

**Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
International Meeting to Support the Global Fund
Closing
July 16, 2003**

MODERATOR: I'm getting all kinds of signals at the moment. Er, we finished now? Okay. I'm, I'm terribly sorry for all of you, as I said at the beginning, we are strictly bound on time limits. I apologize to all those Ministers that are still on the list and other functionaries that have flown in for six hours and can't speak. I can't help it. The time is gone. I have to give the floor now for the closing remark to Minister Mattei from France.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS MATTEI: [Presentation in French]

TOMMY G. THOMPSON: I want to give my first 30 seconds to Rae Ruddy (Misspelled?) and Phillipe Lawson (Misspelled?). They didn't get a chance to speak and they wanted to have 30 seconds, so will those please, I'd like to quickly recognize them for 30 seconds. (Applause)

RAE RUDDY (MISSPELLED?): Is it taping?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes, it is.

MS. RUDDY: Yeah?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes, it is, will be.

MS. RUDDY: I represent the delegation of people living with HIV/AIDS on the Board. And we had prepared about a five-minute speech and, you know, we discussed partnership and it's very encouraging to hear all these words of partnership, but honestly, we are an active partner, not just the sick ones, the poor ones that are receiving treatment. We're active, on the

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communities. And as that, since we have heard for years wonderful speeches and our friends have continued to die, and 7.1 million people continue to die, we wondered perhaps as our last act we would like to give some money from 45 different countries. Perhaps it's just, ah, a meaningful 1,000 Zimbabwean dollars from my friend Chico Mbanje (Misspelled?) who now is in exile from Zimbabwe because she was running an AIDS organization. Or perhaps it's only 100 rand from the person who has no treatment. But in this, including from Bridget Nmala Labewe (Misspelled?) from Zambia who has ten children and came to a Board meeting and now he's dead, is money from over 220 people living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries, not America, not Europe, but in developing countries. So if we can provide the cash, we, we challenge that all of you can provide the cash. I had planned to pass this bag around to you all, as we've done in many faith-based organizations, many faith-based. But I was told that's tacky. But meanwhile, I was told yesterday that another friend has died. So I'm not quite sure about this partnership, still I do not trust this process, but I will continue because I'm mandated by my colleagues of communities living with HIV/AIDS. But this is essential. We do not have fish. We need the fish and we're trying to provide the money here. Thank you very much and I hope others of you are learning to give. Thank you.

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MR. THOMPSON: Rae Ruddy. (Misspelled?) Thank you so very much, Rae and thank you Phillipe. It's my privilege to draw today's meeting to a close on this Global Fund and I would like to certainly thank all of you, every one of you for your passion, your compassion, your willingness to give so much of your time. I certainly want to take this opportunity to thank the organizers and the individuals that are behind the scenes and put it on and I would like to personally and publicly thank them. I also want to thank my two friends, Ministers Mattei and Wiltzer, two outstanding human beings that believe very much in what we're doing here today. They are our gracious hosts and thank them so very much for co-chairing this meeting and inviting us here. I also want to thank President Chirac for his noble gesture and his willingness to lead. I also want to thank all of those individuals and hope that the Ministers will visit me in the United States so I can return their hospitality to them.

This morning my - I was personally and my country was criticized a couple of times so I would like to say a few words about my nation's commitment, the United States of America, to the Global Fund and other ground-breaking HIV/AIDS programs. You're all well aware of the numbers, more than \$1.7 billion pledged, more than \$650 million paid in. These are long term, unprecedented commitments to this fund. It's a remarkable

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extremely proud of President George W. Bush, as I am President Chirac. They've made fighting HIV/AIDS around the world, applying unprecedented resources into finding also a vaccine at home a top priority. President Bush has committed his resources, his energy to this fight against HIV/AIDS. He has shown true leadership, as has President Chirac. Our record is clear. Our commitment is firm. Our goal is noble, to defeat this disease once and for all. Let me assure that this is a fight that the United States of America will not abandon. This is a fight that we will lead, but it is not a fight that we will, or can, wage alone.

Our commitment is not just about money. It's also shown in time, energy and dedication. To those who want to question my nation's sincerity on this issue, here's the President to announce an unprecedented \$15 billion AIDS program. It is the President who traveled to Africa to see first-hand the ravages of AIDS. And I am personally traveling to Europe almost monthly as Chairman of the Board of the Global Fund, and to other countries to raise dollars. I just raised \$10 million with the help of the Taiwanese leaders in Geneva. I am meeting regularly with business leaders in the United States and in Europe to raise more money for the Global Fund. I am going to be personally returning to Africa in December with a group of business leaders and I would encourage any of

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These are not the actions of a nation that is not committed to this fight. It's easy to stand off to the side and criticize. So let us put aside the politics of false choices and let us instead, as individuals, recommit ourselves as nations, as leaders and as caring, compassionate people to make the Global Fund as strong and as viable and as vital as possible. We have applications of a \$1.6 billion pending. Approximately, thanks to the great leadership of Michel Kesseltide (Misspelled?) who's the Chair of the Global Fund Technical Review Panel whose reviewers have been spending countless hours in doing this. He told me yesterday that he believes at about 40%, so roughly \$750 million is going to be approved. We have currently about \$400 million against this. I think today it would be outstanding if somehow we could get advance commitments, like the Gates Fund, and I thank them very much, to be able to make sure that going into October, when we have these \$700 to \$800 million of applications of good programs around the world, that we have enough money to fully fund them. For all of those government leaders and ministers, I encourage you to think seriously about an advance commitment for this year so that we can make sure that we're fully funded.

I happen to be an optimist. The Global Fund is just 18 months old. It is growing. It's more strong, more viable and more vital than any of us thought at this point in time. And

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production. It's producing results in countries for the people who need it most. This is an important point to remember. We are doing this for people, to save lives, to give husbands another day with their wives, daughters another day with their mothers, and giving everyone hope for a better future. That's something, ladies and gentlemen, worth fighting for. That's something worth putting petty differences aside and coming together to achieve our goal of saving lives and defeating these diseases once and for all.

So as we return to our homes and nations in the next few days, we must all view ourselves as missionaries in the cause of the Global Fund. What we do at these meetings will only matter if we follow up on our bold words. Working together, ladies and gentlemen, we can get this job done. We can accomplish the \$3 billion next year, the additional \$400 million this year to fully fund these applications. And therefore, hopefully, Phillippe's friends will not die. And hopefully, we will give hope and optimism to every individual that's living with HIV/AIDS today any place in the world. The Global Fund is a noble gesture. It is the thing that can make the difference in this war against this insidious disease. I am committed. I know you are. Let's together form a partnership to make sure that we succeed. Success means everything. Failure is something we cannot afford and will not

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(Applause)

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