very well, AIDS in Africa is now the worst infectious disease catastrophe in the history of modern medicine. Africa suffers 5500 funerals a day -- two million a year -- to bury all the people now dying from AIDS. More than twelve million have died. More than twenty million are now infected. And more than 10,000 new people are infected every day. As a result, families are shattered, businesses go broke, economies collapse, life expectancy plunges, and sub-Saharan Africa must now face 40 million orphans of AIDS over the next ten years.

This is a moral issue. This is a public health issue. This is an economic issue. As one of our nation's prominent economists has said: "a frontal attack on AIDS in Africa may now be the single most important strategy for economic development."

The United States is the world's leading donor for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the developing world. We are spending \$200 million this year alone on the development of a vaccine. Just yesterday, the National Institutes of Health and their counterparts in Uganda released a study of a promising new treatment to reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mothers to children. But we must do much, much more.

That's why the President and I asked the Director of our Office of AIDS Policy, Sandra Thurman, to lead a Presidential mission to Africa in March to recommend further U.S. action to confront the crisis of AIDS. I am proud to tell you today that her report released a short time ago recommends "and the President and I endorse" the largest budget increase in the history of the U.S. effort to fight global AIDS. The President and I will send to Congress a proposal for a multi-year initiative that will increase the overall global AIDS budget by \$100 million next year.

This money will be used to enhance our four-step approach to fighting AIDS: prevention; basic care and treatment; support for children orphaned by AIDS; and development of the infrastructure necessary to assist all three efforts. We hope this U.S. initiative will encourage other countries to increase their commitment to fighting global AIDS, and help us all act decisively, as a community of nations, to reach out to confront the crisis of AIDS in Africa and turn back this tide of horror.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Daniel C. Montoya (CN=Daniel C. Montoya/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:14-JUL-1999 15:23:16.00

SUBJECT: FYI - News article: The Weekly Standard - "In Defense of Al Gore-Just This Once"

Jeffrey Trammell (Jeffrey Trammell [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Philip G Dufour (CN=Philip G Dufour/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Todd A. Summers (CN=Todd A. Summers/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Johanna H. Kiehl (CN=Johanna H. Kiehl/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Marisa B. Van Saanen (CN=Marisa B. Van Saanen/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Alyssa Wilson (CN=Alyssa Wilson/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Elizabeth Baylor (CN=Elizabeth Baylor/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Jason E. Franklin (CN=Jason E. Franklin/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Cheryl S. Bauerle (CN=Cheryl S. Bauerle/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

Sarah T. Holewinski (CN=Sarah T. Holewinski/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

www.weeklystandard.com/editorial.html

Editorial 7.19.99

In Defense of Al Gore-Just This Once

David Tell, for the Editors

Thirty-three million human beings across the globe already show the symptoms of AIDS or are infected with the HIV virus. Two thirds of them live in sub-Saharan Africa-more than 25 times the number of cases accounted for by Canada, Mexico, and the United States combined. In Africa the infection continues to spread, virtually unchecked. South of the Sahara, 4 million new HIV/AIDS diagnoses are made each year, more than 90 times the North American figure. And the situation is particularly acute in the emerging democracy of South Africa, where the population-wide incidence of HIV is approaching 10 percent, including 35 percent of all pregnant women and nearly half of all active-duty military personnel. As things currently stand, the vast majority of these people, millions of them, seem doomed to die.

So for almost two years now, the government of South Africa has been attempting to implement amendments to its Medicines Act that would

make possible the procurement and distribution, in low-cost, generic form, of otherwise prohibitively expensive but potentially life-preserving anti-retrovirus therapies developed in the United States. But for just as long, concerned that the amendments as drafted might expropriate the patent rights of U.S. pharmaceutical companies, the Clinton administration has sought modification or outright repeal of the South African legislation.

All of which-the bilateral intellectual property dispute, narrowly, and the cataclysm of HIV in Africa, more broadly-has failed to win high-profile attention in America. Until this spring. In April, the "Consumer Project on Technology," one of the many tentacles of the Ralph Nader octopus, began publicizing a State Department report that "revealed" the participation of Vice President Gore in diplomatic negotiations with South Africa over the Medicines Act amendments. And in short order, AIDS activists began disrupting Gore's public appearances, chanting "Gore is Killing Africans!" for benefit of the network television cameras.

Subsequent, objective news analyses of the underlying controversy have been sketchy at best. But two well-known opinion journalists-John B. Judis, on the left, and Arianna Huffington, on the right-both claim to have investigated the question. And, surprisingly, both have wholeheartedly endorsed the basic activist complaint against Gore.

In an essay in the current American Prospect, Judis dubs the vice president "K Street Gore," and attributes his "weak and morally repugnant" hesitancy about generic AIDS drugs in South Africa to an "interlocking directorate" of Gore advisers with ties to the U.S. pharmaceutical industry lobby. On "issues that impinge upon his high-tech network of supporters," Judis concludes, Gore has here proved "willing to do the wrong thing to keep them happy-and keep them in his corner" with financial contributions.

Arianna Huffington offers the exact same judgment, though still more sharply. "Pharmacologic Al," she writes in her nationally syndicated column, has allowed "powerful special interests to secretly dictate policy-even when the life or death of millions is at stake." The provision of modern AIDS medications to South Africa is "one of those rare issues-such as child abuse and drunk driving-on which there cannot possibly be two sides" of equal virtue. South Africa must have the drugs.

In other words, according to this commentariat odd couple, Al Gore, by preventing South Africa from obtaining the drugs immediately, really is killing Africans. Which raises two questions. One: Is such a remarkable savaging of the vice president fair? And, two: Fair or not, does the spectacular bloody-hands charge against Gore at least represent welcome public awareness of a long-underappreciated international humanitarian emergency?

On the first score, the answer is no. The suggestion that the vice president has passively condemned impoverished South Africans to hideous death by contagion-in exchange for corporate-backed campaign donations-is not even remotely fair. It is groundless and grotesque.

U.S. pharmaceutical companies stand to lose a fortune on their patented medications if foreign governments start unilaterally authorizing the manufacture or importation (from "gray market" countries like India) of cheap knock-offs-as South Africa has announced it intends to do in this case. And these losses, the companies point out, pose a more than financial risk. It sometimes costs hundreds of millions of dollars to discover, test, and start distributing a desperately needed new medicine. If originating

American laboratories are no longer permitted to recover these mammoth investments with profits protected by patents that are respected internationally, then they may well dramatically scale back their research and development efforts. On future AIDS therapies, for example.

This is a far from stupid argument, and it seems to have fully persuaded certain major players in the Clinton administration. But it turns out, on close inspection, that the vice president isn't exactly one of them.

Gore's staff-which will patiently explain all the trade-law technicalities to anyone who bothers to call-is appropriately cognizant of the value of American pharmaceutical patent rights, and remains intent to ensure that South Africa not totally ignore its treaty obligations to observe those rights. But Gore has otherwise declined to do the pharmaceutical industry's "bidding," as the cartoon criticism of him would have it. Earlier this year, during interagency meetings, he successfully opposed an industry-backed plan to target South Africa with trade reprisals. Calm, continued negotiations, the vice president thought, were a better idea. And two weeks ago, in a letter to the Congressional Black Caucus, Gore explicitly confirmed his willingness, given the health crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa, to consider any well-designed effort "to speed the availability of lower-cost pharmaceuticals in South Africa," including generics.

Al Gore, in short, stands falsely accused of obstinately resisting a public health initiative he doesn't necessarily resist at all.

Happy ending, then? Could it be that from this recent media eruption-despite the cruel slanders to which it has subjected the vice president-a previously unrecognized political consensus has emerged that the widespread introduction of anti-retroviral medications is the obvious solution to the African AIDS epidemic? And that the only remaining question is precisely how to do it?

Here, too, alas, the answer must be no. Because for every prominent physician who favors the distribution of advanced AIDS drugs in Africa, there is another prominent physician who views the idea with something close to horror. And the doubters' warnings cannot be blandly dismissed.

The modern, multi-drug anti-AIDS "cocktail" now so common in the industrialized world is a fiendishly tricky therapy. You must take your pills on a strict schedule. You must take some before meals, some after. Some medications must be refrigerated, some not. Depart from the prescribed regimen even a bit, even for a single day, and a new strain of HIV may quickly spread throughout your body. If you then infect some other poor soul, his virus may prove resistant-from the onset-to most or all known anti-retrovirus compounds. This is not a theoretical problem. It is happening already in the United States.

And in Sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa, where public health systems competent safely to deliver, administer, and supervise such an inherently risky medical intervention are sadly nonexistent, the standard American AIDS cocktail might thus wind up saving no one, and make the epidemic even less manageable.

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By largely ignoring this separate crisis, and insisting instead on a questionable HIV-specific intervention, are the vice president's critics themselves "killing Africans?" Someone might say that. But we would not. No American is "killing Africans." Infectious diseases are killing Africans. And while all men of good will agree that something must be done, the horrible truth remains that it's difficult responsibly to assert that we know just what that something is.

In the current fracas, it seems to us, Vice President Gore is attempting to keep all reasonable considerations in balance. He wants his country to sustain in principle the international patent-protection regime. He wants to foreclose no potentially effective response to the infectious-diseases crisis in Africa. And he declines to endorse the dangerous fantasy that a perfect response has already been identified. We are pleased to say-and we may never say anything like this again-Al Gore is doing the right and honorable thing.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: JWright@osophs.dhhs.gov (Jason Wright) (JWright@osophs.dhhs.gov (Jason Wright) [OA])

CREATION DATE/TIME:14-JUL-1999 10:53:49.00

SUBJECT: Weekly Standard on Vice President and AIDS Drugs for Africa

TO: Daniel C. Montoya (CN=Daniel C. Montoya/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: montoya_dc@al.eop.gov (montoya_dc@al.eop.gov [UNKNOWN]) (OPD)

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: JWright@osophs.dhhs.gov (Jason Wright) (JWright@osophs.dhhs.gov (Jason Wright) [OA])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: thomas_m._rosshirt@ovp.eop.gov (thomas_m._rosshirt@ovp.eop.gov [UNKNOWN]) (WHO)

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:14-JUL-1999 21:26:50.00

SUBJECT: how does this release look?

TO: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate

Release

Thursday, July 15,
1999

Contact:

(202) 456-7035

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES ADMINISTRATION PLAN TO SEEK RECORD INCREASE
IN FUNDS TO FIGHT GLOBAL AIDS

Washington, DC ¶) Vice President Al Gore today announced that the Administration will seek the largest-ever budget increase in the history of the U.S. effort to fight global AIDS ¶) an increase of \$100 million for the next fiscal year ¶) in a move to step up U.S. efforts to confront the global crisis of AIDS.

¶&AIDS in Africa is now the worst infectious disease catastrophe in the history of modern medicine,¶8 Gore said. More than twelve million have died. More than twenty million are now infected. And more than 10,000 new people are become HIV positive every day. The U.S. is the world¶,s leading donor for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the developing world, and we are spending \$200 million this year alone on the development of a vaccine. But we must do much, much more.¶8

On December 1, 1998 -- World AIDS Day 1998 ¶) President Clinton announced that White House Director of AIDS policy Sandra Thurman would lead a Presidential mission to Africa in March to recommend further U.S. action to confront the crisis of AIDS. The report ¶) to be released next week ¶) recommends a \$100 million increase in U.S. funds to fight global AIDS.

¶&This is a moral issue, and a public health issue, and an economic issue,¶8 Gore said. ¶&As one of our nation¶,s prominent economists has said: ¶&a frontal attack on AIDS in Africa may now be the single most important strategy for economic development.¶8

This fund increase will be used to enhance the Administration¶,s four-step approach to fighting AIDS ¶) prevention; basic care and treatment; support for children orphaned by AIDS; and development of the infrastructure necessary to assist all three efforts.

¶&We hope this U.S. initiative will encourage other countries to increase their commitment to fighting global AIDS,¶8 Gore said. ¶&We hope it will help us all act decisively, as a community of nations, to reach out to confront the crisis of AIDS in Africa ¶) and turn back this tide of horror.¶8

#

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-JUL-1999 11:00:10.00

SUBJECT: AIDS/Africa Event

TO: Laura M. Quinn (CN=Laura M. Quinn/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ron Klain (CN=Ron Klain/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

We are anxious to make this an extraordinary event. Having the right cast of characters participating will make all the difference. We are currently thinking of asking Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who has helped us on several occasions and characterizes the fight against AIDS as a "holy war", to speak. He remains an icon in South Africa and would certainly send an important message to those who think we don't care about sick people in South Africa. However, I did not want to proceed until I got the green light from you. Others who have been helpful in the past, have Africa ties and might be considered as speakers are Andrew Young, Reverend Jesse Jackson and Reverend Leon Sullivan.

This lineup would give us the moral high ground and call to action (Tutu or whomever), the leadership and the action (Gore), and the face and heart of why we must act (a yet to be confirmed "real" person).

Let me know what you think.

Sandy

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-JUL-1999 09:46:40.00

SUBJECT: Gore's AIDS Problem

TO: Eli G. Attie (CN=Eli G. Attie/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP on 07/15/99
09:46 AM -----

Doug.Case@sdsu.edu

07/13/99 01:21:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Richard Socarides@EOP

cc:

Subject: Gore's AIDS Problem

FRONTIERS NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 18, Issue 6 - July 9, 1999

www.frontiersweb.com

Gore's AIDS Problem

ACT UP Says VP's Kowtowing to Drug Companies Worsens African AIDS Crisis

From San Francisco to Johannesburg, where this July 5 demonstration took place, Al Gore (left with HRC's Elizabeth Birch, and wife, Tipper) is taking the heat for U.S. trade policy in Africa. Unlike stops in San Francisco, New York and Philadelphia, AIDS activists were nowhere to be found during Vice President Al Gore's official visit to the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center on June 24. The protesters from ACT UP and other groups, with signs bearing such messages as "Gore's Greed Kills: African Needs AIDS Drugs," have become a permanent fixture on the Gore campaign trail, disrupting his appearances and accusing him of siding with pharmaceutical companies in a trade dispute that threatens to block South Africa's access to cheap, generic AIDS drugs.

The ACT UP protests have been a distraction for Gore at a time when he has been shown trailing GOP front runner Texas Gov. George W. Bush distantly in several national polls and desperately needs to shore up his political base. The protests have even prompted the Human Rights Campaign to issue a press release expressing concern about Gore's South Africa policy, a frustrating development for Gore aides, who say the vice president has been actively working behind the scenes to resolve the issue and get help to the devastated continent.

"I think the vice president's been badly misunderstood and misrepresented, even by some in government," said Richard Socarides, the White House gay liaison and an advisor to Gore, who met with ACT UP representatives in late June. "I don't think the protesters treated him unfairly, but now we can move forward. I can confirm for you that his views are now the views of the government and those views are aligned with the protesters."

But Julie Davids of ACT UP/Philadelphia isn't so sure they've got the vice president on board. "What we need is action, not rhetoric," she said. "We need to see tangible results."

According to current World Health Organization estimates, 22.5 million Africans are HIV-positive, including up to 26 percent of young adults. The continent counts for two-thirds of the world's HIV population, according to those estimates.

The trade issue is a complicated one, made more so by presidential politics, the profit motives of the pharmaceutical industry and a simmering dispute between American AIDS activists and African diplomats on the best strategy for solving the continent's AIDS crisis.

The issue over Africa's access to AIDS drugs erupted in 1997 when the South African government passed the Medicine Act allowing local companies to use "compulsory licensing" to manufacture, market and sell generic versions of pharmaceutical drugs in response to their health emergency. Out of 43 million South Africans, about 4 million are HIV positive. To counter patent problems, the government said they would pay royalties to the affected companies. But at least 40 companies launched a lawsuit against the government, which is still being weighed by the South African court.

In addition to its ability to effect world trade policy, the U.S. government plays an important role in the debate because it holds patents or retains rights on drugs for which it substantially funded research or investment. "Drugs such as ddI, d4T or 3TC were researched and developed primarily with U.S. tax dollars and could be turned over to the World Health Organization legally right now, so that drugs could be made available at-cost in developing nations," argues economist Carl Priskel. Activists estimate that compulsory licensing could reduce the cost of AIDS medications in South Africa by as much as 90 percent.

The government also advocated "parallel-importing," which permits the purchase of drugs at marked discounts through third parties. On the world market, for instance, AZT can be purchased for 42 cents for 300 mg; in the U.S. it retails for nearly \$6 a pill. The average income for South Africans is \$2,600 while the annual average HIV drug costs more than \$10,000 a year. Activists charge that the pharmaceutical industry fears that South Africa's Medicines Act might encourage other Third World countries to follow suit, thereby undercutting profits.

On Feb. 5, 1999, the State Department issued a report to Congress about the U.S. government's problems with the Medicines Act and specifically named the Office of the Vice President as an agency that "[has] been engaging in an assiduous, concerted campaign to persuade the government of South Africa to withdraw or modify" the provision of the Medicines Act that would permit compulsory licensing. According to Jamie Love, director of the Ralph Nader Consumer Project on Technology (CPTech), the report goes on to say that "since the passage of the offending amendments ¶ U.S. government agencies have been engaged in a full court press with South African officials from the Departments of Trade and Industry, Foreign Affairs, and Health, to convince the South African government to withdraw or amend the offending provisions of the law."

As a result of the patent and intellectual properties dispute, on April 30, 1999, the United States Trade Representative once again put South Africa on a "trade watch" list, prompting activists to believe the U.S. government is using tariff restrictions on some South African imports as trade sanction leverage. Spokespersons for Gore, who is the chairman of the US/South

Africa Binational Commission, say the U.S. government is simply trying to make South Africa abide by international law and the World Trade Organization accord on intellectual property. But activists say the accord makes policies on parallel imports a matter of national discretion; parallel imports of pharmaceuticals are common in many European countries and compulsory licensing is also common in the United States and Europe.

"U.S. government officials often misrepresent the status of international law or use highly misleading rhetoric, in order to obfuscate the fact that the U.S. government is bullying South Africa to abandon cost saving measures that are completely legal and accepted in international trade agreements," Love writes on the CPTech Web site.

Meanwhile, activists are concerned about pharmaceutical's lobbying efforts. In 1997, the pharmaceutical and health product industry spent nearly \$75 million on lobbying and contributed nearly \$8 million to the Democratic and Republican parties, according to ACT UP/Philadelphia and the Center for Responsive Politics. ACT UP also points out that Gore is strongly linked to the drug industry through his chief campaign advisors which include: Tony Podesta, one of PhRMA's top lobbyists, also retained by biotech Genentech; former Congressman Tom Downy, a lobbyist for Merck; fund-raiser Peter Knight, who lobbied for Schering-Plough; and Gore domestic policy advisor David Beier lobbied for Genentech. In addition, Gore 2000 has thus far received \$11,000 from pharmaceutical lobbyists.

Gore, for his part, has repeatedly offered to meet with the protesters. On his demo-free June 24 trip to Los Angeles, Gore aides released a statement saying, "We respect the good intentions of those concerned about the problems of AIDS in Africa." They also noted that Gore has been working with newly inaugurated South African President Thabo Mbeki to find better ways to address the South African AIDS crisis.

"The vice president also believes we need to use all available means to deliver high-quality, affordable medicines to those who need them," the statement said. "That's why he has been encouraging the efforts of the U.S. Trade Representative, the South African government, and the pharmaceutical industry to explore solutions to end the dispute over patient rights."

That same day Gore's office received a letter from Rep. James Clyburn, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), asking for an explanation of the protesters' allegations, describing the charges as "characterizations that are entirely out of line with your record." In a detailed letter to the CBC, Gore replied that the U.S. Trade Representative had, as Gore had urged him to do, rejected heightening South Africa's trade "watch" status, an action that could have undercut efforts to resolve the problem. "I support South Africa's efforts to provide AIDS drugs at reduced prices through compulsory licensing and parallel importing, so long as they are carried out in a way that is consistent with international agreements," Gore wrote.

CBC member Rep. Donald Payne, D-N.J., the ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee's subcommittee on Africa, told the Associated Press that ACT UP is "wrong" in the way it is attacking Gore. "If there are some legal questions about development of generic medications and the whole patent question, they're beyond the vice president," Payne said.

The Nader project's Love, in his own June 29 letter to Clyburn, said Gore's letter appeared "to signal a welcome and important change in U.S. policy [but] our enthusiasm is restrained by the way that support is qualified.

Specifically, the words 'in a way consistent with international trade agreements' has been subject to highly controversial interpretations."

The ACT UP protesters did succeed in getting a two-hour meeting with AIDS Czar Sandra Thurman and Socarides-both top advisors to Gore-as well as foreign policy staff.

"It was a very good and productive meeting," Socarides told Frontiers July 1. "We learned a lot from them and what they learned from us is that the vice president had been working behind the scenes for many months advocating a position that was very much aligned with theirs. Having said that, we realize that the AIDS crisis in South Africa is a horrible epidemic which is escalating exponentially and this issue dealing with parallel importing and compulsory licensing is but a very small piece of a complicated situation."

According to Socarides, Thurman had already been working with AIDS activists on an "African Plan," which they expect to make public in the next few weeks. "You will see a substantial commitment of energy and resources to the problem," Socarides said.

Eric Sawyer of ACT UP/New York, agreed that the meeting was productive. He called it "a good indication that the administration is truly concerned about AIDS in Africa and the trade issues that we're trying to publicize." Sawyer, who met separately with Tipper Gore in New York, said she told him that Thurman is creating an inter-governmental task force to come up with recommendations. "That's a good sign and the letter to the CBC was a good step towards progress," Sawyer said. "It's the first time we've seen in black and white a statement affirming support for important policies."

But Davids of ACT UP/Philadelphia said there's already a solution on the table: Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.'s Human Rights, Opportunity, Partnership and Empowerment (HOPE) for Africa Act, which is being offered as an alternative over the Clinton-Gore favored African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). "There's a bad bill and a good bill and the vice president's response is to push the bad bill and threaten trade sanctions against countries trying to do the right thing without violating international law," Davids said.

The African Diplomatic Corps in Washington, D.C., appears to disagree with Davids. H.E. Roble Olhaye, ambassador of Djibouti and dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, issued a press release June 29 saying that African ambassadors are "highly skeptical about the motives of the opponents" of the Clinton-Gore bill, which he called "the critical centerpiece" of a productive U.S.-African economic partnership.

"[We] vehemently reject the hollow arguments promoted by a small cadre of self-promoting advocates for Africa, that the bill advances U.S. corporate interests at the expense of the interests and needs of Africa," Olhaye said. "Unfortunately, opponents of the bill seem to dismiss African elected governments and their representatives as incapable of deciding for themselves."

-Karen Ocamb

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Gore Fund-raiser Targets Gays

.c The Associated Press

By SANDRA SOBIERAJ

WASHINGTON (AP) - In what was billed as the capital's first presidential fund-raiser aimed at gays and lesbians, Tipper Gore scooped up more than \$150,000 for her husband's campaign Thursday and promised contributors he would ``fight for your dreams.''

``All people, regardless of sexual orientation, should be able to be a part of a loving relationship in a family without fear of recrimination or discrimination,' ' Mrs. Gore said.

A Gore administration, she pledged, would ``stand against forces of hatred.''

Her husband, Vice President Al Gore, ``will fight for your dreams. He will fight for OUR dreams,' ' she added.

Mrs. Gore did not get into specifics of the gay policy agenda.

The wife of the vice president unflappably dealt with three AIDS demonstrators who, one by one, tried to disrupt her appearance among some 400 in a small hotel ballroom with cries of ``Gore's greed kills!''

The protesters, escorted out by Secret Service agents, accused Al Gore of siding with pharmaceutical companies in an international trade dispute and trying to block South Africa's access to cheap, generic AIDS drugs.

``We thought you might be here tonight,' ' Mrs. Gore said. ``That's certainly something we all have a great deal of appreciation for - free speech and a passion about issues.''

Outside the hotel, nine activists affiliated with the group called ACT-UP carried signs calling Al Gore a ``drug company puppet'' and mocking his campaign as ``Apartheid 2000.''

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political group, attended the reception as a ``gold level'' contributor to ``Gays and Lesbians for Gore.' ' But he said he group's presidential endorsements were still a long way off.

``Solid and deep'' is how Birch described the vice president's record on matters important to the gay community. Former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley, Gore's only rival for the Democratic nomination, has voted the right way on gay issues but ``is not a stand-out,' ' Birch said.

AP-NY-07-15-99 2203EDT

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:16-JUL-1999 08:51:24.00

SUBJECT: NC10678: Tipper raises money from gays

TO: Alejandro G. Cabrera (CN=Alejandro G. Cabrera/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP on 07/16/99
08:50 AM -----

rwockner@netcom.com

07/16/99 03:51:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Richard Socarides@EOP

CC:

Subject: NC10678: Tipper raises money from gays

This item is copyrighted. Do not print it without permission from the
originating media operation. Do not post this item in a public online
forum. Items on this mailing list that are not copyrighted will not
contain this message. This free mailing list is open only to people with
whom I am acquainted. It has 242 recipients.

Gore Fund-raiser Targets Gays

.c The Associated Press

By SANDRA SOBIERAJ

WASHINGTON (AP) - In what was billed as the capital's first presidential
fund-raiser aimed at gays and lesbians, Tipper Gore scooped up more than
\$150,000 for her husband's campaign Thursday and promised contributors he
would ``fight for your dreams.''

``All people, regardless of sexual orientation, should be able to be a
part
of a loving relationship in a family without fear of recrimination or
discrimination,' ' Mrs. Gore said.

A Gore administration, she pledged, would ``stand against forces of
hatred.''

Her husband, Vice President Al Gore, ``will fight for your dreams. He will
fight for OUR dreams,' ' she added.

Mrs. Gore did not get into specifics of the gay policy agenda.

The wife of the vice president unflappably dealt with three AIDS
demonstrators who, one by one, tried to disrupt her appearance among some
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AP-NY-07-15-99 2203EDT

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sarah A. Bianchi (CN=Sarah A. Bianchi/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 16:30:16.00

SUBJECT: fyi -- AP story on today's event

TO: Wendy Hartman (CN=Wendy Hartman/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP on 07/19/99 04:30 PM -----

From: Dan J. Taylor on 07/19/99 04:28:26 PM
Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
CC:
Subject:fyi -- AP story on today's event

Another \$100 million sought to find AIDS abroad

WASHINGTON (AP) Asserting the United States has a ``moral duty'' to do more to fight AIDS, Vice President Al Gore announced a new \$100 million proposal to help Africa stop the spread of the disease.

Gore, whose presidential campaign has been dogged by AIDS activists, also released a new study on the scope and the toll of the HIV virus in Africa.

``The crisis is growing, and so must our commitment,'' he said.

Activists from ACT-UP have pursued Gore along the campaign trail to protest administration policies that they say make it difficult to get affordable AIDS drugs to people who need them in South Africa.

On Monday, the vice president, joined by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobelist from South Africa, announced new proposals not included in the Clinton administration's fiscal 2000 budget to fight AIDS in Africa.

Also at the event was Olivia Nantong, a 20-year-old from Uganda whose mother succumbed to AIDS eight years ago. Gore and Sandy Thurman, the administration's AIDS czar, stood by the sobbing Nantong and whispered encouragement as she thanked the U.S. government for supporting a grass-roots group in Uganda that took care of her when she was orphaned.

``The story Olivia just told us, which wrenches our hearts try multiplying that by 40 million to capture some idea of the magnitude of that tragedy,'' Gore said.

The spending proposals announced by Gore included \$48 million for AIDS education, counseling and testing, which involved a Defense Department program to train African militaries how to provide AIDS prevention training.

The remaining funds would be targeted at home- and community-based care, caring for children orphaned by AIDS and helping other countries build infrastructure to confront the spread of AIDS.

``We are the promise of hope and change,'' Gore said. ``We have the knowledge and the compassion and the moral duty to make a

difference.''

The proposals would be paid for through offsets from existing domestic programs.

Gore also released a report from the Office of National AIDS policy that found 12 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have died of AIDS in the past decade. By 2005, the death toll could reach 13,000 people per day.

APNP-07-19-99 1607EDT

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 7/19/99 4:02 PM

Message Sent

To: _____

David W. Beier/OVP@OVP

Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP@OVP

Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP@EOP

Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP@EOP

Todd A. Summers/OPD/EOP@EOP

Satish Narayanan/OVP@OVP

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Melissa B. Ratcliff (CN=Melissa B. Ratcliff/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 17:21:31.00

SUBJECT: AP story on AIDS

TO: Sarah A. Bianchi (CN=Sarah A. Bianchi/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Christopher S. Lehane (CN=Christopher S. Lehane/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Alejandro G. Cabrera (CN=Alejandro G. Cabrera/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura M. Quinn (CN=Laura M. Quinn/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Gore Wants \$100M More to Fight AIDS

By Kevin Galvin
Associated Press Writer
Monday, July 19, 1999; 4:12 p.m. EDT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Asserting the United States has a
``moral duty''
to do more to fight AIDS, Vice President Al Gore
announced a new \$100
million proposal to help Africa stop the spread of the
disease.

AIDS activists,
the HIV virus in
Gore, whose presidential campaign has been dogged by
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``The crisis is growing, and so must our commitment,''
he said.

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Also at the event was Olivia Nantong, a 20-year-old from
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the administration's AIDS czar, stood by the sobbing
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supporting a grass-roots group in Uganda that took care
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``The story Olivia just told us, which wrenches our
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of that tragedy,``
Gore said.

million for
Defense
provide AIDS
The spending proposals announced by Gore included \$48
AIDS education, counseling and testing, which involved a
Department program to train African militaries how to
prevention training.

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other countries
The remaining funds would be targeted at home- and
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``We have the
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``We are the promise of hope and change,`` Gore said.
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found 12 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have died
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Back to the top

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Todd A. Summers (CN=Todd A. Summers/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 16:36:53.00

SUBJECT: fyi -- AP story on today's event

TO: Philip G Dufour (CN=Philip G Dufour/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Todd A. Summers/OPD/EOP on 07/19/99
04:36 PM -----

From: Dan J. Taylor@OVP on 07/19/99 04:28:26 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject:fyi -- AP story on today's event

Another \$100 million sought to find AIDS abroad

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APNP-07-19-99 1607EDT

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 7/19/99 4:02 PM

Message Sent

To: _____

David W. Beier/OVP@OVP

Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP@OVP

Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP@EOP

Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP@EOP

Todd A. Summers/OPD/EOP@EOP

Satish Narayanan/OVP@OVP

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Dan J. Taylor (CN=Dan J. Taylor/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 16:28:31.00

SUBJECT: fyi -- AP story on today's event

TO: Satish Narayanan (CN=Satish Narayanan/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sarah A. Bianchi (CN=Sarah A. Bianchi/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Todd A. Summers (CN=Todd A. Summers/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: David W. Beier (CN=David W. Beier/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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APNP-07-19-99 1607EDT

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 7/19/99 4:02 PM

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: David W. Beier (CN=David W. Beier/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 16:33:03.00

SUBJECT: fyi -- AP story on today's event

TO: Sarah A. Bianchi (CN=Sarah A. Bianchi/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Congratulations on a job extremely well done. I know that most people who work here know that you get stuff done, I notice that you get important stuff done that will save lives. Thanks for your efforts.

----- Forwarded by David W. Beier/OVP on 07/19/99 04:32 PM -----

From: Dan J. Taylor on 07/19/99 04:28:26 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject:fyi -- AP story on today's event

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 7/19/99 4:02 PM

Message Sent

To: _____

David W. Beier/OVP@OVP

Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP@OVP

Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP@EOP

Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP@EOP

Todd A. Summers/OPD/EOP@EOP

Satish Narayanan/OVP@OVP

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sarah A. Bianchi (CN=Sarah A. Bianchi/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 17:00:41.00

SUBJECT: fyi -- AP story on today's event

TO: Jonathan H. Schnur (CN=Jonathan H. Schnur/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
nice

sb

----- Forwarded by Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP on 07/19/99 05:00
PM -----

David W. Beier
07/19/99 04:32:57 PM
Record Type: Record

To: Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP@OVP
cc:
Subject:fyi -- AP story on today's event

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----- Forwarded by David W. Beier/OVP on 07/19/99 04:32
PM -----

From: Dan J. Taylor on 07/19/99 04:28:26 PM
Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject:fyi -- AP story on today's event

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 7/19/99 4:02 PM

Message Sent

To:

David W. Beier/OVP@OVP
Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP@OVP
Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP@EOP
Todd A. Summers/OPD/EOP@EOP
Satish Narayanan/OVP@OVP

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Kay Casstevens (CN=Kay Casstevens/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 20:57:23.00

SUBJECT: Re: AIDS Hearing Witnesses

TO: Paul Thornell (CN=Paul Thornell/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

why Marion Berry?

Paul Thornell

07/19/99 06:02:06 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject:AIDS Hearing Witnesses

The following people are invited to testify at the House hearing on the U.S. Role in the AIDS Epidemic. There may be one or two others.

Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr.

Rep. Marion Berry

Eric Sawyer, HIV/Human Rights

Jamie Love, Act-Up

Alan Herman, Medical University of South Africa

Sandy Thurman

Charlene Barshefsky

Message Sent

To:

Ron Klain/OVP@OVP

Laura M. Quinn/OVP@OVP

Kay Casstevens/OVP@OVP

Thomas M. Rosshirt/OVP@OVP

Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP@OVP

Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP@EOP

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Alejandro G. Cabrera (CN=Alejandro G. Cabrera/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 20:57:27.00

SUBJECT: VP Press Memo for 7/20/99

TO: Albert Gore (CN=Albert Gore/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Ron Klain (CN=Ron Klain/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Laura M. Quinn (CN=Laura M. Quinn/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Monica M. Dixon (CN=Monica M. Dixon/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Melissa B. Ratcliff (CN=Melissa B. Ratcliff/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Christopher S. Lehane (CN=Christopher S. Lehane/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

I. NEWS STORIES

We expect the major papers to write pieces on your International AIDS announcement today.

We expect stories on the Women's Soccer Team visit to the White House. The Associated Press ran a piece on the Women's Soccer Team visit to the White House. The piece noted that you are a "soccer dad" and kept an unnamed world leader " waiting because [your] daughter's soccer match went into double overtime.

The Associated Press ran a piece on your International AIDS announcement. It noted that "Activists from ACT-UP have pursued Gore along the campaign trail to protest administration policies that they say make it difficult to get affordable AIDS drugs to people who need them in South Africa.

II. EVENTS

TUESDAY JULY 20, 1999

You will address the astronauts of the Apollo 11 lunar mission at the Air and Space museum.

You will host a luncheon for Prime Minister Barak.

You will travel to New York.

III. INTERVIEWS

You will interview with Tom Joyner.

IV. CLIPS

Charles Babington and Ceci Connolly with the Washington Post wrote "Gore Seeks Light In Clinton Shadow." This article focused on your new campaign strategy to include the President in your fund-raising events. Babington and Connolly wrote: "the new approach is intended to calm tensions between the two men." Continuing, former Press Secretary Mike McCurry is quoted

as stating: "The president can help hold the base while Gore tries to reach out to the centrist general election voters." Babington and Connolly note that "Gore supporters acknowledge that the new strategy can't fully immunize their candidate from a phenomenon, dubbed 'Clinton fatigue.'" Pollster A. Kohut adds: "the public seems to judge Gore more on his personal ties to Clinton than on the president's job performance. That hurts Gore... because Clinton consistently gets higher marks for his job performance than for his character." Babington and Connolly conclude by writing: "there's no point in trying to divorce himself from the president because he's too closely associated with him. Gore should fully tap the President's fund-raising ability."

Dan Balz with the Washington Post wrote "On Iowa's Front Lines, Clear Differences Emerge: Gore, Bush Show Strengths and Some Weaknesses. This article focused on the recent 2000 field campaigning in Iowa -- in particular, the differences between you and Bush. An Iowa Democrat noted: "He [Gore] makes you feel like he's one of you." An Iowa Republican was quoted as saying: "I don't think he's [Bush] been explicit enough." Briefly outlining the policy differences between you and Bush, Balz noted that "Gore...appeared more comfortable discussing a wide range of issues. Bush's message focused on what his administration would be, Gore's speech overflowed with things to do." Balz concluded by writing: "if the two front-runners eventually meet in the general election, it should be a worthy fight."

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sarah A. Bianchi (CN=Sarah A. Bianchi/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 16:30:07.00

SUBJECT: fyi -- AP story on today's event

TO: Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Alvin Brown (CN=Alvin Brown/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
thanks for your help

sb
----- Forwarded by Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP on 07/19/99 04:29
PM -----

From: Dan J. Taylor on 07/19/99 04:28:26 PM
Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject:fyi -- AP story on today's event

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Gore also released a report from the Office of National AIDS policy that found 12 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have died of AIDS in the past decade. By 2005, the death toll could reach 13,000 people per day.

APNP-07-19-99 1607EDT

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 7/19/99 4:02 PM

Message Sent

To: _____

David W. Beier/OVP@OVP
Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP@OVP
Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP@EOP
Todd A. Summers/OPD/EOP@EOP
Satish Narayanan/OVP@OVP

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Paul Thornell (CN=Paul Thornell/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 20:55:34.00

SUBJECT: AIDS Hearing Witnesses

TO: Sandra Thurman (CN=Sandra Thurman/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt (CN=Thomas M. Rosshirt/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura M. Quinn (CN=Laura M. Quinn/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sarah A. Bianchi (CN=Sarah A. Bianchi/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Kay Casstevens (CN=Kay Casstevens/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Ron Klain (CN=Ron Klain/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

The following people are invited to testify at the House hearing on the U.S. Role in the AIDS Epidemic. There may be one or two others.

Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Rep. Marion Berry
Eric Sawyer, HIV/Human Rights
Jamie Love, Act-Up
Alan Herman, Medical University of South Africa
Sandy Thurman
Charlene Barshefsky

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Todd A. Summers (CN=Todd A. Summers/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 16:33:45.00

SUBJECT: fyi -- AP story on today's event

TO: Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Todd A. Summers/OPD/EOP on 07/19/99
04:33 PM -----

From: Dan J. Taylor@OVP on 07/19/99 04:28:26 PM
Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject:fyi -- AP story on today's event

Another \$100 million sought to find AIDS abroad

WASHINGTON (AP) Asserting the United States has a ``moral duty'' to do more to fight AIDS, Vice President Al Gore announced a new \$100 million proposal to help Africa stop the spread of the disease.

Gore, whose presidential campaign has been dogged by AIDS activists, also released a new study on the scope and the toll of the HIV virus in Africa.

``The crisis is growing, and so must our commitment,'' he said.

Activists from ACT-UP have pursued Gore along the campaign trail to protest administration policies that they say make it difficult to get affordable AIDS drugs to people who need them in South Africa.

On Monday, the vice president, joined by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobelist from South Africa, announced new proposals not included in the Clinton administration's fiscal 2000 budget to fight AIDS in Africa.

Also at the event was Olivia Nantong, a 20-year-old from Uganda whose mother succumbed to AIDS eight years ago. Gore and Sandy Thurman, the administration's AIDS czar, stood by the sobbing Nantong and whispered encouragement as she thanked the U.S. government for supporting a grass-roots group in Uganda that took care of her when she was orphaned.

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Satish Narayanan/OVP@OVP

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Sarah A. Bianchi (CN=Sarah A. Bianchi/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-JUL-1999 16:29:38.00

SUBJECT: fyi -- AP story on today's event

TO: Philip G Dufour (CN=Philip G Dufour/O=OVP@OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Sarah A. Bianchi/OVP on 07/19/99 04:29 PM -----

From: Dan J. Taylor on 07/19/99 04:28:26 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

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