



The Quilt
An International
AIDS Memorial

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NAMES PROJECT JOINS BOYCOTT OF
VIth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS**

Action Supports Permanent Lifting of U.S. Travel Restrictions for HIV Infected Persons

**Sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt Still to be Displayed in San Francisco
in Conjunction With Lesbian and Gay Pride Weekend**

San Francisco, CA, March 15, 1990 — The Board of Directors of the NAMES Project Foundation, the San Francisco-based sponsor of the International AIDS Memorial Quilt, have decided to boycott the VIth International Conference on AIDS, which will be held in San Francisco, June 20-24. The boycott is in response to the U.S. federal government's visa restrictions discriminating against people with HIV infection. **The temporary lifting of these restrictions is insufficient and does not alter boycott plans.**

"It is with mixed emotions that we announce our decision to boycott," said David Lemos, Acting Executive Director of the NAMES Project. "While we realize the tremendous need for this annual forum for AIDS information, we abhor the U.S. government's travel policies affecting people with HIV infection. The travel restrictions are in direct conflict with the NAMES Project's objective of working toward an immediate and compassionate response to the AIDS pandemic. We therefore, cannot in good conscience, participate in a worldwide conference held in this country, while these travel restrictions exist. We also wish to emphasize that our action is prompted solely by these government policies and is not intended to indicate any lack of support for the conference organizers."

As a result of withdrawal of NAMES Project participation, the Quilt will not be displayed within the conference this year. Pär Stenbäck, Secretary General of the International League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, stated, "As our organization has decided to withdraw from the VIth International

- more -

Conference on AIDS, we fully understand the decision of the NAMES Project to boycott. However, the Quilt's presence at past conferences, both in Stockholm and Montréal, added a poignant and much needed human dimension to the otherwise medical and scientific environment. The Quilt will be conspicuous by its absence this year, and very much missed."

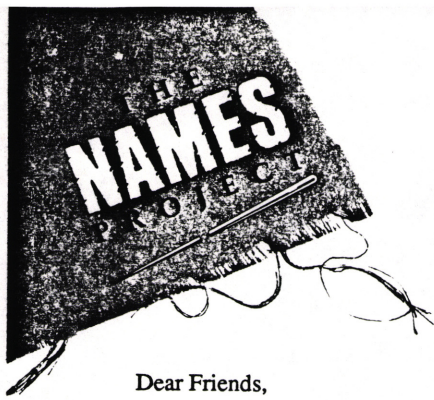
The Quilt will, however, be on display in San Francisco at the end of June. Conference attendees, those visiting for the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade, as well as residents, will have the opportunity to visit the Quilt at Ft. Mason's Festival Pavilion, June 20-24. Sections of the Quilt will also be on display at the San Francisco International Airport, as well as in the windows of several prominent downtown department stores.

"It is our hope that this boycott action, along with the combined actions of many AIDS organizations worldwide, will send a strong message to Washington, and that a tangible change will result," continued Lemos. "If this is so, and the visa regulations discriminating against people with HIV infection are lifted, we look forward to full participation in the VIth International Conference on AIDS."

The NAMES Project Foundation, sponsor of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, was established in June of 1987 in the heart of San Francisco's Castro district. The Quilt began as a response by lesbians and gay men and their friends, to the devastation of their community by AIDS. From this beginning, the organization reaches out to all those affected by the epidemic. Its goals are to graphically illustrate the impact and human toll of AIDS, to provide a powerful expression of love, grief, pain and anger to those who must confront AIDS in their daily lives, and to raise the desperately needed funds to support people living with AIDS and their loved ones, as the epidemic continues unabated.

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The Quilt
An International
AIDS Memorial



May 10, 1990

Dear Friends,

As June 20 and the start of the VIth International Conference on AIDS draw closer, it is apparent that the United States Government will not make substantial changes in immigration and travel policies towards people with HIV/AIDS. As the boycott/withdrawal of the Conference grows in size and importance, so too does the danger that the voices of people with AIDS and HIV will be lost at the conference. We hope that together we can help prevent this from happening.

The NAMES Project will be having several displays of the International AIDS Memorial Quilt all over San Francisco during the month of June. The largest display will be at Fort Mason (a museum complex) June 21-24 with of over 3000 memorial panels. The first display in San Francisco for over 18 months with a very high attendance from all of the city's communities it will be the focus of most of our time and energy. Panels will be displayed at the San Francisco International Airport (from June 1) and in most of the major department store windows downtown as well. While we will not be displaying panels inside of the conference, these display venues and our location in San Francisco gives us an opportunity to publicize the boycotting organizations and the reason behind the boycott.

Our proposal to you is that you endorse the attached statements, each to be used at a different site. We intend to have the statements:

- on a large sign in the airport with a display of primarily international panels;
- at our Quilt display in Fort Mason.
- and inside of the Conference itself.

We have been in contact with the VIth International conference organizers who are sympathetic to our position and agreed to put up a statement if we provide it. If any of you have strong suggestions about what to do, we would like to hear them. Please keep in mind that we already have a lot going on at that time and cannot undertake any schemes which require a lot of time or people.

Please pass this statement along to other boycotting organizations as we do not have addresses for all of them. It would be great if you could contact all of the organizations you are in contact with and organize their responses.

Please sign the statement as soon as possible and return it to us so we can get moving on our plans. The deadline to have your name included in the airport is May 21 and to be included in the Ft. Mason display June 16. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,


Jeannette Kojane
Director of International Programs
Fax: USA + 415/863 0708


Markus Faigl
International Events Coordinator

**Statements to be signed/endorsed by organizations
boycotting/withdrawing from the
VIth International Conference on AIDS in San Francisco, June 20-24.**

It is the intention of the NAMES Project Foundation, sponsor of the International AIDS Memorial Quilt, to publicize these statements at the places listed below. Please pass the statements with the explanatory cover letter on to other organizations you know to be boycotting and ask them to sign on.

Statement for the San Francisco International Airport:

The fabric panels displayed throughout the airport are portions of The NAMES Project Quilt, an international AIDS memorial.

Although Quilt panels representing people who have died of AIDS may enter the United States, people living with HIV/AIDS cannot freely enter this country because of U.S. immigration laws. Consequently, The NAMES Project and the organizations listed below have decided not to participate in the VIth International Conference on AIDS in San Francisco, June 20-24.

With this step we urge the government of the United States of America to join us in the fight against the parallel epidemic of misinformation, hysteria and discrimination surrounding AIDS and to abolish for all time the discriminatory immigration policy towards people with HIV/AIDS.

Statement for VIth International Conference on AIDS in San Francisco:

On NAMES Project letterhead

Dear Colleagues,

We regret that we could not be with you at this important scientific conference. Our absence, along with the organizations listed below, is by no means directed at the conference organizers in San Francisco, but is instead a reflection of the restrictive United States travel requirements for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Even as you meet here, discussing ways to defeat the AIDS pandemic, those living with HIV/AIDS cannot freely enter the United States because of discriminatory immigration laws. We cannot in good conscience display the International AIDS Memorial Quilt at this very important international meeting knowing that memorial panels for those who died of AIDS may enter this country but those living with HIV/AIDS may not. These travel restrictions are contrary to the spirit of international cooperation and the free exchange of scientific knowledge necessary to defeat AIDS.

With our withdrawal from this conference we urge the government of the United States of America to join us in the fight against the parallel epidemic of misinformation, hysteria and discrimination surrounding AIDS and to abolish for all time the discriminatory immigration policy towards people with HIV/AIDS.

We wish you a successful conference and hope to see you next year.

Statement Fort Mason Quilt display in San Francisco June 21-24

Dear Visitors,

The VIth International Conference on AIDS is now being held here in San Francisco. Our plans originally called for Quilt panels to be hung inside the conference as they have been for the past two years. The Quilt's presence at those past conferences in Stockholm and Montréal added a poignant and much needed human dimension to the otherwise medical and scientific environment. The NAMES Project, along with many other AIDS organizations worldwide, including those listed below, have decided not to participate in this very important international meeting. You see, even though Quilt panels representing people who have died of AIDS may enter the United States, people now living with HIV/AIDS cannot freely enter because of discriminatory U.S. immigration laws.

With this step we urge the government of the United States of America to join us in the fight against the parallel epidemic of misinformation, hysteria and discrimination surrounding AIDS and to abolish for all time the discriminatory immigration policy towards people with HIV/AIDS.

**Partial List of Organizations Boycotting or Withdrawing from the
Vith International Conference on AIDS, San Francisco, June 1990
in protest of US visa and immigration policies.**

(As of Thursday, June 14, 1990 - List courtesy of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt)

ACT-UP Sydney (Australia)	GAPA-Grupo de Aloio a Prevencao a AIDS (Brazil)*
ActionAID (UK)	Gay Men's Health Centre, Victoria (Australia)*
Action Health 2000 (Britain)	Gay Men's Health Crisis (USA)
AHRTAG (UK) *	Government of Switzerland
AIDES Solidarite Plus (France)	Grupo Autoapoyo/EK Ciempies (Spain)
AIDS Action Council of ACT (Australia)*	Grupa Pela VIDDA (Brazil)*
AIDS Coordination Group of Dutch NGOs	Fachstelle für AIDS-Fragen Zug (Switzerland)*
AIDS Council of New South Wales (Australia) *	Foundation of Dutch Volunteers
AIDS Council of Southern Australia*	French Red Cross
AIDS Education Program for the Deaf Community (NSW, Australia)	Frontliners (UK)
AIDS Info Docu (Switzerland)*	Homosexuelle Arbeitsgruppen Bern (Switzerland)
AIDS-Linien (Denmark) *	High Tech Gays (USA)
AIDS National Interfaith Network*	Instituto de Estudos da Religiao (Brazil) *
African Delegates of ICASO *	International Association of People with AIDS
AFAO Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations *	International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)
Albion Street (AIDS) Centre (Australia)	International League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies *
APARTS Solidarity Plus (France) *	International Planned Parenthood Foundation *
Arbeitsgruppe Homosexuelle und Kirche (Switz.)	Koala Deaf Federation (Australia)
ARCI Gay Italia (Italy)	The Landmark Trust (UK) *
Ass. Solidarita AIDS (Italy)*	Latin American Network of AIDS Service Organizations *
Auckland Drug Information Outreach (New Zealand)	LBL - Lesbian & Gay Organization (Denmark) *
Australian Association for the Deaf	London Lighthouse (UK)
Australian Quilt Project*	Medical Coordination Secretariat (Netherlands)
Austrian AIDS Help *	Medical Mission Institute (W. Germany)*
Basel Lighthouse (Switzerland)	Memisa Medicus Mundi (Netherlands) *
Berlin AIDS Foundation *	Mexicanos contra el SIDA (Mexico)*
Body Positive (UK) *	Misereor (West Germany) *
Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association (ABIA)*	The NAMES Project International AIDS Memorial Quilt (USA)
British Hemophilia Society	National Association of People with AIDS (USA) *
British Medical Association AIDS Foundation	National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (USA) *
British Red Cross *	National Institute of Public Health (Norway)
CAFOD - Catholic Fund for Overseas Development *	National Native American AIDS Prevention Center
Canadian AIDS Advisory Council	New Zealand AIDS Foundation *
Canadian AIDS Society * (45 members)	Noah's Ark (Sweden) *
Canadian Hemophilia Society	Norwegian AIDS Association *
Canadian Public Health Association	Norwegian Association for Social Workers
Canadian Red Cross	Norwegian Psychologist Association
Caritas Internationalis *	Norwegian Educational Association
Circolo Mario Mieli (Italy)	Norwegian Gay and Lesbian Association, DNF-48
CIVDURG Trust (New Zealand)*	Norwegian Red Cross *
Children and AIDS Foundation (Switzerland)	Norwegian Union for Teachers
Christian Aid (UK)	NOVOAH (Scotland)*
Christian Medical Commission (Switzerland)	Oxfam (UK)
Comite Ciudadano Anti-SIDA (Spain) *	Patchwork de NOMS (France)
Colectivo Sol (Mexico) *	People living with AIDS, NSW (Australia)
Deutsche AIDS Hilfe (West Germany) *	People with HIV in Sweden Group
Dutch Association of People with AIDS *	PLUSS (Norway)
Dutch Gay and Lesbian Association	Positivigruppen (Denmark)
ECHO (UK)	
European Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs (Switz.)	
European Parliament	

**Partial List of Organizations Boycotting or Withdrawing from the
Vith International Conference on AIDS, San Francisco, June 1990
in protest of US visa and immigration policies.
(As of Thursday, June 14, 1990 - List courtesy of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt)**

PostivLeben (Austria)
Projeto NOMES (Brazil)
RFSL HIV Kansliet (Sweden)
Save the Children (UK)
SCIAF (United Kingdom)*
Scottish AIDS Monitor*
Shanti Project (USA) *
Swedish Red Cross *
Swiss AIDS Help * (7 branches)
Swiss Federal Centre for Health
TASO (Uganda) *
Terrance Higgins Trust (UK) *
Township AIDS Project (South Africa)*
United Reform Church (United Kingdom)
Waratch Deaf Association (Australia)
Western Australian AIDS Council *
World Council of Churches *

Organizations Protesting Travel Restrictions

AMFar (USA)*
National Commission on AIDS (USA) *
National Minority AIDS Council (USA) *
Project Inform (USA)*
San Francisco AIDS Foundation*
World Health Organization - Global Programme on
AIDS *
Centers for Disease Control (USA) *

* addresses available

1
92
52
17

121

KRAMER VS ...

A monthly column by Larry Kramer

A Call to Riot

With this article I am calling for a MASSIVE DISRUPTION of the Sixth International AIDS Conference that is being held in San Francisco June 20-24.

Every human being who wants to end the AIDS epidemic must be in San Francisco from June 20-24, at the Sixth International Conference on AIDS, either inside or outside the Moscone Convention Center, or the Marriott Hotel, screaming, yelling, furiously angry, protesting, at this stupid conference.

These are the facts:

1. A cure for AIDS is available much more rapidly than we are getting it. Treatments are available that we cannot get. Vital research simply isn't being done.

2. We are not getting any of this because of bureaucracy, red tape and a president who, to put it mildly, doesn't give a shit. George Bush has even refused to speak at the opening of this conference. It is customary, at these international conferences, that a head of state opens it.

George Bush has been a fucking shithead about AIDS, ignoring it just as much as his doddering, imbecilic predecessor with his Machiavellian wife.

3. The government's ACTG system for delivering promising treatments to those who desperately need them (which is administered by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health), is a sham, a shocking, sinful sewer of ineptitude, run by idiots, nin-

compoops, quack doctors who should have their licenses revoked.

New research is on hold while they take a year off to sort out their fucked-up computer data base. Their research has not been adequately available to minorities, women or children. Thousands of ACTG treatment slots are *empty*. Can you believe that there are thousands of vacancies for people to receive free drugs, and this asshole government and this asshole ACTG system doesn't fill them up? How fucking inefficient, and SAVAGELY

hands are killing us as sure as if they stuck actual daggers into our hearts.

4. The same Doctor Strangeloves who control the ACTG system are the same Doctor Strangeloves who are controlling the agenda of, and shutting out any dissident voices from, the Sixth International Conference on AIDS.

5. These are *also* the very same doctors who are trying to screw us out of Parallel Track. (They don't like Parallel Track because they don't have control of it.) This historic and revolutionary

method for getting more drugs into more bodies with more speed was conceived, fought for, orchestrated and obtained by ACT UP. All you PWAs and HIV-positives: all those promising experimental drugs you can't afford to buy overseas or on the underground and you thought were waiting for us on Parallel Track? They just got snatched away.

Just when we



INHUMANE, can a system be?

What *new* treatments has the ACTG system come up with in the four years of its dreary existence? NONE. NOTHING. NIENTE. NADA. Every drug that is presently available for AIDS has come from some source other than the ACTG system—a foreign country, a pharmaceutical company, independent research. You'd think such failure would make the ACTG less powerful. No way. To make certain we are exterminated a little faster, the ACTG has control over what new drugs are studied (or rather, not studied) and what research is funded (or rather, not funded). Thus, our lives are *totally* in its hands and its

were about to get ddC and GM-CSF to follow ddI. Do you want them back? Then you fucking well better show up in San Francisco June 20-24!

6. TONS OF BASIC SCIENCE HASN'T EVEN BEEN DONE YET! Can you believe that! I repeat: MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF RESEARCH STILL HAS NOT EVEN COMMENCED. NIH doctors know this! They know what should be researched and still it is not being researched! THEY KNOW IT! Can you believe such tactics, such an attitude?

And people think we are being paranoid when we scream GENOCIDE!

7. The excuse they use is that GOVERNMENT RESEARCH IS INVESTIGA-

TOR-INITIATED, NOT GOAL-ORIENTED. In other words, any stupid asshole can submit a grant proposal for funding, even if every lab in the world is already studying the same stupid thing. God forbid Drs. Tony Fauci or Sam Broder or Paul Volberding or Margaret Fischl or Thomas Merrigan or Dan Hoth or Larry Corey or Martin Hirsch (some of these people are not your friends, no matter how nice you think they are) should then go out and LOCATE an investigator and hire him/her to research the question like you hire an actor to play a part. *This stupid attitude could very well be the death of us. The research might never be done!* HOW MANY YEARS DO YOU HAVE TO PISS AWAY WAITING?

8. This conference is going to be about as "International" as the Ku Klux Klan. Uncle George's government now forbids anyone who has AIDS or is HIV-positive to enter his wonderful country. Uncle George is punishing us for having the naughty HIV virus in our system. Any foreigner who has AIDS or is HIV-positive and wants to come to the "International" AIDS Conference is forbidden entry past our statue of "Liberty."

Thus, every foreigner with an ounce of humanity is staying home to protest this inhumanity.

Yes, huge numbers of foreign scientists, plus international AIDS and gay organizations, as well as many American ones too, are all boycotting the Sixth "International" AIDS Conference.

In other words, THE SIXTH "INTERNATIONAL" AIDS CONFERENCE WILL BE A SICK JOKE.

Most of those there will be—like scabby strike-busters—the slick, heartless Washington bureaucratic representatives of Uncle George, and the expense-account rich hucksters from the greedy profiteering drug companies that suck our blood and the thousands of representatives of an international media that *still* can't report AIDS with any accuracy or genuine understanding.

9. We are being royally fucked over, screwed to death, whatever you want to call being INTENTIONALLY ALLOWED TO DIE. This is no longer hyperbole, exaggeration, opinion—it is fact. The systems this government has in operation simply could not move any more slowly.

HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU HAVE TO HEAR THIS BEFORE YOU

See RIOT on page 38

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NOT from page 37

BELEIE IT! AND RISE UP AGAINST IT!
THIS GOVERNMENT OF SHIT-
HEADS WANTS US DEAD. WHY
CAN'T EVERY GAY MAN AND LES-
BIAN GET THAT THROUGH HIS/HER
HEAD? INDEED, UNCLE GEORGE
WANTS ALL FAGGOTS, NIGGERS,
JUNKIES, SPICS, WHORES, UNMAR-
RIEDS AND THEIR BABIES DEAD.

THE STRAIGHT WHITE MAN IS
THE GAY PERSON'S ENEMY! HAVEN'T
WE HAD ENOUGH PROOF? HOW
MUCH MORE EVIDENCE DO YOU
NEED? DO YOU HAVE TO BE LINED
UP IN FRONT OF A FIRING SQUAD
BEFORE YOU FIGHT BACK?

WE HAVE BEEN LINED UP IN
FRONT OF A FIRING SQUAD AND IT IS
CALLED AIDS.

WE MUST RIOT! I AM CALLING
FOR A FUCKING RIOT!

It is imperative that ACT UP chap-
ters from everywhere and activists from
everywhere and all their friends and
family and all marchers and all scream-
ers, FROM EVERYWHERE, be in San
Francisco June 20-24 in front of all the
TV cameras and photographers and re-
porters and media that will be there to
see us. WE MUST BE THERE TO LET
THE WORLD THAT IS WATCHING SEE
THAT WE ARE FUCKING FURIOUS!

Would you believe that more peo-
ple have *already* registered for this
conference than showed up in Montre-
al? That means over 15,000 people
have *already* registered.

Thus, a lot of sleazy, scabby,
strike-busting people who are not boy-
cotting the conference will be there.
Whether your organization is *officially*
boycotting or not, IT IS VITAL FOR
YOU TO BE THERE INDIVIDUALLY.

*Because we are being given a rare
and perfect opportunity to act out our
anger and fury where much of the
world's media will see us.*

We accomplished miracles last year
in Montreal. We got the release of ddI,
fluconazole, DHPG, low-dose AZT, AZT
for kids, expanded access for EPO and
laid the groundwork for ddC, GM-CSF
and Parallel Track. We got all this not be-
cause they were given to us generously;
we got them because we fought for each
and every one of them like furies!

Now we must make history again.
WE MUST SCREAM AND FIGHT LIKE
FURIOUS FUCKING GODDAMN
TIGERS FOR OUR DRUGS AND OUR

RESEARCH AND OUR CURE!

WE MUST RIOT IN SAN FRANCIS-
CO!

FROM ALL CORNERS OF AMERICA,
AIDS ACTIVISTS AND THEIR FRIENDS
AND FAMILIES MUST COME TO SAN
FRANCISCO AND MAKE THEIR VOICES
HEARD!

BE THERE!
TELL YOUR FAMILIES TO BE
THERE!

PASS THIS ARTICLE AROUND.
(Make as many copies as you can.)

REPRINT IT ANYWHERE AND EV-
ERYWHERE YOU LIKE. (Gay publica-
tions everywhere: please reprint this
article.)

JUNE 20-24.

A MASSIVE DISRUPTION (Outside
and Inside) of the Sixth International
AIDS Conference in San Francisco June
20-24.

MASSIVE! DISRUPTION! RIOT! LIFE!
More next month... ▼

ROONEY from page 16

remark in *The Advocate*, a gay magazine.

Rooney's homophobia was never in
doubt throughout the highly publicized
brouhaha. In the past six months, he has
slandered gays repeatedly in remarks
made on *60 Minutes*, in his syndicated
newspaper column and in a letter to *The
Advocate*.

Those remarks did not get him in
much trouble, however, until they were
combined with the alleged racist com-
ments.

Among the activists dissatisfied with
Rooney's *60 Minutes* apology are staffers
at New York's Gay & Lesbian Alliance
Against Defamation.

"The whole tone of the discussion
was that the charge of racism against him
was something to be taken very seriously
and the charge of homophobia against
him was much less important," said
Executive Director Craig Davidson. "But
at least he acknowledged that what he
has said was unjust and harmed gay
people, and he seems sincere about not
wanting to hurt us in the future."

Robert Bray, spokesman for the
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force,
was less generous.

"The two phrases that were missing
from his so-called apology were 'I'm
sorry' and 'I apologize,'" Bray said. "We
are still waiting for his apology to the 24
million gays and lesbians in this country.

He apparently doesn't think that gays
and lesbians are the victims of
discrimination and hatred and
defamation whereas obviously he knows
that Blacks are." ▼

TAYLOR from page 21

Director Tim Sweeney likewise decried
the Bush AIDS budget, citing the over-
burdened status of New York City
hospitals and the lack of access to
treatment on the part of poor and
minority HIV and AIDS patients.

"*The New York Times* was not
exaggerating when it said New York is
in danger of becoming the new
Calcutta," said Sweeney.

Drawing the most attention to the
hearings, however, was the
appearance of American Foundation
for AIDS Research national chairperson
Elizabeth Taylor at the hearing.

Outlining a bleak future on the
AIDS front, Taylor denounced the
mindset that would have it that AIDS is
now getting too much of the "pie" of
health care dollars.

"That simply is not true," said
Taylor. "The hard, cold facts tell a very
different story." Taylor later added that
while today some people are more
comfortable talking about AIDS in
children, many are still unwilling to
address the issue of gay men with
AIDS. ▼

AIDS "QUAKE" from page 30

today," she said, "a place to live, the right
to have a job, to live our lives without
unreasonable barriers and to have access
to have decent medical care. We are not
asking for extras."

Kennedy and Hatch were joined at
the event by New York Mayor David
Dinkins and Sen. Alphonse D'Amato
(R-NY).

Underscoring the New York City
crisis, Mayor Dinkins voiced his
support of the bill, saying that it would
make the difference between AIDS
patients "dying with dignity" and
"dying in rags and rage."

"There are those who would have
us believe that this health crisis is no
crisis at all," said Taylor, "that the number
of AIDS cases is leveling off, that
heterosexuals are not at risk and that
AIDS has been overfunded."

"Well, those people are wrong," she
added. "Dead wrong." ▼

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Urvashi Vaid, (202)332-6483

NGLTF JOINS BOYCOTT OF SIXTH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

Washington, D.C., March 20, 1990...The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) will boycott the VI International Conference on AIDS because of the U.S. Government's discriminatory AIDS and gay and lesbian immigration and visitation policies.

In addition, NGLTF is calling on its more than 17,000 members nationwide, as well as other gay and lesbian organizations and individuals, to boycott the conference, scheduled for this June 20-24 in San Francisco, Calif. NGLTF is encouraging activists to continue pressuring the government to repeal the policies.

NGLTF is the first reported national U.S. gay and lesbian civil rights organization to boycott the conference. The Task Force joins more than 35 national and international organizations that have chosen not to participate in the gathering, including the National Association of People with AIDS, the International League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Canadian AIDS Society, Shanti Project and the Names Project International AIDS Memorial Quilt.

NGLTF's decision to boycott the conference was made by its board of directors at the Nashville, Tenn., board meeting on March 18. NGLTF leaders said the group would rescind its boycott only if travel restrictions on people with AIDS and gays and lesbians are lifted.

"We believe the U.S. government policy of denying entry to gay men and lesbians and people with AIDS and HIV is morally reprehensible," said veteran NGLTF board member Rick Rudy. Rudy, an openly gay person with AIDS, is also president of the Bay Area-based High Tech Gays, which is strongly considering joining the boycott. "We do not feel the conference can accomplish its tasks if those most concerned are prohibited from attending."

Under current law, any person testing HIV-positive may be excluded from the U.S., including tourists, refugees, people seeking asylum and legalization, students, persons with special visas to teach or conduct research, as well as persons who have lived legally in the U.S. as students, laborers, or permanent residents and are now seeking naturalization as citizens.

- more -

Individuals coming from outside the U.S. can be denied temporary admission or detained at the border, which has occurred in Minneapolis, Minn. and other locations.

HIV was added to the list of restricted communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, syphilis and gonorrhea, by an amendment offered by Sen. Jesse Helms to the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1987.

Waivers for some individuals with AIDS or HIV may be granted for limited or restricted entry into the U.S. Following considerable media criticism and pressure from AIDS and other groups, the Immigration and Naturalization Service in January announced it would stop marking passports of those with HIV infection who are granted waivers to enter the country.

"NGLTF condemns any prohibitions on immigration, visitation and naturalization of HIV-infected persons as well as restrictions on lesbians and gay men," said Urvashi Vaid, NGLTF executive director. "AIDS is not imported into the U.S. There must be no travel restrictions on foreigners with AIDS or HIV or on gay men and lesbians."

The U.S. has more than 121,000 cases of AIDS, by far the greatest number of reported cases of any country in the world.

Vaid pointed out that the World Health Organization, the Presidential Commission on the HIV epidemic, the National AIDS Commission and other groups have rejected restrictions on HIV positive persons as unnecessary, counterproductive and a waste of resources.

Organizers of the VI International Conference of AIDS say the conference stands to lose several thousand participants if the current immigration policies are enforced. President George Bush has declined an invitation to speak at the gathering, which is traditionally opened by the head of state of the host country.

In addition to fighting discriminatory AIDS policies, NGLTF is involved in lobbying for passage of legislation that would repeal anti-gay and lesbian immigration law. A bill offered by openly gay Representative Barney Frank would change existing law that prohibits foreigners from visiting or applying for permanent residence in the U.S. based on their sexual orientation.

NGLTF is the oldest and preeminent national gay and lesbian civil rights organization in the U.S. Founded in 1973, the Task Force fights for full equality for lesbians and gay men and responsible federal AIDS policies.

###

prboycott

PRESS RELEASE

1517 U STREET NW ■ WASHINGTON, DC 20009 ■ 202/332-6483

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Robert Bray or Urvashi
Vaid (202) 332-6483

NGLTF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROTESTS BUSH POLICIES AT PRESIDENTIAL AIDS ADDRESS

Washington, D.C., March 29, 1990...President George Bush's first major address on the AIDS health crisis was interrupted today by Urvashi Vaid, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), who stood up during the presentation and urged the President to do more for people with AIDS.

Bush spoke to a gathering of about 400 business and labor leaders at a conference sponsored by the National Leadership Coalition on AIDS held at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott Hotel just outside Washington. The speech was extensively covered by major national and international media.

During the speech, Vaid, who sat in front of the President, stood and held up a sign that read, "Talk Is Cheap -- AIDS Funding Is Not" and "Remember Gay People With AIDS."

She then challenged Bush directly, saying, "Mr. President, you don't understand. We need your leadership. We need more than one speech every 14 months. We need more funding for AIDS education, research and prevention. We need you to end the discriminatory immigration policy."

Secret Service agents instructed Vaid to remove the sign and sit down. But a few minutes later, Vaid again stood to address the President, who up to that point in his speech had not revealed any new substantive Administration initiatives for fighting the epidemic. Vaid was then escorted out of the hotel and told if she reentered she would be arrested.

Bush paused during his speech to address Vaid, saying, "Let me say something about this. I can understand the concern that these people feel. And I hope if we do nothing else by coming here, I can help them understand that not only you care, but we care too."

During his speech, Bush urged compassion for people with AIDS. He mentioned education, "AIDS babies," confidentiality, the "war on drugs," and praised Allstate Company, Fortune Magazine and General Motors for fighting the disease. Among other things, Bush touted the Administration's response to AIDS.

"The epidemic is having a major impact on our health care system," said Bush. "The Federal response is unprecedented."

Bush renewed his support for the Americans With Disabilities Act, which he said must be immediately passed to ban discrimination against people with AIDS and HIV.

"It is commendable that the President mentioned anti-discrimination protections," said Vaid after the speech. "And his rhetoric was certainly more compassionate than anything former President Reagan ever said. But one speech does not equal leadership. Photo opportunities and soundbites on compassion are not substitutes for public health policy and political courage."

In particular, Vaid criticized the White House's AIDS funding proposal for 1991. During his speech, Bush said the Administration had asked Congress for \$3.5 billion in 1991 for AIDS. But AIDS advocates sharply criticized and rebuked that figure, saying after Medicaid and Medicare entitlements, Defense Department testing costs and other miscellaneous expenses are factored out, the actual Bush AIDS budget request for 1991 for Labor, Health and Humans Services expenditures is \$1.75 billion.

The day before the President's address, NGLTF's Vaid testified before the Senate Appropriations committee in support of increased federal AIDS funding. Vaid, on behalf of the National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA), of which NGLTF is a member, asked for \$2.8 billion to meet anticipated HIV prevention, care and research needs in 1991. The NORA proposal emphasizes immediate impact aid to relieve those communities hardest hit by the epidemic.

"What is missing from the President's picture of AIDS?," asked Vaid. "An end to punitive and harmful immigration, visitation and permanent residency laws that discriminate against foreigners with AIDS and HIV. Increased funding of AIDS research, prevention and care programs. Affordable health care for all Americans. Access to promising drug therapies. Acknowledgement that the gay community, which comprises more than 65 percent of total AIDS cases, continues to suffer discrimination, stigmatization and government negligence. And a real action plan for fighting the nation's health crisis."

OUT!, a D.C.-based direct action group, joined the New York and D.C. chapters of ACT UP to stage a protest at the hotel during the speech. In order to enter the hotel's conference site, attendees, most of them corporate executives and business leaders, had to walk through a human "gauntlet" of about 80 AIDS activists lining both sides of the hallway.

Activists carried signs that said, among other things, "Wake Up George -- Where's The Plan?" and "Nine Years of AIDS + 80,000 Dead + One Lousy Speech = A National Disgrace."

###

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA USA ■ 20-24 JUNE 1990

March 20, 1990

Dear Executive Director,

We are writing to request your help with two needs of the Sixth International Conference on AIDS - our delegate host and volunteer programs.

As part of its commitment to assure the role of HIV-infected individuals and community based organizations in its proceedings, the Conference is distributing 375 passes to HIV-infected people otherwise unable to afford the \$475 registration cost of attending, providing low-cost exhibit space for 150 non-profit AIDS organizations, and distributing Conference passes to these exhibitors.

To further assist delegates in these programs, the Conference is undertaking a project to develop a list of free housing offered by San Francisco residents during the period of the Conference.

We enclose a form that we hope you will circulate among staff and volunteers who may be able to have a Conference delegate stay in their home during the period of approximately June 19 to 24. The reverse side of the form describes the way the program works after submitting a Host Registration.

We hope that the delegate host program becomes a visible way for San Franciscans to show their hospitality to participants in the Sixth International Conference on AIDS, and a means of assuring that Conference participants are afforded greater access to San Francisco's model response to AIDS.

As you can imagine, the logistics and staffing required to guarantee the success of the Conference are extensive. Hundreds of volunteers will be needed both before and during the Conference to assist in carrying out a full range of tasks to assure that this meeting fulfills the needs of delegates in their roles responding to the AIDS epidemic. Volunteers will be needed to assist with office work, act as hosts and monitors, assist in Conference set up and tear down, assist as runners for media representatives, and for many other tasks.

We are certainly sensitive to the fact that many community based organizations are themselves in need of increased volunteer support. We are asking, if it is in keeping with your needs, if you would agree to circulate the attached volunteer registration form within your organization. We hope that, as with the Delegate Host Program, the efforts of volunteers will exemplify the unique commitment of Bay Area residents to the fight against AIDS.

If you have any questions about the delegate host program, we hope you will contact Dana Van Gorder on our staff. Dave Bracker is available to answer questions regarding volunteers. Dave will also be planning to contact you within the coming weeks.

Thank you very much for your attention to our requests, and for your support of the Conference.

Sincerely,


John L. Ziegler, M.D.
John Ziegler, M.D.
Co-Chair


Paul Volberding, M.D.
Co-Chair

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA USA ■ 20-24 JUNE 1990

VOLUNTEER HOUSING PROGRAM

Please return this form to:

HOST REGISTRATION

Dana Van Gorder

BOX 1505

San Francisco, CA 94143

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

M _____ F _____

Would you prefer to host M _____ F _____ No preference _____

Describe accommodations (ie. bedroom, sofa bed, etc.) _____

Number of people in household? _____

Do you have pets? _____

Do you smoke? _____ Will you accept a smoker? _____

Can you provide access to kitchen? _____

What transportation are you near? _____

Accessibility of your home? (number of stairs, easy wheelchair access) _____

How far from Moscone Center are you? _____

What services are nearby? (restaurants, shops, groceries) _____

What dates are available? (Conference dates are June 20 - 24, 1990)

_____ June 18

_____ June 19

_____ June 20 - 24

_____ June 25

_____ June 26

Additional Dates _____

Additional comments that might be helpful in making decisions. _____

As a host, you agree to provide free housing. This is a personal and voluntary act. Neither the Sixth International Conference on AIDS or the University of California are responsible for compensation to you, supervision of the relationship with the delegate staying with you, or liable in any way for events occurring between you and Conference delegates.



HOW THE DELEGATE HOST PROGRAM WORKS

The goal of the Delegate Host Program is to enable HIV-infected people and representatives of community based AIDS organizations to attend the Sixth International Conference on AIDS who would otherwise be unable to afford to stay in San Francisco. In many cases, these Conference delegates will be people to whom the Conference has provided free registration.

The Delegate Host Program asks San Francisco residents to provide free housing to delegates of the Sixth International Conference on AIDS from approximately the period of June 19 to 24.

The Conference will recruit a list of San Franciscans willing to offer space to Conference delegates. Then we will receive applications from delegates for donated housing. Our computer will do its best to match hosts to guests.

Once the computer has done its part, we will mail the name of one host to one guest. The guest will be responsible for calling the host to assure that this match-up is satisfactory. Unless the Conference office hears from the guest that this match up is NOT satisfactory, we will assume that we have taken care of this particular delegate and move on to the next.

From that point on, all details about the delegate's stay should be arranged between the delegate and his or her guest. We hope that people will work together to negotiate details regarding the length of their stay, pick-up at the airport, if possible, and other arrangements.

Please contact Steve Tigerman or Dana Van Gorder if you have additional needs for information. The Conference Organizing office can be reached at 415-951-1990.

Thank you for your help with this important effort of the Conference!

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA USA ■ 20-24 JUNE 1990

VOLUNTEER INTEREST & SKILL SURVEY

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Hm) _____

(Wk) _____

Please check those areas of interest and skill in which you would be willing to do occasional work.

1. Administrative

_____ Typing (w/m _____)

_____ General Office

_____ Filing

_____ Other

_____ Other _____

3. Miscellaneous

_____ Media/Newsletter

_____ Interpreter

for Hearing Impaired _____

Foreign Languages _____

_____ Other _____

2. Conference and Special Events

_____ Guide / Host, Room Monitor, Usher

_____ Set-up / Take Down

_____ Heavy Lifting

_____ Video / Slide operation

AVAILABILITY

	Mn	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
Morning							
Afternoon							
Evening							

Dates Available: _____

(Our anticipated needs are greatest from Tuesday June 19 - Sun June 24)

Comments: _____

Thank you for your time and Interest!

Please return to:

David Bracker
Sixth International Conference on AIDS
P.O. Box 1505
San Francisco, CA 94143



John & Denny —

3-29-90

I have sent in the paperwork for
press registration for both of you for the
following two conferences!

Before 6th International:

AMA HIV Conference
June 18th & 19th

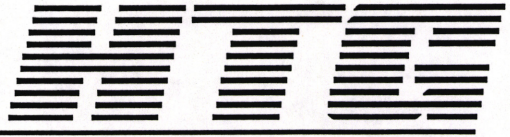
After 6th International:

AIDS & Ethics
June 24-27

Please mark your calendars.

Tim

Sixth Internat.



HIGH TECH GAYS

P.O. Box 6777, San Jose, CA 95150

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 1990

For More Information Contact:
Rick Rudy (408) 255-6125 eves
(408) 943-0636 days

HIGH TECH GAYS TO BOYCOTT 6TH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

San Jose, Calif.... High Tech Gays (HTG), the nations largest organization of gay and lesbian professionals in the high tech industries, voted at its April 8 meeting to support the boycott of the 6th International AIDS Conference being held in San Francisco in June.

The boycott will be effective unless the U.S. government alters its immigration policies to allow gay men and lesbian and persons with AIDS or HIV infection to freely enter the U.S. and attend the Conference. Current U.S. law prohibits such persons' entry. HTG has asked its more than 700 members to write to their Congressional representatives to have the discriminatory policies changed.

"The majority of High Tech Gays' members are scientists, engineers and other technical professionals who must have access to full and freely exchanged information. This Conference is violating this tenet of free information flow by denying entry to gay men and lesbians and people with AIDS and HIV and is, besides, morally reprehensible" said Rick Rudy, President of High Tech Gays and a Board Member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "A Conference that excludes those who can bring the necessary information cannot accomplish its tasks and HTG members find that unacceptable."

HTG joins more than 85 national and international organizations who are boycotting the AIDS Conference, including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

High Tech Gays was founded in San Jose, Calif., in 1983. HTG is a forum for gays and lesbians in the technically sophisticated industries to work together to solve problems of human rights, network on job opportunities and socialize in a congenial and supportive environment.

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High Tech Gays, P.O. Box 6777, San Jose, CA 95150

A I D S
TREATMENT
N E W S

P.O. Box 411256
San Francisco, CA 94141

415/ 861-2432
fax: 415/ 255-4659

to: Spencer Cox
from: John James

May 3, 1990

2 pages total

Announcement of AmFAR
seminar in Advance Program
of Sixth International.

INTRODUCTORY SEMINARS

WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE, 1:00-3:00 PM

"Science to Policy: A UCSF Introduction"

University of California, San Francisco

Marriott, Buena Vista

Chair: Joseph B. Martin
Dean, School of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)

Immunity and AIDS

Arthur Weiss
Howard Hughes Medical Institute, UCSF

Epidemiology and AIDS:

Inferences from Counting and Comparing

Virginia Ernster
Chair, Department of Epidemiology and
Biostatistics, UCSF

AIDS and Health Policy

Philip Lee
Director, Institute for Health Policy Studies, UCSF

Epidemics in Historical Perspective

Donald Ganem
Department of Microbiology, UCSF

"Ultimate Questions at the Heart of AIDS"

American Foundation for AIDS Research

Marriott, Presidio

This seminar will focus on three major moments in the life of a person infected by HIV:

First: Receiving a positive test result.

Second: The realization that he or she will live with AIDS.

Third: The realization that he or she will soon die.

These critical moments compel the person to address ultimate questions such as: What worth is my life? Who loves me? Is there a God? Is there an after-life? What is most important now in my life? How can I find spiritual resources?

The epidemic strikes deep into the faith system of individuals and it is critical that these issues be explored in the most healthy way possible.

To confront each of these three moments, three brief dramas will be performed. Each will be followed by a panel discussion given by caregivers and HIV-infected persons who will elaborate on the spiritual issues raised by the given drama. Finally, the audience will have an opportunity to engage the panel.

Additional Opportunities

1. The San Francisco Interreligious Coalition on AIDS will have forty people available for individual dialogue with Conference delegates.
2. A Reflection Room will be available in the Marriott Hotel, as will local churches.
3. At Grace Cathedral, there will be a service of story, music, and prayer entitled "A Celebration of Life" on Thursday, June 21, at 8 pm. Jewish, Buddhist, and Christian approaches will be featured. A reception for Conference delegates will follow in the Cathedral's undercroft.

page 47
Advance Program
Sixth International Conference

31 W. 26 STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10010
(212) 532-0363

PWA HEALTH GROUP

Derek Hodel
Executive Director

Board of Directors:
Joseph Breslaw, President
Michael Callen
Arlene Carmen
Andy Humm
Michael Spiegel, Esq.
Joseph Sonnabend, M.D.
Richard Whitfield

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 1990

CONTACT: Derek Hodel
(212)532-0363

PWA HEALTH GROUP JOINS BOYCOTT OF 6th INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

Derek Hodel, executive director of the PWA Health Group in New York City, announced today that the group will join in boycotting the 6th International Conference on AIDS in San Francisco, in protest of U.S. travel restrictions for foreigners with HIV infection.

In supporting the boycott, Hodel said "While we regret not participating in the conference, we felt it was crucial to take a firm political stand protesting the restrictive U.S. immigration laws. It is inexcusable to have such restrictions, for which there is no sound public health rationale, on the books. We hope the boycott sends a strong signal to the Bush administration that this policy is unacceptable."

Hodel had planned to present a paper during one of the conference's Social Science and Policy oral sessions, titled: "'Buyers' Clubs' and the Legitimization of the AIDS Treatment Underground -- the PWA (People With AIDS) Health Group as Case Study." In addition, Hodel said, the PWA Health Group was scheduled to present a poster, titled: "When Safety Nets Fail: A Unique, Guerilla Program to Distribute Aerosol Pentamidine to Indigent Populations -- the PWA (People With AIDS) Health Group as Model."

The PWA Health Group had also planned to sponsor a booth in the nonprofit exhibition hall, to distribute copies of *NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND*, the Health Group's bimonthly newsletter, and to answer questions about the group. Copies of *NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND* are still available from the group's New York office.

The PWA Health Group joins a long list of organizations boycotting the conference, including the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force (NLGTF) and the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA).

#

THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES'

POSITION ON ATTENDANCE AT THE

Vith INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS,
San Francisco - June 20-24, 1990.

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies decided in November, 1989, to withdraw from participating in the Vith International Conference on AIDS. The reasons for this withdrawal were clearly outlined at the time, and centred around our concern that the U.S. visa policy for people who are HIV positive might cause discrimination to HIV positive members of Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies who wished to attend the Conference.

A second statement was issued from the League Secretariat in January, 1990, following some revisions in the application of the visa waiver procedure for people who are HIV positive and who wished to attend the Vith International AIDS Conference. Despite the welcome changes, it was considered that they did not significantly alter the potential for discrimination of members of National Societies, and our position on attending the Conference remained unaltered.

There have been further recent changes to the visa waiver procedure, and once again we would like to express our solidarity and support for all those people within the United States of America who have helped to bring about these changes, including the American Red Cross. Although the exact details of the changes and, in particular, the practical procedures for their implementation remain somewhat unclear, from the available information the concerns of the League about possible discrimination of HIV positive members of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies remain. We have therefore decided to remain with our original position and not participate in the Conference.

This decision was supported during the recent meeting of the European and North American Red Cross and Red Crescent Task Force on AIDS, and is shared by many international nongovernmental organisations and a number of governments. We continue to urge US policy makers to make the necessary changes to their laws concerning people who are HIV positive, in order to ensure that these laws and related regulations and procedures are based on sound public health principles and a caring and humanitarian approach to all people.

Since the Conference is now less than a month away, and in view of the need to take a final decision about our participation, irrespective of further changes in U.S. visa policy procedures the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will not participate in the Vith International Conference on AIDS.

Page missing?

Unfortunately there is a negative side to our withdrawal from this Conference. It is very unfortunate that the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and many other NGOs will be absent from this Conference at a time when it is clearly so important that we develop partnerships and that all sectors and organisations cooperate and work together. It is clear to everyone that NGOs have played a very important role in the fight against AIDS their absence will, I believe, make this only a partial Conference, and will have a serious negative affect on the outcome.

The positive aspect of our withdrawal is that we have helped to bring about changes in the travel restrictions in the USA by providing support for those people within the USA who have fought for these changes. However, despite some progress, as of mid May there is still a great deal of confusion and lack of clarity about what these changes actually are, and how they would be implemented in practice. We remain unconvinced that they significantly allay our concerns about potential discrimination of our members.

We have also shown that as a "community", NGOs, at least, are still able to take moral stands on issues of international and individual importance. And we have demonstrated that even though there are as many differences between NGOs as similarities, on important matters we can stand together, speak with one voice and act as a conscience for the international community.

I wish you every success with your Conference and hope that it makes an important contribution to the fight against AIDS. However, I also hope that we all learn from this experience, and that such a situation will not be allowed to happen again. Exchange of ideas, experiences and information is certainly essential if we are to combat the AIDS pandemic. But this will only be useful if advances can be put into practice, and in order to do this we need to be able to ensure a caring and compassionate environment, that is as free of discrimination as we would like it to be free of the virus and all the suffering that this virus causes.

PBVIDEO/LCT52/MICHAEL 23.05.90

Per Stenbäck Video message to the
With INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS;

San Francisco, June 20 - 24, 1990.

For the past 125 years, the symbol of the Red Cross has stood for compassion and humanity. It was born out of one man's horror and concern about the wounded and dying who lay uncared for and unattended on the battle-field of Solferino. Since this time, the Red Cross has devoted itself to preventing and alleviating the suffering of vulnerable individuals and communities around the world, irrespective of their race, religion, political or ideological beliefs.

Over the years the battle-fields have changed. Today, we have many new challenges, such as economic recession, environmental pollution and AIDS.

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with National Societies in 149 countries around the world, has been very active in the fight against AIDS. More than 100 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies currently have AIDS related activities: helping to prevent the spread of the virus and to provide care and support for people who are HIV positive, people with AIDS, their loved ones, families and friends. We have also taken a very strong stand against the pandemic of discrimination that has followed the HIV/AIDS pandemic, both because we believe that discrimination is fundamentally wrong and also because, from a public health point-of-view, preventing discrimination is essential to preventing the spread of the virus.

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has participated in previous International Conferences on AIDS, and as our involvement with the global effort has increased so has our involvement with these Conferences. Last year, at the Conference in Montreal, we had more than forty representatives from thirty countries. This year, however, apart from this video message we will not be participating.

We are not participating in the Vith International AIDS Conference because we are concerned that the current travel restrictions for people who wish to enter the United States of America may cause discrimination to members of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies who are HIV positive and who attend the Conference. This is obviously of great concern to us since we have consistently taken a strong stand against discrimination and since we have encouraged National Societies to involve people who are HIV positive and people with AIDS in their programmes because of the important perspective and experiences that they bring.

Of course there are broader issues at stake, and we add our voice to the concern expressed by the public health authorities within the United States and by the World Health Organisation about any travel restrictions which single out people who are HIV positive, since these will do nothing to prevent the spread of the disease but are likely to be punitive and discriminatory. Such measures merely reinforce the attitudes that work against the control of this dreadful disease, and instead of preventing the spread they act as an obstacle to prevention.

Conference Boycott Gathers Steam

by Kevin Farrell

The boycott against the Sixth International AIDS Conference has gained significant support over the last six weeks. ACT UP/LA voted to join the boycott in early February, and also voted to urge ACT NOW, the national organization of AIDS activist groups, to boycott. In addition, ACT UP/LA wrote a letter to ACT UP/New York City favoring its participation in the boycott.

Since that time, a number of AIDS activist organizations — all members of ACT NOW — have decided to boycott. Among them: Oppression Under Target (OUT, Washington, D.C.); the Orange County Visibility League; AIDS Action (Toronto); The Gay and Lesbian March Action Committee (Cincinnati); the Los Angeles Coalition for Compassion; and ACT UP chapters in San Francisco, Kansas City and Chicago.

In some cities, the decision to boycott was controversial. In San Francisco, participants say the three-week process to reach consensus was "very painful." Members of ACT UP/SF had been working closely with committees of the Sixth International, hoping to ensure that the conference would be of use to people with AIDS, and not just a scientific/business confab.

Sentiment for a boycott of the Sixth International began last November when a group of European, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the International Red Cross, Red Crescent and PWA groups, voiced concern about the United States' policy excluding people with HIV from entering the U.S. This policy is one of the most restrictive in the world.

People can be forced to submit to a blood test for HIV upon entry, and presence of HIV constitutes grounds for refusing entry. In a half-compromise, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has instituted a plan that enables people who are HIV-infected to request a waiver for entry to attend gatherings like the Sixth International. If admitted, their passports and visas are stamped with coded information indicating HIV infection. This policy is considered irrational and unworkable, and provided the initial impetus for the boycott.

A number of other organizations from Europe joined the boycott due to their concerns about INS policies.

But there are other reasons for the boycott as well. According to Arawn Eibhlyn, national coordinator for ACT NOW, "The lack of access to the conference for people with HIV created another 'border' problem." He compares the restrictions placed on participation by people with HIV by the committees of the Sixth International to the border policies of the INS. "As time wore on, it became clear that the Sixth International did not have the commitment to access for people with HIV that they said they would have." Approximately 175 "scholarships" for people with HIV have been provided by the Sixth International, while 12,000 tickets will be sold for the four-day event at prices topping out at \$425.00. Eibhlyn and others worked with a community access task force set up by the Sixth International to prevent these difficulties. "But those efforts, in large part, failed," he says. When the ACT NOW steering committee joined the boycott in late February, Eibhlyn withdrew from participation in the task force of which he had been a part. Now, there is no AIDS activist voice on the task forces of the conference.

Other AIDS service groups have joined the boycott, including the National Association of People with AIDS and the Shanti Project, a San Francisco-based service organization. A variety of Australian, Asian and European groups have also decided to boycott. ACT UP/New York City declined to boycott, having already purchased fifty tickets for the conference.

But the ACT UP boycott of the Sixth International will not extend outside the Moscone Center, site of the meeting. What the boycott means for AIDS activists is this: organizations which have chosen to boycott will not finance the Sixth International by purchasing tickets or booth space from the organizers. "This of course does not mean we won't be there," emphasized Eibhlyn. In fact, planning is going forward on a pre-conference educational meeting sponsored by ACT NOW on Sunday and Monday June 17 & 18, a day of preparation for specific conference-related demonstrations on Tuesday, June 19 and a "March on San Francisco" on Saturday, June 23, the day before the end of the conference. AIDS activists from various cities are currently planning actions for the days of the Sixth International Conference, Wednesday, June 20 to Sunday, June 24.

CDC Ranks New AIDS Cases

Listed below are the twenty major metropolitan areas in the United States with the highest rate of AIDS cases in 1989. The rate indicates the number of new AIDS cases in 1989 per 100,000 population. The numbers are official figures from the Centers for Disease Control. The CDC itself estimates its numbers underestimate the true incidence of AIDS by twenty percent. We believe the error to be even greater.

Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate
1. San Francisco, CA	109.1	11. Houston, TX	25.5
2. San Juan, PR	78.0	12. Austin, TX	24.5
3. New York, NY	57.5	13. Washington, DC	23.3
4. Jersey City, NJ	55.2	14. New Orleans, LA	22.5
5. Newark, NJ	50.0	15. Jacksonville, FL	21.6
6. Ft. Lauderdale, FL	49.9	16. San Diego, CA	21.4
7. Miami, FL	49.6	17. Dallas, TX	20.7
8. West Palm Beach, FL	40.8	18. Baltimore, MD	20.3
9. Atlanta, GA	31.2	19. Las Vegas, NV	20.2
10. Los Angeles, CA	26.8	20. Seattle, WA	19.6

AIDS Coalition to Network, Organize and Win

2300 Market Street Suite 87 San Francisco California 94114

415/861-7505 • FAX 415/863-4740

PRELIMINARY CALENDAR OF ACTIVIST EVENTS DURING THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS

Sunday, June 17, San Francisco Women's Building

11:00am to 12:30pm

Workshops

- [1] Newsletter Production
- [2] Racism, Drugs and the AIDS Crisis
- [3] Developing a National Strategy to Defeat US Immigration Policies
- [4] Traditional Values Coalition: Who They Are. What They've Done. Building an AIDS Activist Response to the Christian Rightwing.

2:00pm to 5:00pm

"Speaking Across Borders". An educational and organizing forum.

Borders are being defined as psychological, social and political as well as geographical in nature. We are currently looking for speakers to address the following issues: [1] Overview of the global impact of the AIDS pandemic; [2] AIDS and the struggle for Lesbian and Gay Liberation. [3] HIV status and the threat of deportation; and [4] Reggie Williams, National Director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention/Black and White Men Together, will talk about living with AIDS in the context of racism and anti-gayness. In addition, we are planning a number of 5-minute "testimonials" from the following communities/groups: gay youth; injection drug user; women; prisoner; sex worker; deaf/disabled. ACT NOW will explain our purpose in holding the forum and give a run-down on the week's activities.

7:30pm to 9:00pm

Workshops

- [1] How to Create and Maintain a Needle Exchange Program
- [2] Building an International Movement to Fight AIDS
- [3] AIDS and the Struggle for Lesbian and Gay Liberation

ACT NOW

Monday, June 18, San Francisco Women's Building

Action planning/preparation

Activists will be coming together to coordinate the week's demonstrations, pickets, press conferences, etc. It will also be a time to develop last-minute banners, placards, press statements, etc. needed for the week. There will be legal information, CD training, and medical information. We are also providing space for caucuses (women, people of color, people with immune system disorders, etc.) to meet.

Tuesday, June 19

INS Demonstration

Still in proposal stage, but the demonstration will focus on the Helms Amendment and its exclusion of people living with HIV from the U.S. It will address travel restrictions, mandatory testing of immigrants, and deportation of those who test HIV+. The demonstration will also address deportation of refugees from repressive governments, and the US/Mexico border patrol. We're talking with ACT UP/Amsterdam, ACT UP/Paris, ACT UP/London, and groups in Australia and Brazil, so that it will be international in scope.

This demonstration is of critical importance to us, because it will take place the day before the opening of the Sixth International. We hope to use the demonstration to get our political agenda for the week out to the public. We also want to use it to draw attention to those unable to get into the country or the Conference due to antibody status.

Wednesday, June 20 through Friday, June 22

At this time, planning is still going forward for these days. We are beginning to develop ideas about what issues and the type of actions we'd like to see during these days (see below). We're approaching other communities to open up the opportunity for AIDS groups not affiliated with ACT NOW to either plan specific actions or to have input into the planning of actions for these days. We are especially concerned that groups serving people of color, women's, and international communities be drawn into this process. In addition, actions will have to be developed that address what is happening within the Sixth International itself.

Wednesday, June 20

PISD and Treatment Issues

The PISD Caucus and the Treatment Issues Committee of ACT UP/SF are currently exploring action ideas that will address the issues of access to the Conference, treatment research and access.

Thursday, June 21

Late afternoon (3-5pm?)

"Warchest" Tour to various sites around the City, raising healthcare and insurance issues. It will also address the "San Francisco Model of AIDS Care", city funding and other related issues. Plans are still being worked out.

Friday, June 22

Women and people of color

No specific actions are currently planned. The Women's Caucus of ACT UP/SF is currently developing plans for an action.

Saturday, June 23

HIV/AIDS March

ACT NOW and Mobilization Against AIDS issued a joint call for his march. In addition to us, the following groups have also been involved: Project Inform Community Research Alliance; Black Coalition on AIDS; San Francisco AIDS Foundation; Gay Asian Pacific Alliance; Bayview Hunters Point Foundation; Operation Concern; Inter religious Coalition on AIDS; Glide Church AIDS Project; Women's AIDS Network; and Asian Pacific AIDS Project. We are also attempting to involve other groups from the Latino, women's, Native American as well as other AIDS impacted communities.

We want all concerned people (activists, service providers, scientists, researchers, families, friends, etc.) to come together on this day to show our commitment to ending the AIDS pandemic. Our goal is to get in excess of 10,000 people to participate in this March and Rally, making it the largest AIDS action to date. It will focus attention on healthcare, government policy and human rights in a decade which has seen the loss of over 70,000 lives in the U.S. and over 300,000 worldwide.

Related Projects

- * We are developing handbook for the week that will include: [1] Short statements on some of the key issues posed by the epidemic; [2] Calendar of activities; [3] Legal information; [4] Information on civil disobedience; [5] Medical information; [6] Activist guide to San Francisco, including social events and other activities during the week.
- * We are planning to set up media center to take advantage of the international media who will be in San Francisco covering the Sixth International. We are currently looking to rent a storefront near the conference site and phones, fax, computers, xerox machines, etc. to equip it.
- * Throughout the week, there will be a number of social activities as well. Many of these will be organized as part of Lesbian and Gay Freedom Week. We are also planning such activities as "Activists' Night" at Club Uranus, a local bar for the young and trendy gay scene; a drag night at Das Klub, another local bar for the young and trendy gay scene; and a gallery exhibition. Other activities may develop as June approaches.
- * We've issued a call for artists to come to San Francisco and turn the city into their canvas. The focus is "instant art": spray-painting; posters; murals; etc. It is very decentralized and we have no idea who's coming or what they'll do. But that's part of the excitement for us, and we see this as a very free and open expression of solidarity with people living with HIV infection. If you know of any artists planning to be in San Francisco during the Conference, pass the word along.
- * We're working with the Paradiso Cultural Center, ACT UP/Amsterdam, Art on Line for AIDS, and the International Conference on Alternative use of hi-Technology for AIDS to be part of an international computer link up. Through computers, fax machines, and phones people around the world will debate issues posed by the AIDS epidemic, share information, exchange art, posters and videos. Call the Seropositive Ball, this "alternative" conference is intended to speak to the human aspects of the epidemic while the science is being presented inside the Sixth International.
- * Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day will take place on Sunday, June 24. We are planning a highly visible and lively contingent for AIDS activists and friends that day.

Sixth

to: Kevin Farrell

from: John James, 861-2432

date: 6/19

3 pages total

Urgent

Enclosed: Abstract form for Florence conference, next year

Here are my points about problems with the Conference. Many other problems are not in this list--for example, expense and low-cost access. This writeup is NOT for attribution unless I have an editorial role in the statement as a whole--probably not feasible.

Problems with Sixth International Conference:

- All abstracts had to be submitted five months in advance. And wording on the abstract forms discouraged researchers from presenting their work elsewhere in the interval. As a result, the Conference cast a five-month "shadow" ahead of it--a time of year when researchers are most reluctant to reveal to the public what they know.

- This five-month gap would (hopefully) discourage researchers with critically important results from submitting them to the Conference at all, as it would be objectionable to conceal important health information for months. Therefore, the Conference policy on early submission and exclusivity almost guarantees that the most important advances will not be released at the Conference at all--except perhaps by researchers who submitted an abstract on something else and obtained a speaker or poster slot.

- The inflexibility of the Sixth International has forced researchers with late-breaking results to take them to the "alternative" conference (Advanced Immune Discoveries Symposium, at Le Meridien Hotel a block away) instead; one example is the hyperthermia treatment recently tried in Atlanta. The International Conference also should be able to accommodate the most important fast-developing stories.

- Conference participants cannot see the abstracts until they register. Then it is too late to read or scan the thousands of abstracts before meetings start. This lack of advance information makes

participants spend valuable Conference time figuring out what is going on, instead of planning which posters to visit in advance.

- Over 1,500 abstracts were rejected this year--compared to almost none rejected by last year's International Conference in Montreal. Yet no one today can be sure what will prove important in AIDS research. And abstracts are harder to judge than larger papers, because less information is available. As a result, decisions are unduly influenced by whether reviewers know the authors or know their reputations. Observations which do not fit with conventional theories are unlikely to survive this system--despite the clear inadequacy of the existing understanding of AIDS.

- The abstract form for next year's conference in Florence, Italy again requires a five-month delay and exclusivity. Therefore under current plans, most if not all of the problems cited above are likely to be repeated next year.

STATEMENT OF JEAN MCGUIRE
Executive Director, AIDS Action Council
June 22, 1990

AIDS
Action
Council

Today, the AIDS Action Council is launching a boycott of the San Francisco Marriott Hotel food services to protest the Corporation's support of the Chapman amendment to the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act. It is unconscionable that the corporation that is hosting the international conference on AIDS has helped to perpetuate the fear and stigma associated with HIV through their endorsement of this amendment.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is currently pending in a conference between the House and Senate. It will provide federal anti-discrimination protections to all people with disabilities, including those with AIDS and HIV infection. This is the kind of discrimination protection the public health community has been calling for since the earliest stages of this epidemic.

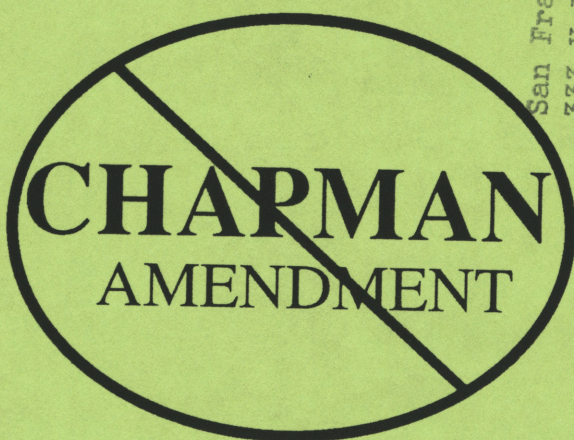
In bringing the bill to conference, both Houses endorsed the Chapman amendment, which would limit protections available to food handlers who have contagious diseases. The amendment was directly lobbied by Dick Marriott, treasurer of the National Restaurant Association, and continues to be supported by the Marriott Corporation. Key votes on Chapman are expected early next week.

The Chapman Amendment is unnecessary because the ADA already allows employers to enforce public health communicable disease standards in employment decisions. In promoting this amendment, HIV was the target of the Congressional discussion, and continues to be the focus of Marriott's concerns - - even though this is a communicable disease that is not transmissible through foodhandling.

Marriott's position on this amendment contradicts its own internal employment policies which quite liberally guarantee the rights of workers with HIV. This makes their public stance and lobbying efforts that much more reprehensible. Our challenge to Marriott today is to join us in making their own workplace guarantees the law of the land. As the ADA conference report goes to a final vote next week, Marriott has the opportunity to lead corporate America in good HIV public policy or to be a part of continuing to perpetuate irrational fears.

CUT OR TEAR HERE TO HANG ON DOOR KNOB

San Francisco AIDS Foundation
333 Valencia St., 4th Fl.
San Francisco, CA 94103



**OPPOSE HIV DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST FOOD HANDLERS**

BOYCOTT MARRIOTT FOOD SERVICES

Congress is considering allowing discrimination against people with HIV infection who handle food on their jobs (the Chapman amendment to the Americans with Disabilities Act). This amendment is based on unfounded fears and runs counter to all public health guidelines.

The Marriott Corporation, one of the largest hotel corporations in the United States, has supported this limitation. Marriott is the headquarters site for the Sixth International Conference on AIDS, which seeks to translate sound scientific findings into reasonable public policy.

By refusing to take a strong stand against the food handler amendment (the Chapman Amendment), Marriott continues to support irrational perceptions about HIV transmission that were resolved long ago. *HIV is not transmitted via food handling. The Marriott has chosen to ignore this fact.*

Until the Marriott Corporation joins in opposing these infringements on the rights of people with HIV, *we urge conference participants to boycott all food services -- restaurants and room service -- at the Marriott.*

To support the boycott:

- Do not order room service or eat in Marriott restaurants.
- Hang this sign on your door.

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA USA • 20-24 JUNE 1990

June 22, 1990

Sponsor

*University of
California
San Francisco*

Co-Sponsors

*World Health
Organization*

*City and County
of San Francisco*

*American
Foundation for
AIDS Research
International
AIDS Society*

J.W. Marriott, Jr.
President and Chairman of the Board
Marriott Corporation
Marriott Drive
Washington DC 20058

by fax

Dear Mr. Marriott,

On June 8, 1990, we wrote with a request for clarification of the position of the Marriott Corporation on the Chapman amendment to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Yesterday, the Conference put Mr. Roger Conner of your offices in contact with Ms. Jean McGuire of the AIDS Action Council and Jeff Levi of Gay Men's Health Crisis to discuss the issues surrounding Chapman and determine the Corporation's position. We are distressed to learn that Marriott is still undecided regarding its support or opposition to the Chapman amendment.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan has previously corresponded with Congress opposing Chapman as medically unwarranted. The HIV virus cannot survive food preparation and cannot be transmitted through food, whether frozen or hot. HIV-infected people are no more likely to transmit secondary infections through food than any other individuals. Based on long-established facts regarding transmission of HIV, there is no reason for the Corporation to delay any longer a decision regarding its position on the Chapman amendment.

We appreciated the statement in your June 13, 1990 letter to the Conference that the Marriott Corporation "has a non-discrimination policy for people with AIDS and for those who are HIV-positive." If your commitment to that policy is complete, you can find no reason to support the Chapman amendment.

The Sixth International Conference on AIDS is working to focus the world's attention on the need for public policy to be driven by a sound and responsible reading of the medical facts regarding AIDS transmission. The

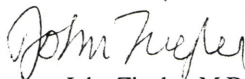


Chapman amendment is a perfect example of a profoundly flawed public policy. We urge you to take an unequivocal stand opposing the Chapman amendment before the close of the Sixth International Conference on AIDS on Sunday, June 24, 1990.

Sincerely,



Paul Volberding, M.D.
Co-Chair



John Ziegler, M.D.
Chairman

AIDA

Anger Into Direct Action

AIDA is a grassroots organization of homeless and formerly homeless persons living with HIV which is facilitated by the AIDS Project of the National Coalition for the Homeless. AIDA members have engaged in an aggressive campaign to gain attention to our circumstances. We have co-sponsored demonstrations, conducted a letter campaign and met with New York City officials. In addition, we have successfully lobbied the National Commission on AIDS to conduct hearings in New York City on homelessness and AIDS, participated in a panel on homelessness and AIDS at the National Conference on AIDS and HIV Infection in Ethnic and Racial Minorities, and led the PWA contingent of the national Housing Now! March in Washington.

WE ARE TIRED OF BEING REJECTED FOR HOUSING AND SERVICES BECAUSE WE ARE NOT "SICK ENOUGH."

WE ARE TIRED OF BEING FORCED TO LIVE ON THE STREETS, IN UNSAFE SHELTERS, AND IN FILTHY SROs.

WE ARE TIRED OF LONG WAITS FOR SERVICES.

WE ARE TIRED OF LATE CHECKS.

WE ARE TIRED OF RUDE, INSENSITIVE WORKERS.

WE DEMAND:

HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS/HIV NOW.

ADEQUATE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS/HIV NOW.

MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS/HIV NOW.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING HOMELESS AND FORMERLY HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH HIV INFECTION IN YOUR AREA? NEED MORE INFORMATION ON NEW YORK'S EFFORTS?

During the conference: Wayne Phillips or Tommie Cummings
(415) 921-4000 ext. 807

After the conference: AIDA
c/o National Coalition for the Homeless
105 East 22nd Street
New York NY 10010
(212) 460-8110

OUTLAW POVERTY, NOT PROSTITUTES

PROSTITUTES DEMONSTRATE WITH ACT UP WOMEN'S CAUCUS

CONTACT:

CAROL LEIGH 532-4408

"...the United States has laws which bar anyone who has ever been a prostitute from entering this country, remaining in this country as a resident, or becoming a citizen..."

Priscilla Alexander,
THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE
ON PROSTITUTION

Prostitutes are systematically denied citizenship status in almost every country as we are prohibited from traveling, from residing with friends or relatives (as our associates may be charged with pimping) and denied police protection from rape and other crimes against us as a result of our legal status. At the same time, governments have instituted mandatory HIV testing and quarantine of HIV+ prostitutes in a majority of countries, controlling women through a systems of compulsory health checks which do nothing to stop the spread of disease. Studies in the West corroborate the lack of evidence of transmission of HIV from prostitutes to clients, yet prostitutes are scapegoated, and our civil liberties are violated in for the ostensible purpose of public health.

PLAN OF ACTION:

11:30 A.M.: GATHER AT FOURTH AND MARKET STREETS.
MARCH TOWARDS MOSCONE CENTER. APPROX. 12:00 NOON:
RALLY WITH SEVERAL SPEAKERS ON WOMEN AND AIDS.
APPROX. 12:30: WOMEN, IN STREET THEATER
DRAMATIZATION OF WOMEN'S EXCLUSION, BIND THEMSELVES
WITH CHAINS AND RED TAPE. CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IS
ANTICIPATED DURING THE PROTEST.

AN OPEN LETTER TO SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DR. LOUIS SULLIVAN:

THROUGHOUT THE AIDS CRISIS, our nation's efforts have been sorely lacking in leadership from the highest levels of the federal government.

While President Bush has made dramatic strides in publicly endorsing compassion and condemning discrimination, the United States still suffers without leadership from the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services on those issues most directly shaping the future of people with HIV infection and AIDS.

Mr. Secretary, you are scheduled to speak at the closing session of the Sixth International AIDS Conference this Sunday, June 24, 1990. The world is watching to see how the United States' public health leader responds to AIDS. We hope that in your speech you will finally give voice to the needs of millions affected by the HIV epidemic:

■ Translate the research progress reported at this conference into concrete help for people with HIV, regardless of income. The window of opportunity is open; we know how to prevent or delay illness and death for literally hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens. Unless we make resources available to pay for proven, effective treatments, however, many will sicken and die — needlessly. Congress is moving to support counseling, voluntary testing and early treatment, along with expanded Medicaid coverage for people with HIV. Your leadership is needed to assure final passage and funding of these vital programs.

SECRETARY SULLIVAN,
we need your leadership ...
to keep people with HIV
infection alive ... to prevent
the collapse of our health
care system ... to halt the
further spread of AIDS ... and
to reverse the mindlessly
discriminatory policies of the
U.S. government toward
visitors to our country.

■ Help relieve the unprecedented burden AIDS places on our health care system by endorsing federal disaster relief for high-incidence communities. Without it, the health care systems in these cities may well collapse, denying care not only to people with HIV, but to all others who rely on these facilities.

■ Educate the nation about HIV infection. Community-based education saves lives, this we already know. But we cannot educate everyone unless we have decisive government leadership and a firm commitment for adequate funding — particularly in minority communities, which have yet to receive sufficient support for clear, explicit, life-saving information campaigns.

■ Reverse the irrational, discriminatory immigration policy which forbids entry of people with HIV infection into the U.S. without a special waiver. This policy contradicts the opinion of public health officials worldwide, including our own Public Health Service. Take this step toward removing the stigma from HIV infection. Official policy must not be based on unreasoning fear or political calculation, but on genuine knowledge.

Mr. Secretary, you have the opportunity in San Francisco to dedicate your department to elevating the findings of this international conference into meaningful public policy. You have the opportunity to show the world that the U.S. can demonstrate real leadership in the face of this pandemic. We appeal to you to take command of our nation's war on AIDS...and fulfill your responsibility to us all.

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts

AIDS Action Council

AIDS Atlanta

AIDS Foundation of Chicago

AIDS Foundation Houston

AIDS National Interfaith Network

AIDS Services of Dallas

AIDS Task Force of Philadelphia / PCMA

American Anthropological Association's Task Force on AIDS

American Association for Counseling and Development

American Medical Students Association

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

Association of Schools of Public Health

Citizens Commission on AIDS

Committee for Children

Dallas Gay Alliance AIDS Resource Center

Design Industries Foundation for AIDS

Gay Men's Health Crisis

Human Rights Campaign Fund

International Association of Fire Fighters

Legal Action Center

National Association of Community Health Centers

National Association of Home Care

National Association of People with AIDS

National Coalition for the Homeless

National Council of LaRaza

National Association for Protection and Advocacy Systems

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation

National Minority AIDS Council

National Women's Health Network

Rainbow Lobby

San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S.

Whitman Walker Clinic / AIDS Program, Washington, D.C.

Prepared by Public Media Center.

Sponsored by Gay Men's Health Crisis,

the oldest and largest AIDS organization

in the U.S., providing direct services,

education and advocacy.

129 West 20th Street,

New York, New York 10011.

**FIRST IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST AIDS**

GMHC

ACT UP

A Week of International AIDS Activism

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power

ACT UP/Amsterdam
ACT UP/Albany
ACT UP/Atlanta
ACT UP/Austin
ACT UP/Berlin
ACT UP/Boston
ACT UP/Central Illinois
ACT UP/Chicago
ACT UP/Columbus
ACT UP/Contra Costa
ACT UP/Denver
ACT UP/East Bay
Edinburgh ACT UP
Glasgow ACT UP
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ACT UP/Kansas City
ACT UP/Leeds
ACT UP/London
ACT UP/Long Beach
ACT UP/Long Island
ACT UP/Los Angeles
ACT UP/Madison
Maine ACT UP
ACT UP/Milwaukee
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ACT UP/New Orleans
ACT UP/New York
ACT UP/Paris
ACT UP/Philadelphia
ACT UP/Portland
ACT UP/Provincetown
ACT UP/Rhode Island
ACT UP/Rochester
ACT UP/San Diego
ACT UP/San Francisco
ACT UP/Seattle
ACT UP/Sydney
ACT UP/Shreveport
ACT UP/Sonoma County
ACT UP/Syracuse
ACT UP/Tallahassee
ACT UP/Wichita State

AIDS Action Planning Committee

Action Now
Connecticut ACT OUT
CRY OUT!
Cure AIDS Now
Fight For Life
Gay/Lesbian March
Activists
GUTS/Dallas
GUTS/Houston
Lesbian and Gay Rights
Organizing Committee
Oppression Under Target
Orange County Visibility
League
PWA Coalition of
Minneapolis
STAT
The Swamp Rats
Tennessee Gay/Lesbian
Coalition/ACT UP

ACT NOW

The AIDS Coalition to
Network Organize
and Win

SAN FRANCISCO STATEMENT



SAN FRANCISCO STATEMENT

We, as People with Immune System Disorders (PISD), express our outrage that government bureaucrats, pharmaceutical executives, and researchers, including those participating in the Sixth International Conference on AIDS, have locked us out of decisions affecting our lives. We demand access to all information affecting our lives. We demand a voice in every step of the process from the inception of an idea for research, through the actual research, up until the idea becomes a reality.

Furthermore, we demand:

1. **Access to quality health care to all people worldwide, regardless of ability to pay. Health care is a right!**
2. **Access to effective research programs for AIDS/HIV and other Immune System Disorders. These programs must be designed to save the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people worldwide who are expected to die from AIDS in the next three years.**
3. **Unbiased information on and access to alternative treatments including vitamin and herbal therapies, acupuncture, homeopathy, and other non-pharmaceutical treatments.** To this end, alternative treatments must be included in official conferences and AIDS service referrals. These treatments must be covered by private and government health insurance plans. We have a right to make informed choices among all possible treatments.
4. **The expansion and/or initiation of studies of disease progression and detection in groups who may have a different response to HIV because of biochemical or cultural differences including women, transexuals, injection drug users, children, adolescents, and people of color.**
5. **An end to placebo-controlled trials for treatments of life-threatening conditions.** For many people, clinical trials are the only form of healthcare available. Placebo trials are immoral because they prevent treatment and access to healthcare.
6. **Worldwide access for all People with Immune System Disorders to data.** A n international data bank to make available all medical information related to immune system disorders must be created. This includes all data concerning drugs and treatments, especially basic bio-chemical research and the initiation of clinical trials. Additionally, there must be public access to all medical and research information regarding AIDS and the cross-referencing of data and treatment information between AIDS and other Immune System Disorders such as Cytomegalovirus, Epstein -Barr Virus, and Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome, etc. Also, we demand the creation of an international database on the full prevalence of all AIDS complications.

7. **Civil rights for all People with Immune System Disorders.** We need anti-discrimination legislation protecting jobs, housing and access to services; full legal recognition of lesbian, gay, and bisexual relationships; respect for transexual rights; anonymous and absolutely confidential HIV antibody testing as well as pre- and post-test counseling; housing that meets the medical needs of People with Immune System Disorders; substance-abuse treatment; the same standard of care and treatment for prisoners as for the general population; the right of people faced with a life-threatening illness to choose treatments they deem beneficial for themselves; to stop mandatory testing and quarantine under any circumstances; to end all restrictions on the international movement or immigration of people with HIV; to end the forced sterilization of women enrolling in research protocols; and to stop research with prisoners under duress or without informed consent.
8. **The legislation and regulations of all governments must reflect the fact that HIV is not commonly contagious.** Casual contact presents no threat of infection, and irrational fears of transmission must be fought.
9. **Access to international education programs outlining comprehensive sex information affirming and supportive of all sexual orientations in culturally sensitive ways and describing safer sex, needle hygiene and other means of preventing Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV and other viruses.**
10. **Access to health care.**
 - * **All governments and all international health organizations must treat AIDS and other Immune System Disorders positively and aggressively.** Ensuring access and availability of treatment must be part of the social and moral obligations of governments to their citizens. AIDS research and health care funding must not compete with other pressing health care priorities. The entire biomedical research budget must be drastically increased to meet the world's health care crisis. In the U.S., all branches of the government must provide leadership and a comprehensive, coordinated AIDS research, education, and prevention effort, with enhanced funding to keep pace with the epidemic.
 - * **Primary health care provisions must be comprehensive, providing culturally sensitive care and information for the individual and her/his family.**
 - * **Recognition that in most parts of the world, poverty is a critical co-factor in immune suppression.** Thus, industrialized nations must establish an internationally developed fund to assist poor and developing countries to meet their health care responsibilities including the provision of condoms, facilities for a clean blood supply and adequate supplies of sterile needles as well as a full range of medical services and treatments and educational materials. In addition, conversion of military spending worldwide to medical health and basic social services is essential.

11. **Access to an international health organization seriously dedicated to combatting Immune System Disorders.** We condemn the World Health Organization (WHO) for failing to coordinate an international response to the AIDS epidemic and for not addressing Immune System Disorders. We demand an internationally coordinated effort to halt AIDS and other Immune System Disorders, to provide treatment for all people infected with Immune System Disorders, and to advocate for those who are discriminated against and oppressed due to their immune status.
12. **Participatory power in the decision making process regarding research and treatment.** Restructure the AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG) of the U.S. National Institutes of Health decision making. The ACTG Executive Committee must be restructured to include representatives of all ACTG committees and from the communities affected by AIDS.

We demand that the ACTG:

* **Reveal conflicts of interest.** All ACTG-funded investigators must make public details of all financial and historical links they maintain with pharmaceutical sponsors. They must abstain from the selection process where these sponsors' drugs are involved.

* **Focus on developing NEW treatments.** The ACTG must research all promising new treatments, including non-drug treatments such as Passive Immuno-Therapy, in small, technology intensive Phase I/II safety/activity studies, to get *new* effective treatments out the door. Then, pharmaceutical sponsors and community-based groups can conduct larger treatment trials.

* **Focus on the entire range of AIDS morbidity and mortality.** Over 90 percent of AIDS death are caused by opportunistic infections (OIs); but just 17 percent of ACTG subjects so far have been in OI trials. The ACTG must immediately start trials designed to prevent or treat the most serious and widespread OIs: CMV, MAI, fungal infections, toxoplasmosis, cryptosporidiosis; the HIV associated cancers, KS and lymphomas; and chlamydia and other vaginal OIs that occur in women living with AIDS.

* **Diversify research priorities.** In the next two years, the ACTG must make the five major opportunistic infections treatable or preventable, must improve quality of treatments for AIDS associated cancers, must intensify research into rebuilding the immune system--including fetal tissue research--and must initiate a good-faith effort to analyze alternatives to pharmaceutical therapy, including holistic, non-pharmaceutical and nutritional approaches.

* **Initiate flexible, innovative, multi-agent combination trials.** The future of HIV treatment lies with combination therapy. It's time to initiate nationwide combination trials with alternating or sequential anti-HIV agents, plus immune-rebuilding treatments and multi-opportunistic infection prophylaxis.

*** End medical apartheid--open trials to ALL HIV-infected people.**

ACTG trials must be open to the entire spectrum of the HIV infected population. Exclusion criteria must be compensated for by open enrollment safety/treatment trials for all AIDS complications. Enrollment of underrepresented groups, including women, African-Americans, Latinos/as, Native Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and present and former drug users, must be enhanced through the provision of health care, transportation subsidies, child care and addiction treatment.

*** Streamline pediatric treatment access.** The ACTG must design treatment trials for children and adolescents as soon as treatments prove safe in adult Phase I studies.

*** Provide state-of-the-art clinical care within AIDS clinical trials.** ACTG trials must provide participants with state-of-the-art therapies as they evolve.

*** Rapidly translate results into clinical practice.** NIAID's Division of AIDS must establish an Office of HIV/AIDS Clinical Care to provide state-of-the-art treatment guidelines, and to oversee the rapid translation of trial results into clinical practice.

*** Conduct research where the need is greatest.** When the ACTU grants are renewed, research sites should be established in high-incidence areas now unserved. AIDS research and health care need to be provided together in all high HIV incidence areas.

*** Funding for the various ACTG sites should be apportioned on the basis of the needs of the community served and the willingness of the Principal Investigators to comply with the above demands.**

13. Access to all government functions affecting the AIDS crisis.

All NIH AIDS meetings, including those of NIAID, its Division of AIDS, ACTG conferences and core committees, the AIDS Clinical Drug Development Committee and the National Cooperative Drug Discovery Groups must be open internationally to People with Immune System Disorders including activists and the press.

14. Alteration of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) definition of AIDS to reflect the full spectrum and diversity of AIDS and HIV-related diseases.

The current definition of AIDS is obsolete. It denies treatment, care, and social services to poor people who do not fit their definition of AIDS. It does not include opportunistic infections that affect children, adolescents, women, people of color, and injection drug users. As a result, we are denied access to life-saving treatments. It also denies early intervention therapy to asymptomatic HIV infected people. The current definition is designed to undercount the full extent of the pandemic, resulting in a lack of funding.

15. **Decriminalization of needle possession and immediate implementation of government funded programs to provide effective appropriate treatment on demand and distribution of free sterile needles for injection drug users.**
16. **Access to all AIDS conferences for People with Immune System Disorders (PISD) must be guaranteed.** All future AIDS conferences must be held in countries that do not have travel restrictions based on HIV status, race, past or present drug use, or sexual orientation. All PISD must be given free entry into the conferences. PISD from non-industrialized countries must be given travel scholarships to attend. PISD must be represented on all conference panels.

NO MORE WORDS

WE WANT ACTION

Thus far during this conference, ACT UP has made many points without disrupting the exchange of scientific information. However, today's scheduled speech by Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Louis B. Sullivan, is not a scientific presentation. After 10 years of Bush/Reagan rhetoric on AIDS, we will no longer tolerate words without action. You will not hear Louis Sullivan today.

THE BUSH/SULLIVAN CRIMES

- THE WORDS: "We have to fight the disease, not the people with the disease."
- THE ACTION: HIV-positive individuals are denied entry to and deported from the U.S.A.
- THE WORDS: "We are on a war-time footing against AIDS ..."
- THE ACTION: The Bush Administration opposes the AIDS CARE legislation intended to provide disaster relief funds for devastated communities.
- THE WORDS: "Every time there is a promising [treatment] opportunity, we pursue it."
- THE ACTION: ACT UP has identified over 99 drugs that have shown promise as possible AIDS treatments. VIRTUALLY NONE OF THESE ARE SLATED FOR GOVERNMENT TRIALS.
- THE WORDS: "Clean needle exchange programs are a viable option in control of the spread of HIV among IV drug users."
- THE ACTION: Just as Louis Sullivan has abandoned women by flip-flopping on abortion, so he has abandoned IV drug users by flip-flopping on needle exchange and bleach distribution programs, leaving them to die.
- THE WORDS: "I want a kinder, gentler nation."
- THE ACTION: The Bush Administration says this nation cannot afford to offer health care to over 37 million uninsured Americans. The U.S. and South Africa remain the only industrialized nations without national health care.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN PROTEST. STAND AND TURN YOUR BACK
ON SULLIVAN AND HIS MEANINGLESS RHETORIC.

ACT UP

Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Louis B. Sullivan, as the highest ranking government official and a person of color, has failed to voice the concerns of communities of color regarding the spread of HIV infection. People of color are disproportionately over-represented in the demographics of this epidemic. Entire generations are being wiped out. Yet Dr. Sullivan's prescription is an absurd health policy dictated by partisan politics. We demand effective and humane leadership.

Science, not politics.

Education, not ignorance.

Health care, not lip service.



NO BELLE PRIZE

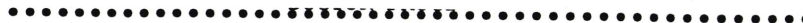
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TO ALL THE GRANT GRABBERS, EMPIRE BUILDERS, EGO TRIPPERS
IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL COMMUNITIES WHOSE ONLY INTEREST
IS CUTTING UP THE AIDS PIE RESULTING IN ONE MILLION DEATHS
WORLDWIDE AND 20 MILLION INFECTIONS, DOUBLING ANNUALLY.

CURE AIDS NOW, INC. 2240 SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY MIAMI, FLORIDA 33133 (305) 856 - 8378 FAX : (305) 858 - 8756



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